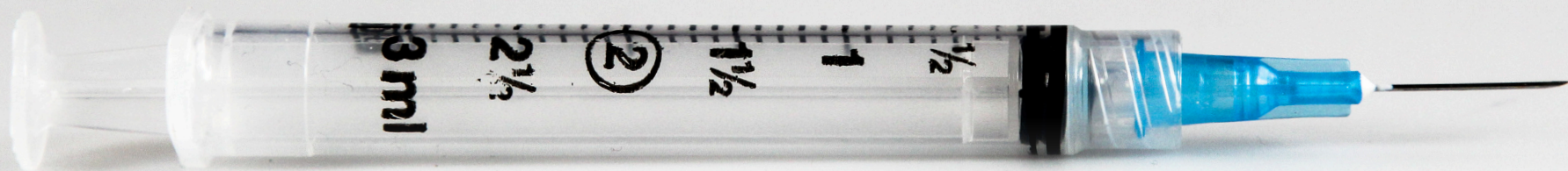


WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019
VOLUME 45, EDITION 10
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM



EXEMPTING VACCINES

As mumps cases continue to surface on campus,
state legislation and university rules define the requirements for student vaccine exemptions

Kyra O'Connor | Elon News Network | @ko_reports

ELON UNIVERSITY COMPLIES WITH North Carolina's vaccine protocols, which give students vaccine exemptions for medical or religious reasons while still attending school. According to Dean of Students Jana Lynn Patterson, less than 1% of the student population at Elon — which has more than 7,000 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled this year — is exempt from vaccinations. Patterson declined to give the exact number. "We work intensively with students coming in prior to their matriculation to meet the state's

requirements," Patterson said. North Carolina requires non-exempt students at all colleges and universities — public or private — to be immunized. At Elon, if undergraduate students do not file their documentation, they will not receive their residence hall assignment, be able to attend orientation or class, until all requirements are complete. Elon's form also states that "failure to comply will result in administrative withdrawal from the university." Tina Brannock, who works at Student Health Services, handles all immunization records for

undergraduate and graduate students at Elon. She said that no religious exemptions are granted to the more than 200 graduate students in the physician assistant and physical therapy program. "They cannot have religious waivers. They have to be vaccinated in order to be in that program, because they're going into clinical sites," Brannock said. "A medical waiver is different because you can't help how you're born, so there is an exemption with that."

See **Vaccinations** | pg 3.

Board of Aldermen candidates set for November elections

Five candidates are on the ballot and three seats are open for the Nov. 5 election

Mackenzie Wilkes
Elon News Network | @macwilkes

Election season in the town of Elon is underway. Residents will be voting for three Board of Aldermen members in the upcoming municipal general election on Nov. 5. Vying for votes is incumbent Alderman

Mark Greene and candidates Monti Allison, Quinn Ray, Kyle Wills and Michael Woods. Mayor Pro Tempore Ronald Klepchyk, who has served on the board for the past 20 years, is not seeking reelection along with Alderman John Peterson, who has been on the board for eight years. On the ballot, voters will select up to three candidates to fill the open seats on the board. The Board of Aldermen is composed of five members, one of which doubles as the Mayor Pro Tempore. A new Mayor Pro Tempore will be elected

by the newly formed Board of Aldermen. In the November 2017 election — the last election with candidates for the Board of Alderman on the ballot — 1,085 people voted in the town of Elon. Current board members Emily Sharpe and Davis Montgomery won the two open seats, Sharpe by 488 votes and Montgomery by 364. **Meet the candidates** Monti Allison — who works in the financial services industry for Lincoln Financial Group —

PAST VOTER TURNOUT

1,085

is the number of people in the town of Elon who voted in the November 2017 election with candidates for the Board of Alderman on the ballot.

has lived in Elon for 35 years. Allison is on the town of Elon planning board, according to the town website. Mark Greene has been on the Board of Aldermen since 2007 and is seeking reelection for his fourth term. Greene also serves on the downtown Elon advisory board, according to the town website. Greene works at the State Employees Credit Union and has lived in the town of Elon for 17 years. See **Aldermen** | pg. 6



NEWS • PAGE 8
Connecting religion and sustainability



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 13
The newest on campus musical comedy



SPORTS • PAGE 16
Women's soccer finds success before tournament debut

THE PENDULUM

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NETWORK

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Volume 45, Edition 10

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EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

CORRECTIONS POLICY:

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

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

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CORRECTIONS

No corrections were issued for this edition.

GAMES

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

- One percent of Elon University's undergraduate and graduate students are registered for vaccination _____. *See Page 3 for answer.*
- Elections for the Board of _____ will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 5. *See Page 6 for answer.*
- _____ has reelected Justin Trudeau for the second time as its prime minister. *See Page 9 for answer.*
- Damn _____ is the newest musical comedy on campus. *See Page 13 for answer.*
- Whitney _____ is a senior and one of the co-captains of Elon University's cheer team. *See Page 19 for answer.*

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

COMIC

COSTUME PARTY



COMIC SAMS – SAM POROZOK

CALENDAR: OCT. 30 TO NOV.5

MEN'S SOCCER: ELON VS. COFC 7 P.M. TO 10 P.M. Rudd Field 30	ACROMUSICAL 7:30 P.M. TO 9:30 P.M. Whitley Auditorium 30	“DAMN YANKEES” 7:30 P.M. TO 10:30 P.M. McCrary Theatre 31	“DAMN YANKEES” 7:30 P.M. TO 10:30 P.M. McCrary Theatre 1	NAMAST'AY 9 A.M. TO 10 A.M. Under the Oaks 2
“DAMN YANKEES” 7:30 P.M. TO 10:30 P.M. McCrary Theatre 2	LATE NIGHT ELON 7:30 P.M. TO 12:30 A.M. Irazu, Taphouse and Moseley 2	HOMECOMING CONCERT 8 P.M. TO 11 P.M. Schar Center 2	COLLEGE COFFEE 9:40 A.M. TO 10:20 A.M Phi Beta Kappa Commons 5	MEN'S BASKETBALL ELON VS. MARS HILL 7:30 P.M. TO 10:30 P.M. Schar Center 5

RELIGIOUS, MEDICAL REASONS ARE THE MAIN EXEMPTIONS AT ELON

VACCINATIONS | from cover

Medical exemptions

The three major exemption types are medical, religious and philosophical. According to a study done by LexisNexis State Net Database and the Immunization Action Coalition in May 2019 and adapted by the National Conference of State Legislatures, “all school immunization laws grant exemptions to children for medical reasons,” allowing students who cannot receive a vaccine due to the risk it poses to their health to be exempt.

According to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, a medical exemption can be issued to a student if “a physician licensed to practice medicine in this State certifies that a required immunization is or may be detrimental to a person’s health.”

Some reasons for medical exemption include severe allergic reaction, severe immunodeficiency, and pregnancy. Students might also temporarily be exempt if showing symptoms of severe or acute illness.

Religious exemptions

However, religious exemptions, an exemption granted based on one’s religious beliefs and philosophical exemptions, an exemption granted because of personal, moral or other beliefs, depend on state legislation.

BY THE NUMBERS

~1%

of the undergraduate and graduate students at Elon University are exempt from required vaccinations.

45

states allow religious exemptions.

7

cases of the mumps have been confirmed at Elon University as of Oct. 28.

2,618

cases of mumps infections have been reported in 48 states and the capital from Jan. 1 to Oct. 11, 2019.

Students with a religious belief preventing them from receiving a vaccine may still attend school in the state of North Carolina “upon submission of a written statement of the bona fide religious beliefs and opposition to the immunization requirements,” according to the NCDHHS. Religious exemptions to vaccination, unlike medical exemptions, do not require a form or documentation from a religious leader and can be sent by the students’ parents or guardians, or the students themselves.

“If they want to have their pastor or whichever religious belief sign off on the exemption, it’s OK. Some of them get them notarized,” Brannock said.

Patterson declined to comment on the breakdown of students with religious and medical exemptions.

On Elon’s campus, vaccination and religious implications made their way into a club discussion. Better Together, an interfaith discussion group, talked about the topic at its last meeting. Better Together coordinator Marcinah Lovick said the conversation spurred from the recent cases of mumps.

“At one of our Better Together nights, we started thinking about reasons why someone wouldn’t get vaccinated. Then we decided to make that the topic of our next meeting,” Lovick said.

North Carolina is one of 45 states to allow religious exemptions; 15 states allow philosophical exemptions as well as religious and four states do not allow either exemption, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Another variation in vaccinations in the United States is university and four-year college policies. Vaccination policies can differ from university to university, even within the same state. In a study of 216 four-year colleges and universities

REQUIRED VACCINATIONS AT ELON

- Diphtheria Tetanus
- Polio
- Measles, mumps and rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Meningococcal
- Varicella (if born after April 1, 2001)

“

IF THEY WANT TO HAVE THEIR PASTOR OR WHICHEVER RELIGIOUS BELIEF SIGN OFF ON THE EXEMPTION, IT’S OK. SOME OF THEM GET THEM NOTARIZED.

TINA BRANNOCK
STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

conducted for the Journal of Adolescent Health in 2018, while all schools required the same vaccines included in state requirements, 65% also required additional vaccines.

Mumps and vaccinations

Elon has had seven confirmed cases of mumps as Oct. 28. Three universities in the Carolinas have confirmed cases of mumps: Elon, High Point University and the College of Charleston.

The vaccination to prevent mumps is called the MMR vaccine, or mumps, measles and rubella vaccine. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a person with two doses of MMR vaccine has about an 88% reduction in risk for mumps; a person with one dose has a 78% reduction in risk for mumps.

Dr. Ginette Archinal, university physician and medical director of student health, said mumps is a viral illness spread by droplet spread, like many respiratory illnesses.

“If you have 100 people within 3 feet of somebody with mumps who decides to sneeze and not cover their nose or mouth, of those 100, maybe 12 of them will get the virus, and of that 12, if they’ve all been vaccinated, some of them may have no symptoms at all,” Archinal said.

The virus is spread faster in close quarters, the CDC said, making college campuses a greater risk area.

According to preliminary data from the CDC, from Jan. 1 to Oct. 11, 2019, 48 states and the District of Columbia in the U.S. reported mumps infections in 2,618 people. In North Carolina, cases of mumps are reported to have reached 20 to 49 cases.

While the number of mumps outbreaks has gone down significantly since the MMR vaccination program was introduced since 2006, “there have been several increases in cases and outbreaks about every five years,” according to the CDC.



BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
A CVS pharmacist administers a flu shot to a student on Oct. 22.



Rayne Stevenson, a 7-year-old resident of the town of Elon, clutches pumpkin innards during her second time at the annual Fall Pumpkin Festival at Elon University on Friday, Oct. 25.



Harper Residence Hall in Colonnades Neighborhood transformed into a haunted house for students and community members to view on Friday, Oct. 25.



The Elon Fire Department hosted its last "fire scene setup training" of the year by its training tower, located near the Station at Mill Point parking lot, on Tuesday, Oct. 22.



People gather in Durham, North Carolina, to show their support for former vice president and current presidential candidate Joe Biden on Sunday, Oct. 27.



Freshman and midfielder Marco Vesterholm keeps the ball away from Duke University defender Ian Murphy on Rudd Field on Tuesday, Oct. 15. The Phoenix beat the Blue Devils 3-2.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

Elon University Campus Police Officer Ryan Gerner enters the second floor of a building in Alamance Community College alongside officers from the town of Elon Police Department during an active shooter training on Friday, Oct. 25.



ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

Cody Westmoreland, a training officer with the Burlington Police Department, fires blank rounds into the air to call attention to himself during an active shooter training at Alamance Community College on Friday, Oct. 25. He was one of three people acting as a gunman for the simulation.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joe Biden, former vice president and current presidential candidate, speaks during a campaign event at Hillside High School in Durham, North Carolina, on Sunday, Oct. 27

BOARD OF ALDERMEN CANDIDATES

MARK GREENE



MICHAEL WOODS



KYLE WILLS



QUINN RAY



MONTI ALLISON



ALDERMEN | from cover

Quinn Ray is an Alamance County native and started frequenting the town of Elon in 2011 when he started working at The Root. Ray is currently a business partner for The Root and Tangent. Ray said he was a part of the downtown merchant group committee and the Envision Elon

THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

The town of Elon operates as a council-manager style of government. The board consists of an elected mayor, and five elected board members.

town of Elon for the past 49 years and has worked at Elon for 29.

Michael Woods has lived in Elon for five years and works for the cigarette company Liggett Vector Brands.

What is your top priority or main goal if elected?

Allison said he thinks analytically and that his background in finance will allow him to effectively serve in office.

“I think the top priority is continuing to make sure that we’re fiscally responsible,” Allison said.

Alderman Greene’s top priority is influenced by his past three terms and his approach to governing.

“I want to continue to listen to what the citizens say,” Greene said. “Honestly, it sounds cliché, but it’s really true that our taxpayers are who I need to listen to. We need to be in

consort with the university, but I first and foremost need to listen to what they say.”

Ray said that one of his top priorities is to establish a committee that would further facilitate relations to moderate the stresses that the university puts on the town.

“I want to have a committee that is constantly working with the town officials and the university officials to work together symbiotically,” Ray said. “Elon [University] has a great strategic growth plan, and they execute it well. So, with that being said, we need to work with the town to know when this is happening before levels get critical.”

Wills said he cannot determine his main goal if elected to the board because he wants to consider what town residents want and said he would need to be in office to do so.

“As a representative of Aldermen, you’d like to get in and learn a little bit more about how the process works and what the community people seem to think they want,” Wills said. “Just sort of listen and learn to evaluate, and then bring that back to the committee is the way I would go about this thing.”

Woods said he wants to focus on further developing the town and university together. He said that in his hometown of Durham, Duke University and North Carolina Central University play a key role in the city’s development.

Woods said his main goal is “growing the city, but including the university. The university plays a major part in this community.”

How will you advance the relationship between the town and the university?

Allison said communication between the town and the university is essential so that the university can

IF YOU VOTE

Event:
Municipal General Election

Date:
Tuesday, Nov. 5 from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where:
Beth Schmidt Park
First Baptist Church of Elon
Antioch Community Church

thrive while keeping town residents in mind. He said the town should talk with students so they understand legislation such as the noise ordinance.

“In order for Elon University to reach its goals, the town has to be a part of that, which means growth infrastructure has to be taken into consideration,” he said, “[and] how it impacts the rest of the town citizens. So, it’s important that we continue to create that open dialog communications.”

On relations between the town and the university, Greene said that there has to be a balance between addressing both the concerns of the town and of the university, since the taxpaying residents of the town elect him.

“Anytime you have young folks around, they’re gonna party and [be] loud and that type of thing, and it’s going to happen,” he said. “We have put together a community effort with the town, the university and some citizens to try to kind of talk those things out like with noise ordinances.”

Ray believes there should be a committee established in which the town residents and university students can have an open dialogue to communicate with the town.

To solve issues that residents and students may have, Wills agrees that there needs to be dialogue between the town, residents and students.

“I think you have to listen, learn and evaluate what everybody’s take on it all is,” Wills said.

Woods said he wants to advance relations by hosting more events that bring together town residents and students.

“By coexisting, the students could have a quality of life as well as the residents,” he said. Students “bring a lot of finances to Elon, and I think it should be a harmony between the students and the residents, and we should grow the [town].”

Elon's new freshman social initiative comes to a close

Well Connected Challenge launched with the goal of engaging new students

Leila Wilhelm
Elon News Network | @leilawilhelm

A new feature of the freshman experience this year is the Well Connected Initiative, which is run by the Division of Student Life, a committee within the Office of Student Involvement.

According to Aliana Harrison, associate director of residence life for residential education and community development, who coordinates the initiative,

IF YOU GO Late Night is offered every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night between the hours of 10 p.m. and 3 a.m.

its goal is to engage freshmen in positive interactions during their first six weeks at Elon University. The committee's goal is to use these events to build connections and strengthen the sense of community in the Class of 2023 as students transitioning into college.

"Our hope is that the Well Connected Challenge will help students to meet other students and get to know Elon University and all it has to offer," Harrison said.

The challenge invites students to use PhoenixConnect to find programs and events within the following three categories: community, late night and wellness. The events are designed to cater to different student

interests, from Trivia Night to College Coffee.

The community category encourages students to connect with each other through social, cultural and residential neighborhood events. For example, many of the residential neighborhoods at Elon offer community-building events, intended to help students adjust to dorm life from making s'mores in East Neighborhood to Thursdays in the "T Room" at Colonnades.

Student Union Board is a student organization that plans and hosts activities in the late night category, such as trivia, bingo, movies and live entertainment. According to SUB's website, these events are meant to foster a sense of community by providing the student body with a variety of entertaining programs and to promote interest at Elon by cooperating with all departments and organizations.

The wellness category offers programs that focus on student health, both physical and mental.

These activities may focus on exercise, sleep, nutrition, fulfillment and personal growth. Campus Recreation & Wellness is the hub for these events concerning physical and emotional wellbeing. Its affiliate programs such as Elon Outdoor trips, intramural sports and group exercise classes offer a healthy way for new students to spend their time.

Other resources on campus such as the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, the Center for Leadership, the Center for Race, Ethnicity & Diversity Education as well as the Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement, hold

BY THE NUMBERS

4

is the minimum number of programs students must attend to be invited to a dessert reception with President Connie Book.

events that they say are intended to help students discover their purpose and passions while at Elon, making them partners for the Well Connected Challenge.

According to Harrison, getting involved with the Well Connected Challenge is easy. At participating events students tap their Phoenix Cards, signifying their attendance. Each week, prizes are raffled off to those that attended.

Freshmen who attended four out of the five programs were invited to a dessert reception with President Connie Book to recognize their engagement with the challenge.

Each year, a working group consisting of staff members within the Division of Student Life brainstorm new ideas for student engagement at Elon. The committee is charged with promoting event submissions to PhoenixConnect and marketing the importance of involvement and making connections with new students.

Harrison hopes is the initiative allows freshmen to learn about resources on campus and encourages them to make healthy choices about how they spend their time particularly their social activities.



JAKOB REUTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A student stirs his cup of coffee during College Coffee on Sept. 10, a weekly event, usually hosted on Phi Beta Kappa Commons.

"It allows students to begin thinking critically about how to positively get engaged and connected at Elon, including exploring their passions and being more curious about new experiences and opportunities," Harrison said.

Harrison said her favorite part of Well Connected was when

the first weekly newsletter was sent out to the Class of 2023 and students started eagerly responding and asking questions about this opportunity for involvement.

The banquet, which will mark the end of this year's initiative, is planned for the evening of Thursday, Oct. 31.

Campus-wide events promote student engagement

Residence Life holds capture the flag event to bring a sense of closeness to the university

Lily Blake
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

According to the Residence Life website, Elon University creates communities that enhance learning and engagement by interacting with faculty, staff and fellow students in residential neighborhoods.

The website also says that students encounter new ideas and perspectives on life through both formal and informal activities within Residence Life.

Elon aims to achieve this by hosting daily events that bring the entire campus together whether that be a cheese tasting in the Global Neighborhood or a campus-wide game of capture the flag.

On Oct. 24 the latter of those was put on in an effort by Residence Life to promote campus engagement and community.

"The idea originated from the Colonnades Neighborhood as they planned to host capture the

flag for their first-year residents during New Student Orientation," said Billy Baker, community director for The Station at Mill Point and Crest Apartments.

When the rain during New Student Orientation delayed the game, Sylvia Wade, community director for the East Neighborhood, suggested that Residence Life host the game and include all neighborhoods at a later date.

"I decided to play capture the flag because it just seemed fun, I had loved it for years so I thought, 'why not,'" freshman Chase Williams said.

There were two teams, blue and orange, with different neighborhoods playing together.

"[Participating in campus engagement activities] is a way to meet new people that you'd probably never meet," freshman Allyson Vogel said.

While the game itself was fun, Baker pointed out the greater significance of the event.

"When students discover pathways of engagement, they are able to relate with those around by building community and navigating identity," Baker said. "It is important to remember that



BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students make a game plan before the start of a campus-wide capture the flag game on Thursday, Oct. 24, which was hosted with the goal of increasing student engagement.

engagement is holistic, meaning there are many opportunities. Capture the flag was one piece of the greater picture."

Baker said Residence Life is consistently aiming to promote neighborhood identity and pride.

"Over the past year, the community directors spent time planning events where all campus residents can join together in

community," Baker said. "Overall, the purpose to build relationships across neighborhoods increasing the level of students' community and sense of belonging."

Baker said students who are engaged on campus not only have the opportunity to meet more friends, but they actually perform better in the classroom.

"Engaged students tend to

have a greater level of persistence when it comes to completion of a degree," Baker said.

According to Baker, one feature of Residence Life that exemplifies campus engagement is The Living and Learning aspect. "The liberal arts push the university to encourage students to engage with thought and action that is different from their own," Baker said.

The effect of religion on environmental sustainability

Students, faculty and staff use different religious traditions to create environmental change

Marjorie Anne Foster
Elon News Network | @marjorie_fo

Being the only Jain on campus hasn't stopped sophomore Shreeja Shah from practicing her religion.

"It was so strange to me to think that there would not be a single person on this campus that is going to understand exactly what I am going through as a Jainist," Shah said.

For Shah, Jainism has a distinct connection to environmentalism, ranging from food to daily actions.

"I follow a strict vegetarian diet because we strongly believe in nonviolence," Shah said. "I won't eat off a plate that once had meat, and when I lived in India, I wouldn't even go to a place that served meat."

One of the tenants of Jainism is the commitment to showing kindness to all.

"I won't even kill a spider," Shah said. "We believe that every creature has a life, and I was not given the right to kill that creature."

Bridging religious traditions

Multifaith Coordinator Allison Pelyhes said she first converged religion and sustainability during the eight years she participated in a Presbyterian camp. Her Christian roots led her to "see God in the natural world" and has shaped the way she views and interacts with the Earth.

"I grew up knowing that God is the creator first and foremost," Pelyhes said. "So, when the Bible says 'love your neighbor,' that includes that bird in the mailbox and that tree that might need a little more watering. Loving your neighbor and loving the Earth just aren't separate at all."

Pelyhes said her role has allowed her to intertwine her passion for the environment, her Christian beliefs and her desire to create interreligious conversations.

"In a multifaith space, sustainability is something a lot of different faiths can really rally behind," Pelyhes said. "I think that it is one of the best causes that can unify people and is also crucial for our future and our grandkids' futures."

According to Pelyhes, many Christians point to Genesis 1:26, where the Bible says to "have dominion over" the Earth and animals. This has instructed Pelyhes to "live within the Earth" rather than "dominate it."

Pelyhes said she seeks to use her role to connect with students across religions or nonreligious traditions and empower them in their environmentalist efforts.

"Part of my work at Elon is emotionally and spiritually uplifting students to do good work, whether that's going through their own tradition or no tradition at all," Pelyhes said. "I hope that I can uplift students who come are not feeling very hopeful and are concerned about the health of our Earth."

The Christian climber

Christianity has also inspired senior Conner McCarthy to connect people with the outdoors through rock climbing.

"My love for the outdoors and sustainability came because I knew that this was God's creation and we should be respecting it," McCarthy said. "This stemmed from the idea that we have been given this gift of a beautiful planet and we shouldn't be bad stewards."

Serving as the president of Elon University's rock-climbing club, McCarthy has been able to introduce people to the sport, connecting them with nature, teaching them about environmentalism and providing them with fun outdoor experiences.

"When I first started climbing, my main focus was trying to get as strong as possible, but now my main focus is bringing in as many people as possible," McCarthy said. "I've had great experiences with the community and sport, and I think other people should be able to experience that."



MY LOVE FOR THE OUTDOORS AND SUSTAINABILITY CAME BECAUSE I KNEW THAT THIS WAS GOD'S CREATION AND WE SHOULD BE RESPECTING IT.

CONNER MCCARTHY
SENIOR

IF YOU GO

Event: Interfaith with the Lakota

Date: Friday, March 13 to Sunday, March 22

Where: Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota

Cost: \$650



McCarthy leads the club on weekly local climbs on Friday evenings.

Islamic environmentalism

Assistant Professor of Geography Sandy Marshall said he has been motivated by his faith in Islam to help students at the Burlington Masjid research the importance of environmentalism, in regards to Islamic teachings.

"There are many quotes in the Quran and Hadith that highlight environmental sustainability," Marshall said. "The idea that people were put on the Earth to be stewards of the environment is something very important in Islam."

Students at the Burlington Masjid, under the guidance of Marshall, will conduct research and undertake a community service project.

One of these projects is to create sustainable Ramadan meals in which reusable resources will be provided and food waste will be kept at a minimum.

"Islam is about not creating corruption on the land," Marshall said. "Even small changes are important towards preserving the Earth."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CONNER MCCARTHY

Senior Conner McCarthy is the president of Elon University's rock-climbing. He sees his main role to be introducing people to the sport and connecting them with nature.

Seal of sustainability

Over her four years at Elon, alumna Hannah Greenfader was able to merge her two passions: environmentalism and Judaism. The lasting effect of this merge is the Hazon Seal of Sustainability — given to Elon Hillel this fall.

The student-run Jewish group is the only organization in North Carolina to receive this seal, which recognizes Jewish organizations' environmental efforts and practices with regards to suitable practices, treatment of animals and impact on climate change.

Greenfader worked alongside alumna Sydney Solomon and Associate Chaplain for Jewish Life Rabbi Sandra Lawson to apply for the seal. According to Greenfader, she's enjoyed using her faith to impact the environment.

"It's really special that I was able to do the work that I did," Greenfader said. "I really love that two of the things I love so much came together so well. Judaism tells us to take care of the planet and animals and to leave the earth better than we found it."

Residence halls to close for students over Fake Break

Elon dorms will be closed during the 10-day break following Winter Term

Emery Eisner
Elon News Network | @eisneremery

Elon University will be closed following Winter Term from Jan. 25 to Feb. 2, 2020 for Fake Break, according to Residence Life. Like Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring Break, students are not able to remain in residence halls unless they submit a formal request.

Though most North Carolina universities remain open for shorter breaks such as Thanksgiving and Spring, Elon shuts down for security, according to Director of Residence Life Marquita Barker.

“There’s not a lot of people here, and for safety reasons we don’t want students on campus with no faculty and staff around,” Barker said.

According to Barker, Elon breaks are also a good opportunity for campus construction or repairs.

“Sometimes when the university needs to get in, do major repairs, updates and maybe HVAC or whatever they need to do, they like to do it during the break when students are gone,” Barker said.

While it might be easier for some students to drive or fly home often, others face challenges travelling.

“If a student financially can’t afford a plane ticket or to go home, whether they’re an international student or if they just can’t go home



Left: Lake Mary Nell partially freezes over as a winter storm hits Elon University's campus during Winter Term last year.

Deadlines for Request to Remain on Campus			
Breaks	Halls Close	Halls Reopen	Requests Due
Thanksgiving Break	November 23	December 1	November 15
Winter Break	December 14	January 2	December 6
Fake Break	January 25	February 2	January 17
Spring Break	March 14	March 22	March 11

for personal reasons, that’s usually some of the more common reasons that we have,” Barker said.

Barker said there are specific options listed on the break request form, found on the Elon self service website, which allows some students to stay.

While not everyone is approved, Barker said Residence Life strives to accommodate those remaining on campus for Fake Break or other breaks. According to Barker, 98% of the 914 requests to remain on

campus for Fake Break last year were approved.

“If you have a transportation reason or a financial reason, if you’re an athlete or international student, those are most of the people who are asking to stay and we approve those,” Barker said. “But sometimes students just want to stay to stay, and that’s not what we’re doing.”

Sophomore Shreeja Shah, resident assistant for the International Living Learning

Community in the Global Neighborhood, said some of her residents might have to stay. While not an international student herself, Shah said she understands the concerns international students have.

“It’s less about halls being closed because you can request to stay, but it’s the dining halls being closed that can really become a struggle for a lot of these students,” Shah said. “They have a meal plan but they’re having to pay out of pocket

for meals three times a day every single day. And just not having people here, it is very difficult for a lot of these people to figure out what to do.”

Shah said as an RA, she is expected to remain on campus for either Fall Break or Fake Break, but that there is no requirement to remain on campus if none of her residents do.

According to Shah, there was no formal discussion of students remaining on campus during her training from Residence Life.

“I really feel like it’s something they probably should bring up,” Shah said. “We just know that sometimes there’s students that stay.”

Shah said she will hold a hall meeting before Thanksgiving Break, where she plans to advise any students who will remain on campus for the break about available resources.

According to Residence Life, students who live in residence halls can apply to remain on campus for breaks via the self service site under the applications and forms tab.

Students who submit a request will receive an answer within two business days of submission, according to Residence Life.

Students in on-campus apartments do not need to fill out the form, as apartments remain open during breaks.

CHEAT SHEET

EACH WEEK THE PENDULUM INTERVIEWS RELEVANT EXPERTS TO EXPLAIN COMPLEX TOPICS

Trudeau gets second term as Canada’s prime minister

How the Liberal’s reelection without a majority government affects Canada and the US

Jack Haley
Executive Director | @jackhaley17

Justin Trudeau was re-elected to a second term as Canada’s prime minister after his Liberal party won the most seats in the House of Commons with 157 of 338 seats.

However, Andrew Scheer and the Conservative Party of Canada won the popular vote by a slight margin and took enough seats — 121 — to prevent the Liberals from forming a majority in the House. It is now projected that Jagmeet Singh, the leader of the New Democratic Party, and Trudeau will form a pact to create a majority in the House.

Rod Clare, associate professor of history at Elon University, teaches a class on U.S.-Canadian relations. Clare explains the ramifications of the election and the impact it has on Canada’s relationship with the U.S.

Q: What helped Trudeau get reelected?

A: I don’t think there was one big thing. If there had to be one big thing, then I think he wouldn’t be forming a minority government. I think there was enough support for him, as well as someone that is seen as his on his ideological spectrum,



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau waves to people at the Liberal Party campaign headquarters in Montreal on Oct. 21.

in terms of Singh in the NDP that will help him to form a coalition government.

Q: What is a minority government? And how will that impact the government after it had a majority government last election?

A: If you’re a majority government, by definition, you don’t have to negotiate with another political perspective. Whereas if you’re in a minority government, and you are forming a coalition, especially like in this case with the NDP ... they’re going to want some concessions from you. And it’s going to be up to the Liberals to decide whether

or not ... the concessions that the NDP want from them be something that they could sustain in the long run.

Q: How do you think Trudeau’s reelection will impact the relationship between the US and Canada?

A: It’s interesting that Trump and Trudeau have had a rocky relationship. Trump has called Trudeau some names, but then he’s flipped and paid him compliments. One of the things that I think will help both the United States and Canada is the MCA — Mexico, Canada, America — replacement for NAFTA that was ratified

among the three of them, but now they have to get their Congress to approve the measure. Trump is trying to do that in the United States. He will be more in line to continue that fight as opposed to, say if Scheer had been able to form a government.

Q: How did Barack Obama’s endorsement, a week before the election, affect the outcome?

A: I have not seen polling data as to whether or not it [Obama’s endorsement] influenced or took away [from it]. You could imagine that some people might see this as a strike against them because it could

MINORITY GOVERNMENT

When one party has the largest share of seats in the House of Commons, but does not have the majority of total seats in the Commons.

BY THE NUMBERS

338

is the total number of seats in the House of Commons — 157 seats were won by the Liberals.

27

is the number of seats lost by the Liberals in the 2019 election compared to the 2015 election.

be seen as outside interference in Canadian politics.

It could be seen as someone on the more liberal side of American politics, endorsing someone who’s a Liberal in Canadian politics and other people might not like that.

So at this point, I wish I had more specific information as to whether or not it helped or hurt. ... My off-the-cuff opinion is that it probably did not hurt. It may not have helped, but I don’t think it overall hurt him.

2019 Homecoming Court nominees represent a plethora of causes

Hannah Massen | Elon News Network | @massenhannah

ELON UNIVERSITY'S 2019 HOMEcoming Court is comprised of 10 seniors — nine women and one man — who have been nominated to represent their organizations, class and university as a whole. Each candidate is running for the title of homecoming royal to support their chosen philanthropy.

In previous years, homecoming royals received a prize of \$100 to donate to their philanthropies. According to Hailey Jurgens, head of the Homecoming Court for the Student Government Association, no donation will be awarded to the royals this year because of the changes in the SGA budget.

The homecoming royals will be announced during the football game this weekend against the College of William & Mary on Saturday, Nov. 2 at Rhodes Stadium.



Derrick Luster
Burlington Housing Authority

DERRICK LUSTER, A POLITICAL science major from Richmond, Virginia, said his Elon experience has been a “rocky road” and has motivated him to apply for Homecoming Court. After a smooth transition into college, Luster encountered mental health issues and became overinvolved on campus but ended up turning to his community for support.

“There were a few times when I wanted to transfer because I didn’t know if I could make it here, but Elon really uplifted me and kept me here,” Luster said. “I had a community to uplift me in my time of need, and that’s something that I want to encourage other people to do.”

Luster volunteers with the Burlington Housing Authority, a local organization which provides housing for low-income families, the elderly and people with disabilities. He said he hopes running on behalf of this initiative will encourage more volunteers to help build homes for those in need.

“I really want my platform to be one that encourages people to get more involved in the Burlington community,” Luster said. “There’s some spectacular people in this community that people don’t get the chance to meet or work with.”

Luster is a member of the 2020-2030 Strategic Planning Committee and the Senior Class Giving Committee and works at the Center for Race, Ethnicity & Diversity Education and Campus Recreation & Wellness.



Sara Spicker
Bracelets of Hope

SARA SPICKER, A BIOCHEMISTRY major from Los Angeles, said she embodies Elon’s values of honesty and integrity but was most impressed with her answers to the “resilience” portion of the Homecoming Court application.

In her essay, Spicker discussed meeting with Jon Dooley, vice president for student life, to address her concerns after gunfire outside the Elon Chabad house damaged a car on Yom Kippur.

“Dr. Dooley came to Shabbat for the first time at that organization, and it felt really cool to see that change and be a part of that change,” Spicker said. “I felt really resilient in the moment because it’s a scary situation doing something about it.”

Spicker is running on behalf of her own philanthropy, Bracelets of Hope, which makes wristbands that say “You are not alone.” After the mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 2018, Spicker said she questioned how she could make positive change in the world. She created her wristbands to give to others as a reminder that someone is looking out for them.

“My hope one day is that if someone is struggling and could use a bracelet or a reminder that they’re not alone and you were to reach out to me, I could send it to them and no one would have to pay for anything,” Spicker said.

Spicker works at the Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement and is an Elon 101 teaching assistant. She also plays club soccer and is currently doing undergraduate research on sustainable medicinal ingredients.



Stacey Cohn
Family Abuse Services of America

FOR STACEY COHN, AN acting and strategic communications double major from Plano, Texas, running for Homecoming Court was not only about supporting her philanthropy but about representing performing arts students as well.

“The performing arts deserve to be represented on the court, especially since the performing arts students are some of the most involved people that I know,” Cohn said. “A lot of people don’t get the credit that they deserve.”

While Cohn is passionate about several philanthropies, including Planned Parenthood and Everytown for Gun Safety, she is running on behalf of Family Abuse Services of America to help break the stigma surrounding domestic violence. She said while one in four women and one in seven men are impacted by domestic violence, people are reluctant to talk about it.

“It’s important to shed light on the subject and also to give back to the people who are doing something in the community to take direct action,” Cohn said.

Aside from student theater, she is a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority and is the treasurer of the Alpha Psi Omega theatre honor society. She is also an Elon College Fellow and is currently working on her honors thesis.



Arianne Payne
Schuler Scholar Program

ARIANNE PAYNE SAID SHE is not the typical Elon University student. The communication design and English double major from Chicago is also a first-generation college student and a low-income woman of color. She said she is proud to represent those identities on Homecoming Court.

“Navigating those identities creates unique challenges for me,” Payne said. “But my story is one of overcoming and of grit and determination, and I don’t take it lightly that I’m here.”

With the campaign slogan “Progress Takes Payne,” Payne is running in support of the Schuler Scholar Program, of which she is a part of and Odyssey Scholars. The program supports college access for first-generation, low-income and underrepresented students from their freshman year of high school until they graduate college.

Payne works as a diversity ambassador in the Office of Admissions, thinking of ways to bring a more diverse student body to campus and help those students succeed. She also said she enjoys helping students find where they belong through her work as a resident assistant.

In addition to her campus jobs, Payne is a Lumen Scholar and is currently writing a collection of short stories based on her research on Native American and African American environmental injustices.





Laura Rossi
Innocence Project

LAURA ROSSI SAID SHE imagined Homecoming Court as a “fun opportunity” and was thrilled to be nominated. The political science and policy studies double major from Cleveland, Ohio said being on the court is a way to recognize all of her accomplishments up to this point.

“I want to be as involved as possible during my last year, so I thought this was a great opportunity to take,” Rossi said. “I think an involved campus is one of the most important aspects of a student body and a community.”

Rossi said she hopes to attend law school next fall and is running on behalf of the Innocence Project, a legal advocacy organization that works to exonerate individuals who were wrongfully convicted. She said her passion for the subject has determined her academics and career goals.

“In an era of mass incarceration, even if we have a low percentage of innocent people still in jail, that is a substantial number of individuals whose lives [and] whose families have been vastly affected,” Rossi said.

Rossi serves as the Student Government Association senior class vice president and a global ambassador for the Global Education Center and is a polling associate for the Elon Poll.



Amanda Ruvolo
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

THIS YEAR COULD BE Amanda Ruvolo’s second time on Homecoming Court after she was nominated during her senior year of high school. Ruvolo, who is a history with teacher licensure major from Stillwater, New Jersey, said the possibility of being on the court again is symbolic of her personal progression and eternal school spirit.

“I’m a tour guide, and I love being a personal cheerleader for Elon,” Ruvolo said.

Ruvolo is running to raise awareness for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. She said the disease deeply affected one of her closest friends. After seeing the toll it took on her friend’s family, Ruvolo said she decided she wanted to help support the cause in any way she could.

“I love Homecoming because it’s not just about voting for whoever, it’s voting for a cause,” Ruvolo said.

Ruvolo works as a crew member in Turner Theatre, a tour guide and a diversity ambassador in the Office of Admissions and has served as an orientation leader. She is also involved with the Intersect Conference for Leadership and Diversity and is a member of Kappa Delta sorority.



Noor Irshaidat
Relay for Life

NOOR IRSHAI DAT, AN INTERNATIONAL business and international studies double major from Amman, Jordan, tried applying for homecoming court as a freshman. Now a senior, she finally achieved her four-year goal of receiving a nomination.

“If that shows anything, it shows that I was super excited and that this is something I’ve always wanted to do,” Irshaidat said. “I think I’ve been able to be more involved and worked so hard on myself to be part of this very honorable court.”

Irshaidat is running on behalf of Relay for Life, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, to improve the cancer survival rate, decrease incidents of cancer and improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their caretakers. She hopes to support her family members who have been affected by the disease.

Irshaidat is a member of the Elon International Society and serves as the Student Government Association senior class president. She is also a Leadership Fellow and works as a group exercise instructor at Campus Recreation & Wellness.



Abby Walsh
Best Buddies International

SENIOR ABIGAIL WALSH, A strategic communications and media analytics double major from Quincy, Massachusetts, said running for Homecoming Court seemed like the ultimate way to show her school spirit.

“I’m a senior, and I’m in that head space where I’m like, this is my last chance to do everything that I want to do,” Walsh said. “I was really excited because Noor is like my best friend so we were really excited we both got it.”

Walsh is running in support of Best Buddies International, a nonprofit which works to create opportunities for people with physical or intellectual disabilities.

She has been raising funds for the Best Buddies Challenge, a 5K run and bike ride held in Cape Cod, Massachusetts for the past three years.



Katherine Klinger
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

FOR KATHERINE KLINGER, A human service studies major from Atlanta, Georgia, running for Homecoming Court was all about supporting her cause.

Klinger is running on behalf of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, an organization whose mission is to “save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide.” In the wake of five recent student suicides at Elon University, Klinger feels it is an ideal time to raise awareness about what she says is an “epidemic.”

“I’m a suicide survivor, and I’ve also lost some very important people in my life to suicide,” Klinger said. “It was a cause that I dedicated myself to after surviving because I was given a second chance at life that a lot of people are not given.”

Along with her position as a student leader in the Catholic Campus Ministry, Klinger is a Leadership Fellow, is involved with Elon Volunteers and is a member of Kappa Delta sorority.



Sydney Simmons
Surdna Foundation

SYDNEY SIMMONS, A SOCIOLOGY major from Pilot Mountain, North Carolina, said she is excited to finally run for Homecoming Court after years of watching her senior friends do the same. She said she is excited to be representing a cause she cares about on a public platform.

“In my way, this is almost like a form of activism,” Simmons said. “I think it’s really good to have representation. It was a hope, but now it’s a reality.”

Simmons is running on behalf of the Surdna Foundation, which promotes social justice reform, inclusive communities and healthy environments.

“It all starts in the community and then that’s how you’re able to enact laws or programs,” Simmons said. “This foundation kind of does it all, but it’s centered around several different passions of mine and areas that I found joy and peace in.”

Simmons is an Odyssey Scholar and a resident area coordinator in the Office of Residence Life. She also works as a high school tutor with the It Takes a Village Project and is a summer mentor and counselor with Elon Academy.



OPINIONS



ILLUSTRATION BY SAM POROZOK

Excluding people of color from the online dating scene



Fiona Zahm

“No blacks allowed. Whites only. No Spanish or Mexicans.” Racist signage from the Jim Crow era or Tinder bios of today? Unfortunately, the answer is unclear.

There’s something deeply unsettling about seeing the blatant rejection of certain racial categories in print. Tinder bios stating “please no n***** chics and no Indians” or “if you’re black and we matched, it was probably a mistake” are concerning to most.

Yet many behave similarly without realizing it. Rather than outwardly rejecting certain potential partners of color, implicit bias operates subconsciously as we categorize certain people as potential dates or as candidates for rejection based on racial identity.

Individual preference is conceived as precisely that: individual. We perceive dating as something based upon intangible qualities: attraction,

connection and ‘spark.’ Some would argue that racial preferences in dating are simply a matter of taste.

The misconception lies in the framing of the dating debate. Individual preference when replicated and magnified on a larger scale becomes a consistent pattern and ultimately prejudicial.

Preference, like most things, is a socialized phenomenon. It is a result, in part, of restrictive beauty standards, historical housing and school segregation and stereotypes associated with certain races.

Think Asian “geishas” or black “jezebels.” These factors collectively paint certain races as potential dating candidates, while others are perceived as either non-options or only casual “flings.” All too often, black women and Asian men are the losers in the dating scene.

There are certain shades to the dating debate. What about individuals who exclusively date

members of historically marginalized identity groups and exclude white partners? White partners’ preference for a single minoritized race is often simply argued to be cultural appreciation, a compliment.

The issue with such appreciation is that single-minded preference for a particular race reduces individuals to stereotypical racial attributes, hence the problematic nature of fetishization and exoticification of other races typified by “I only date…” statements.

None of this is to say that those with preferences are bad, intolerant people or that preference for those with similar experiences and backgrounds is innately wrong. Learning to love and appreciate other cultures as well as bonding over shared experiences and backgrounds are admirable.

Rather, this is a call to reflect upon implicit and socially taught bias; how has the society we live in shaped who

we view as potential partners and the desirability of particular races? While legal segregation has ended in the U.S., social segregation persists and shapes who we meet and what roles we imagine they can play in our lives.

Unlike the blatant and rampant segregation of Jim Crow, dating preference cannot be resolved through legal sanctions or policy. Social change will require significant restructuring of power imbalances and mitigation of their negative effects in American society.

Individual change, however, is possible through personal reflection on one’s own dating history. It is my hope that individual awareness, coupled with increased integration and representation of diverse bodies and stories, presents a possible pathway to a world in which individuals are judged by the content of their character and heart, not by the color of their skin.

Addressing hate crimes on and off college campuses



Hana Hawthorne

As a biracial college student who has experienced incidents of hate, I constantly ask what it will take for the school to take hate seriously.

This semester, an Elon University student said they almost got run over by racist people in a shiny white GMC truck. The student immediately called campus police. She was then told that it was not an Elon University problem but a town of Elon problem, despite this happening on campus.

This is not the first time that campus police have heard about this truck. It’s the same shiny white GMC truck that most students of color on campus saw last year and have repeatedly seen this year driving down the road with its passengers blatantly yelling racial slurs.

Despite Elon preaching diversity and belonging, when something like this happens, the school refuses to take responsibility and approach the issue. How many incidents will it take for someone to pay attention to the minority community here on campus?

This is more than an Elon problem. Hate incidents happen everywhere throughout the U.S. An FBI report showed that the number of hate crime reports at schools or colleges increased by 36% in 2017.

According to the Department of Justice, approximately 250,000 hate crimes were committed each year in

BY THE NUMBERS

~250,000

hate crimes were committed annually from 2004 to 2015 in the U.S., according to the Department of Justice

2%

of the approximately 250,000 hate crimes committed annually from 2004 to 2015 were reported to the FBI, according to data from the Department of Justice.

the U.S. between 2004 and 2015, but only 2% were reported to the FBI.

However, recently proposed legislation would change this trend. The Khalid Jabara and Heather Heyer National Opposition to Hate, Assault, and Threats to Equality Act of 2019, or Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act, would allow the Department of Justice to give local and state governments grants to help implement a new system for hate crimes investigation.

This system would require training and education for law enforcement on dealing with hate crimes, improving the reporting of these crimes and establishing hate crime reporting hotlines. If the state or local government did not provide the required data, they then would be forced to return the grant.

This type of legislation would prove to be beneficial in campus communities, incentivizing local law enforcement to report these crimes and help develop hate crime prevention programs. By reporting these crimes, law enforcement and Elon’s administration would be better able to tackle these issues on campus which would allow them to put resources into preventing future attacks.

Other improvements could be made in how officers are trained. Campus police should be required to complete training on how to handle

and respond to hate crimes. Campus officer training is very similar to that of a county officer, but their training ultimately is determined by each state.

Though states run their police academies differently, training sessions typically last about 25 weeks. Only 12 states require training to cover instructions on hate crimes, and several states don’t cover training on hate crimes at all.

Even for the states that do require some training in this area, it is often not enough. Officials who oversaw police training told ProPublica that their “recruits spent about 30 minutes of class time on the subject,” which is unacceptable. Recruits and current personnel need to be thoroughly and formally trained on how to investigate and report these crimes when they happen.

Taking hate crimes seriously might reduce other problematic behavior such as hate speech. This will send the message that hate crimes are not tolerated. It will also make students on college campuses feel heard. We need to talk about these problems within the system and raise awareness of the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act.

Colleges and universities need to increase reporting of these crimes and provide more training for their officers before it’s too late. Raise your voice. Report hate.



LIFESTYLE

DAMN YANKEES

PLANS A GRAND SLAM



Elon University theatre recreates the 1950s musical comedy for the community

Miranda Ferrante
Elon News Network | @ferrantemiranda

Producing a play can be daunting, but for some Elon University students, it's a collaborative and creative process where the final product makes those behind the production proud and joyful. "Damn Yankees" is based on the novel "The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant" by Douglass Wallop. The play is a Broadway hit and has won seven Tony Awards, including "Best Musical." The story is set in the 1950s and presents themes such as dreams, love and heartbreak. "Damn Yankees" is set in the 1950s and is about a couple, Joe and Meg Boyd.

They are discontent with their marriage, and Joe desperately wishes that the Washington Senators would beat the Yankees, hence the phrase "Damn Yankees." According to junior Kevin Lacey, a music theatre major who

plays Benny Van Buren in the show, costuming is central to the intended message of the script. Costume designer Jack Smith takes on the task of creating a classic American mid-century look for each individual character. Smith said "every show is different" with regard to the costuming and that "there are some shows where the costumes are a major part of the storytelling, while some are not." Smith also said the costuming for "Damn Yankees" required attention to both detail and to how the actors felt about their roles. "Anything that touches the actor is part of the storytelling," Smith said. "There is a lot of collaborating with the actor." The collaborative process is essential for Smith's vision to come alive. The costuming is directly responsible for "setting the tone, the period and who these characters are to the audience," he said. Smith went on to speak about the relationship he said he had with those involved in the play. "I love working with the actors and figuring out who these people are in addition to the process of putting the show together and creating," Smith said. "Every



IF YOU GO

When: Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 at 7:30 P.M.
Where: McCrory Theatre in the Center for the Arts

show presents both its challenges and its joys." Smith said there's a process that comes with forming each play. "I generally read the script three times before I even pick up a pencil," Smith said. "First, I just read the script. Second, I thought about how I want to shape each character. And the third time, I have a notebook where I take a one-line description of each character." Costuming plays a pivotal role in allowing the audience to accurately comprehend the message and follow along with the central themes of the play. Smith said he "looked at a lot of late 60s advertising: Coca-Cola, movies and everyday

products such as Playtex gloves." Smith said this allowed him to not only help him get a sense of what people wore during that time but of their ideals as well. Choreographer Deb Leamy also spoke about the role that costuming plays in portraying a story from another time period. "They are always essential, but only as essential for this show because of the period of time: the 1950s," Leamy said. "If the audience doesn't get that, then what is being portrayed won't make sense. It's an older show, [but] we are still trying to do something new and different with it." According to Smith, his vision didn't come together overnight. He said his work required extensive research and trial and error. "Two women are on the baseball team; we didn't disguise them. Obviously, they have the appropriate undergarments, but twenty years ago, you couldn't do that," Smith said. Smith discussed how in today's current climate, a period where the media holds so much power

and significance, stories told through art are timeless. Smith said through the production process, it became increasingly crucial to follow a storyline related to current times even though the story was fueled by the past. Theater has "never shied away from difficult or controversial topics," Smith said. Leamy said working on "Damn Yankees" has been a positive experience. "I have such a talented cast. It has been a joy, and the cast's work ethic has been stellar," Leamy said. "From day one, the director, along with Valerie Maze, the music director, set the tone. They have been a joy to work with. It's been a collaborative, creative process."

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Top: Students of Elon University portray the Washington Senators in the production of *Damn Yankees* on Monday, Oct. 28 in McCrory Theatre.
Above: Elon student in the musical "Damn Yankees" strikes a pose on Monday, Oct. 28 in McCrory Theatre.

Bridging the gap between committees



Associate Professor of strategic communications Lee Bush, current chair of the Committee on Committees, writes on the board during her Strategic Research Methods class.

The Committee on Committees oversees more than a dozen other on-campus committees

Emily Prins
Elon News Network | @emilyprians2

One of Elon University's 40-plus committees is the aptly-named the Committee on Committees, which oversees the 15 standing committees and connects them to the Academic Council.

Shared governance is a pivotal part of the committee's work, according to Lee Bush, associate professor of strategic communications and the chair of the Committee on Committees.

Shared governance is a structure that the university puts into place to ensure the entire Elon community has an equal say on how the school is run.

"An integral part of this shared governance is Academic Council, the coordinating committee for the

faculty, as well as numerous standing committees, advisory committees, special committees and task forces on which faculty, staff and students serve," Bush said. "These committees are essentially the components that make up shared governance."

The Committee on Committees is made up of eight faculty members of the Academic Council and is chaired by the standing chair-elect of the council. The committee acts as a bridge between the Academic Council and standing committees.

According to the Elon website, members of the committee include one representative from each of the three divisions of the College of Arts and Sciences, one representative from each of the four remaining schools and a faculty-ranking staff member.

Bush said serving on the Committee on Committees is a huge task because it supports more than 100 faculty members serving on 15 standing committees.

"It is an enormous undertaking

“

IT IS AN ENORMOUS UNDERTAKING TO MAKE SURE THOSE COMMITTEES HAVE THE FACULTY MEMBERS THEY NEED EACH YEAR TO KEEP THEIR COMMITTEES RUNNING SMOOTHLY.

LEE BUSH
CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

to make sure those committees have the faculty members they need each year to keep their committees running smoothly," Bush said. "Committee on Committees balances the need for faculty to find service opportunities that match their interests and abilities with the need to ensure that our committees effectively contribute to shared governance."

According to the Faculty Handbook, the duties of this organization include collecting annual reports from the chairs of the standing committees, nominating faculty members for new openings or replacements on almost all committees and task forces and working with Student Government Association members to fill student positions on committees, among other things.

The Committee on Committees affects the day-to-day operations of the university by selecting qualified candidates to run the boards that work to make both learning and teaching at Elon enjoyable. Each committee member serves a term spanning two to three years with the Committee on Committees ensuring no slot remains empty.

The committees that are headed by the Committee on Committees range from the Elon Core Curriculum Council to the Student Life Committee. It also nominates members of special committees created by the Academic Council, such as the one currently in effect that is investigating student perceptions of the teaching of study abroad courses.

The organization effectively works to make sure all other committees have the resources they need to improve the university and are doing that job efficiently.

"All of these committees are an integral part of Elon's shared governance model," Bush said, "giving faculty, staff and students the opportunity to jointly establish, maintain and have input in academic policies and programs."

Lunch with the president



President Connie Book speaks with senior Jizelle Campbell in Clohan Dining Hall on Oct. 1.

Kyra O'Connor
Elon News Network | @ko_reports

Students are given the opportunity to chat and connect with President Connie Book over lunch

Many students look forward to one of the hallmarks of the Elon experience: meeting President Connie Book. Now six more students can say they have done just that.

In early October, students joined Book for the first Lunch with President Book of the academic year. Attendees sat down in Clohan Hall to speak with Book and Vice President of Student Life Jon Dooley.

"The president is very interested in being actively engaged with students, and that includes both formal and informal settings," Dooley said. "My office sets up a number of opportunities for President Book to interact with students throughout the course of the academic year, and these lunches are just one of many opportunities."

A link to apply for the October luncheon was sent out to students early in the semester. The application included questions about the students' interest in the lunch as well as why they wanted to attend.

"We send out every semester a survey link to students, letting them know about the open days that [Book] has to play table tennis with students on Fridays but also soliciting student interest in sitting down with the president and having lunch," Dooley said.

These lunches are an initiative to connect with students, which started two academic years ago upon Book's arrival in 2018. Book said she tries to hold an event with students once a month, and Dooley said these events are opportunities for himself and Book to engage with Elon's student body.

"The president and I both have a goal of maintaining a lot of student interaction, and so each of us, since we took our respective offices, have found ways to make sure that that's a priority," Dooley said. "We put that in our schedules at the beginning of every semester."

Six students attended lunch with Book on Oct. 1. According to Dooley, the small number was intentional. Freshman Ben Puchyr said he enjoyed the small group setting because he was able to converse with Book.

"For someone who's in a position that she's in, to be able to form a bond, to form a connection with students ... I don't hear UNC Chapel Hill or other schools saying 'Hey, come have lunch with the President,'" Puchyr said. "I don't hear that at other places. That's another thing that makes Elon special."

Senior Jizelle Campbell said meeting Book was on her "mental bucket list" of things to do before graduating.

"Just listening to things she enjoys about the campus and how oftentimes she's stressed made me able to relate to her more easily," Campbell said. "We don't think of the president as also human. Just hearing her perspective and just her position ... I really enjoyed that."

Senior Kelly Valerio said she enjoyed hearing about the freshman experience during the lunch.

"It was interesting to hear, from the first-year perspective, what they think of the university," Valerio said. "Being a senior, it was kind of interesting to hear what they had to say was going well in their experience and what wasn't going well."

Book said one of her favorite parts of having lunch with students is hearing about their Elon experiences, something she does not always have the opportunity to do.

"I'm a faculty member by background, and I'm missing having those moments in class with students where you can hear more about their overall Elon experience," Book said.

The date of the next lunch has not been announced as of Oct 25. But the annual president's holiday reception will take place on Thursday, Dec. 5 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

THE SIXTH SAND MANDALA

The message at the center of the Tibetan monk’s sand creation is one of peace and healing

Liz Crouse
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

FOR THE SIXTH YEAR in a row, Buddhist monk Geshe Sangpo visited Elon University to construct a sand mandala for peace and healing. His visits usually last three days, and his mandala designs differ each year.

“Elon is our only regular gig,” Sangpo’s aide Elise Strevel said.

Sangpo visits the university as part of a partnership between Elon and the Kadampa Center, a community gathering space for Buddhists in Raleigh.

This year’s mandala had five colors and was made of small pieces of marble. The marble looks like sand but holds its place more firmly, making it a commonly-believed myth that the mandalas are actually made of sand.

Before beginning the mandala, the monk blessed the space with sacred chants. These centering chants helped the Geshe prepare for the process of building the mandala. Small tubes and funnels helped him place the crushed marble exactly in the design.

Sophomore Ellen Fiedler, an intern for the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, was responsible for planning this year’s event, which took place from Oct. 23 to Oct. 25.

“I loved working alongside Geshe Sangpo and the Kadampa Center, and I look forward to incorporating what I learned in my daily life,” Fiedler said.

Fiedler said she hopes the mindfulness and meditation the mandala brings to Elon slows down the campus’ busy culture. She says Sangpo’s visit helped her center herself around something tangible, which brought positivity to her week.

Sangpo, originally from Tibet, worked for more than 20 hours to create the mandala. Throughout his stay at Elon, Fiedler said Sangpo taught students lessons of courage and persistence.

In hopes of engaging with the Tibetan monk and learning more about Buddhist culture, the interfaith interns hosted lunches and dinners with Sangpo and Strevel.

At the closing ceremony, the mandala was wiped away to represent the impermanent nature of all things. The sand

was then distributed to ceremony attendees as a physical reminder of the peace the mandala brings.

“For a moment, I felt at complete peace with everything around me,” Fiedler said, describing her experience brushing away the sand. Fiedler keeps her bag of sand on her desk, which she said reminds her of her experience with Sangpo every time she looks at it.

As a parting gift, Sangpo also presented Fiedler with a banner with the ancient Buddhist poem “Never Give Up.”

According to Fiedler, the sand mandala event is part of a larger initiative by the Truitt Center to bring more interfaith activities to campus. Fiedler and the other seven interns are often in charge of planning these events.

The interfaith interns are currently in the process of planning the traditional Hindu Diwali and the campus’ signature interreligious event, the Festival of Holiday Lights.

“

THE SAND MANDALA PROVIDES THE CAMPUS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE ACTIVELY INVESTED IN A SPIRITUAL RITUAL AND PRACTICE.

ALLISON PELYHES
MULTIFAITH & INTERN COORDINATOR

Buddhist monk Geshe Sangpo focuses on finishing the sand mandala in the Truitt Center’s Sacred Space on Friday, Oct. 25, during his sixth visit to Elon University.

“The sand mandala provides the campus an opportunity to be actively invested in a spiritual ritual and practice,” Multifaith and intern Coordinator Allison Pelyhes said. “Though we may not all be practicing Buddhists, the community surrounding and within the Truitt Center can gain something from Buddhism.”

According to the fall Registrar’s Report, the number of Buddhist students on campus has grown from five in 2005 to 17 this fall.

“Whether one is religious, nonreligious or identifies with a different spiritual world view, we can all appreciate the beauty of the sand mandala,” Pelyhes said. “The spreading of the sand also unites our community and reminds us of the importance of compassion and wisdom.”



BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students and Elon community members gather in the Truitt Center’s Sacred Space during the final ceremony of the sand mandala event on Friday, Oct. 25.



THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FIRST TIME TO THE PLAYOFFS

Women's soccer team reaches tournament in record-setting season

Alex Reynolds

Sports Director | @reynolds14_

Though Elon University women's soccer team has spent five years in the Colonial Athletic Association, the Phoenix has not had a champion come from the soccer pitch. This is the first year the door is open.

After an impressive regular season, the women's soccer team finds itself in an unfamiliar position: the CAA playoffs. Though the Phoenix has never been in this position, it still likes its chances.

"I think that [out of] all the teams this year, we have the most to prove. And we're really excited to do that and show everyone that it's not just Elon," said senior forward Taylor Paradoski.

History makers

The 2019 season has etched the women's soccer team into the history books. The team improved from a record of 3-10-4 last year to a record of 11-5-2. This was the best record the team has posted since Elon joined the CAA in 2014. Along with the history-making cumulative record, the team also had an eight-game home undefeated streak that spanned from Sept. 8 to Oct. 22. This was the team's longest home winning streak since 2013, when the Phoenix won 10 straight home matches while competing in the Southern Conference.

Senior forward Breanna Mitchell was part of the team that struggled to win three games in 2018. She said in this record-breaking year, the senior leaders have set a standard that will live on past their graduation.



THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BY THE NUMBERS

11-5-2

is the current record for the Elon women's soccer team in the regular season.

"It's great that we're part of the team that made it to playoffs, so it's nice to say we were the first class to make it," Mitchell said. "It's inspiring to look up to."

The success of the team now has not only been a source of pride for current teammates but for former teammates as well.

"It's also nice to see the alumni reaching back out to us saying good job like, 'wish we could have done that,' and stuff, so it's kind of nice just hearing their feedback," Mitchell said.

Standout Players

Elon has outscored opponents 46-29 in 18 games played. The leaders of this offensive

production have been junior midfielder/forward Carson Jones. Jones has played in all 18 games for the Phoenix and started 16 of them. In this time, Jones tallied nine goals and one assist for a team high of 19 points. Jones was also named CAA Player of the Week twice this year.

The Phoenix team, featuring 10 freshman players, saw significant development throughout the season. Most notably was standout freshman forward Jessica Carrieri who only started two games yet still made her presence known. Carrieri was second only to Jones in points, scoring 18 during the season. Carrieri exploded onto the scene in late September as the Phoenix entered conference play. The freshman from Green Brook, New Jersey, had back-to-back two-goal games against the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Carrieri then served as the late-game hero against the College of William & Mary Tribe, securing the team's second conference win with a goal in extra time.

Head coach Neil Payne said he is happy with the development of young players like Carrieri.

"I'm really pleased with the freshman class, if anything, just the mentality. That's what it needs to look like moving forward," Payne said. "They don't complain about anything. Very positive. They work hard every day on making the team better."

Behind the high-powered Phoenix offense is another standout Phoenix newcomer: freshman goalkeeper Katrin Hauksdottir. Hauksdottir started and played all but one game this season. The 5-8 goalie from Hafnarfjörður, Iceland, stopped 63 shots for a save percentage of 64.6%. Hauksdottir also posted two shutouts in her first year as a Phoenix.

Looking ahead

The Elon women's soccer (11-5-2) team fell to the Northeastern Huskies (8-9-1) 4-0 in the final regular season game of this year. With the loss, both Elon and Northeastern finished CAA

Top: Elon University midfielder Olivia Offerman (left) and defender Kayla Hodges (right) attempt to corral the ball against Northeastern University on Oct. 27. The Phoenix lost 4-0.

Left: Elon goalkeeper Katrin Hauksdottir blocks a shot from a Northeastern University player on Oct. 27.

conference play with records of 5-3-1, an even 16 points each.

But with the Oct. 27 loss, Elon slid to the 5th seed and Northeastern improved to the 4th seed. Both teams will have a rematch on Friday, Nov. 1 in the opening round of the CAA playoffs. It will be Elon's first CAA postseason appearance in school history. Only six teams make the CAA playoffs, and Elon will have to defeat both Northeastern and number one ranked Hofstra in order to play in the championship.

Elon women's soccer, a team that struggled to achieve a winning season, has changed its culture. In just his second season, Payne has set new expectations for the program and his players. Payne said although making the playoffs is a great accomplishment, the team should still aim higher.

"To achieve that, this group of players needs applauding for that because nobody's been able to do it before," Payne said. "We've got to not be just OK with that. We've got to get excited this week."

Veterans on the team, who have been with the team for its highs and its lows, are excited for the next step. Mitchell and Paradoski make up two of the seven seniors on this year's roster. When they were freshmen, they finished 7-9-3. Now they're competing for a championship.

"I think it's awesome — the amount of team records we've beaten over this whole season. It's just exciting, especially for Breanna and I as seniors taking that on," Paradoski said.



Members of Elon University women’s cross country team go on a morning run in Greensboro, North Carolina on Aug. 26.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY SAYLES | ELON ATHLETICS

Cross-country teams look for first conference titles after successful season

BreShawn Holley & Jimmy Fitzpatrick
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

The Elon University cross-country teams are looking to end the season with another NCAA Regional Championship appearance. However, before punching their ticket to Charlottesville, Virginia, they will be traveling to New Market, Virginia, for the Colonial Athletic Association Championship on Friday Nov. 15.

Both the men’s and women’s cross-country teams have performed well this season, but these teams are different from those in the past. While youth and transfers have been the talk of the 2019 season, the athletes still have one goal in mind: capturing the elusive conference title.

The women’s team got the closest to delivering Elon its first CAA cross-country title. In 2018, the team fell short to the College of William & Mary Tribe by only two points.

Although the team lost three seniors last year, including Coralea Geraniotis, who won an individual title at the 2018 conference championships, the seniors were replaced by new rising talent. Most notably for the women’s team, senior runner Scolasticah Kemei, native to Kenya, has had a dominating season.

Kemei finished her last meet

with a time of 20:25, finishing in first place for the Phoenix while also beating the university record. She is the first athlete to win three individual races in her career at Elon and has been named CAA Runner of the Week four times.

Freshman runner Maria Ahm said senior runners such as Kemei serve as inspiration to the younger athletes on the team.

“It has been very fun with so many different people. People who are at such a high level ... it has been very good for me,” Ahm said.

With regard to the conference meeting, Ahm said she intends to prepare herself well for it.

“I will focus on my mental game. I will prepare myself for every practice and give 100%,” Ahm said.

Freshman Aidan Tierney said his approach is more so about following the direction of his coach amidst his transition from high school athletics.

“It’s completely different. All of a sudden I am a small fish in a very big pond,” Tierney said.

He said he plans on “doing the right things at the right time and lowering the mileage.”

Men’s cross-country coach Kevin Jeremyn said the team is performing well in anticipation of the conference championship meet.

“A large part of our formula is not to reinvent the wheel. We, as a team, need to keep doing what is working well for us,” Jeremyn said. “We will look to add less volume before the conference championship meet. We are going to do enough to stay sharp and keep our energy reserves up.”

This sentiment was evident in both the men’s and women’s performance at the outset of the season, beginning with the James Madison University Invitational, in which both teams came in first place, with the women’s team putting up 32 points and the men’s putting up

40.

The top runners included Kemei and sophomore Andrew Miller, both of whom finished in first place with times of 21:06.6 and 26:02.3, respectively.

Kemei and Miller also continued to lead the Phoenix at its next meet, the Virginia Panorama Farms Invitational,

WINNING TIMES

20:25

was junior Scolasticah Kemei’s final time in the last meet of her collegiate career. She finished in first place for the Phoenix and set a new school record.

32

points were put up by the women’s cross country team at the James Madison University Invitational. This allowed the team to secure the first-place title, along with the men’s team.

leading to the women’s and men’s team placing fourth and 14th, respectively.

On Oct. 11, the Phoenix traveled to Charlotte for the Queens University Royals XC Challenge, with the women placing 21st and the men 25th. The Phoenix was again led by Tierney, who finished in 16th place with a time of 24:33.0, and freshman Hannah Miller who finished in 127th with a time of 19:17.5.

The following week, the Phoenix ran in the East Carolina University Pirate Invitational, which turned out to be a bounce back victory for the men’s and women’s cross-country teams.

The men placed sixth overall and were led by Andrew Miller, who ran a 24:45.87 and placed 10th, and Tierney, who ran a 24:53.03 and placed 14th. The women placed first, led by Kemei at first place and Ahm at fourth with times of 20:25.67 and 21:02.29, respectively.

This victory gave the Phoenix confidence leading into the conference championships, as it was the last regular season meet. The Phoenix carried this momentum into its last meet with the men placing 21st and the women 25th.

The Phoenix looks forward to keeping pace as it prepares to compete in the conference championships this Saturday in New Market.

UPCOMING APPEARANCE
The team will be traveling to New Market, Virginia, for the Colonial Athletic Association Championship on Friday, Nov. 15.

NEW STAFF STRIVES FOR CONTINUED ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Current men’s basketball coach seeks to continue the team’s perfect graduation success rate

Colby Cook
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

On some Thursday afternoons the men’s basketball team is at work in Schar Center practicing drills and playing scrimmage games under the watchful eyes of head coach Mike Schrage and his staff.

The challenge for many student athletes is fulfilling their responsibilities as students following long, exhausting days spent in the gym. What is not often shown on game day, when players suit up in their maroon and gold apparel, is the work that they put forward in the classroom.

**ELON’S
ATHLETIC
DEPARTMENT**

Received a 96%, the highest overall score in the Colonial Athletic Association.

The effort student athletes put forth has resulted in Elon men’s basketball receiving a 100% rating in the NCAA Graduation Success Rate scale for the 2018-19 season. The men’s basketball team excelled in staying on top of their coursework and were expected to graduate within the six-

year timeline provided by the NCAA. The GSR does not account for athletes who transfer from their original school.

Although this ranking refers to last season when the Phoenix was under the direction of Matt Matheny, Schrage continues to embrace the challenging curriculum that Elon offers and he said will strive to make academics a priority during his tenure.

“I respect the whole student athlete experience. They’re students first, and I commend the last staff and Elon overall just [with] the success that all the programs have had here,” Schrage said. “We definitely plan to continue that.”

The GSR rating indicates that Elon student athletes are among the best when it comes to their success in the classroom. Last year, Elon athletic department’s overall GSR rating was a 96%, the highest score in the Colonial Athletic Association.

Athletes have to stay up to date with their assignments and sometimes even be weeks ahead when accounting for the rigor of their season. Junior and forward Simon Wright acknowledges the struggles of balancing athletics and academics, saying the key is time management.

“I like to try to get all my schoolwork done before practice because once practice is over, I’m kind of out of it,” Wright said. “If I have a 9:25, I might wake up at 7:30 and get my homework done for the next couple days in that window.”

When it comes to making time for social activities with his teammates and other friends, Wright said getting his work done beforehand is crucial.

“You’re with your friends, you live with the teammates and stuff, so you’re not going to be able to go home and hang out with them if your stuff’s not done,” Wright said.

The stress of keeping up with academics and being on the road for away games is also a tall order for the players to contend with. Bus trips, commercial plane rides and various overnight stays at hotels provide a challenging environment for students to complete their work.

“I mean, you’re always in a different hotel. You’ve got to find some quiet space,” Wright said.

The travel schedule for the first half of the season is a grueling one for the Phoenix, as it follows a pair of season opening home games with road trips to face Georgia Tech, University of Michigan and UNC Chapel Hill.

Schrage said he understands the importance of keeping up with work on the road but that road trips will help prepare his team for the grind of the NCAA slate and make sure players keep up their grades. Schrage said helping to make sure the team



BY THE NUMBERS

100%

is Elon University’s rating in the NCAA men’s basketball Graduation Student Rate scale for their 2018–2019 season.

“

LIVE IN THE MOMENT. LOVE IT. CHERISH EVERY SECOND YOU HAVE HERE AND GIVE IT YOUR MOST.

MIKE SCHRAGE
HEAD COACH



ABBY GIBBS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

stays on top of deadlines this season is instrumental to their success.

“Things are ramping up on the court. We’re starting to travel more; the demands of the season are upon us. And as you guys know, from Thanksgiving to Christmas, it’s no joke,” Schrage said. “You’ve just got to get the job done the right way. And so we’re really messaging to our guys all the time how important is to stay on top of it.”

Wright said Assistant Director of Athletics for Academic Support Services Cayce Crenshaw helps players tackle their schoolwork. She serves as a tutor for the team both at home and occasionally on the road. Wright said he wasn’t always as interested in academics as he is now, but explains that Crenshaw motivates him.

“Coming in, I didn’t really care about school that much. But after working with Cayce, I’ve actually got self-motivated now,” Wright said.

For freshman Hunter McIntosh, the experience looks a little different. His first season may provide many learning opportunities about the experience of being a collegiate athlete.

However, he said his high school prepared him for the transition, and he is ready for the challenge.

“My high school prepared me a lot. Right now, I’m probably on pace to graduate a year or so early,” McIntosh said.

McIntosh said he recognizes Elon’s challenging academics and said it was one of the reasons he committed.

“One of the reasons I picked here ... was academic success and just kind of the history they’ve had here as well,” he said.

McIntosh said for most of the players,

Top: Then-freshman Chuck Hanna looks to pass the ball during a men’s basketball game against Randolph University.

Above: Then-sophomore Simon Wright dribbles down the court while being defend by a Randolph University player on Oct 30, 2019.

sharing similar classes means their competitive spirit translates into the classroom.

“I think we’re just building right now just a culture and standard of excellence, so it kind of bleeds on and off the court,” McIntosh said.

Schrage said he is beginning to implement his ideals and teachings in his coaching and has already begun forming strong bonds with his players.

“I’m lucky to be in a profession of teaching and coaching where it’s tangible. Every day you feel like you’re making a difference,” Schrage said.

As he fosters his players’ success both on and off the court, Schrage offers words of advice for every college student.

“Live in the moment. Love it. Cherish every second that you have, and give it your most. Take advantage of these relationships you get a chance to build and these four years while you’re here,” Schrage said.

While the majority of focus on the basketball team comes from its play on the court, the players’ commitment to their studies is commendable.

Elon men’s basketball looks to continue its streak of high academic performance as it begins a new era and charts a path for the program in the 2019-20 season.

CHEER RAISES EACH OTHER UP

Members of Elon University's cheer team support the Phoenix, and each other, on and off the field

Caitlin Rundle
Elon News Network | @caitlinr_21

While they may not be the center of attention on game day, Rhodes Stadium wouldn't be the same without the Fire of the Carolinas marching band, the dance team or the cheer team.

Elon has two cheer teams, a female one and a co-ed one. When senior Whitney Miller, co-captain of the female cheer team, stepped on campus as a prospective student

IF YOU GO

The Elon University cheer team will be on the sidelines supporting the Phoenix against the College of William & Mary on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 2 p.m.

at Rising Phoenix Weekend, she said she was approached with an offer that changed her collegiate path.

"When they pulled me aside at Rising Phoenix Weekend and said, 'Oh, you should come to tryouts. We think you'd really like it. You should just give it a try,' I was very apprehensive," Miller said. "I think one of the best decisions of my

career was stepping into that tryout gym. From the moment they told me I made the team, I haven't looked back."

For junior Zachary Wallace, co-captain of the Elon co-ed cheer team, joining the team was a continuation of the previous decade he spent as a cheerleader.

Wallace was an athlete with All Star Cheerleading, a competitive international gym, for nine years before taking a coaching job at the gym. He is now going into his second year as a coach there.

Miller and Wallace said Elon's cheer team is both similar and different from their high school teams.

"In high school, it was just more of something I did for fun, something I did to be social," Wallace said. "Here, I feel like when we're out on the football field or the basketball court, we are representing Elon University."

The cheer team members are recognized as student athletes and receive benefits as a result.

But unlike the majority of the sports on campus, their season lasts six or seven months.

"We get here for preseason before school begins just like many of the other athletes, and then our season is all of fall, all of J-Term and into spring because we have both football and basketball that we cheer for," Miller said.

Game day performances are not all the team does. They have practice every Tuesday and Thursday for two to three hours. Outside of practice time, team members are expected to do their own workouts.

"After those two or three hours, we'll



work on that stunt that we've really been wanting to get or a tumbling pass and just really strive to be the best that we can be," Wallace said.

Miller and Wallace said at the end of the day, it's about the progression of the team and becoming the best versions of themselves.

"We want to constantly work toward being better and achieving those goals and then setting new goals for ourselves," Miller said. "If we're doing our jobs right, no one will be able to notice that there's a ton of work behind the scenes."

Miller said before coming to Elon, she didn't fully understand the cliché of a team being a family.

“

WE WANT TO CONSTANTLY
WORK TOWARD BEING BETTER
AND ACHIEVING THOSE GOALS
AND THEN SETTING NEW
GOALS FOR OURSELVES.

WHITNEY MILLER
SENIOR & CHEER TEAM CO-CAPTAIN

ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR
Top: Sophomore Nicole Amelio is raised above the crowd during a football game in Rhodes Stadium this fall.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Left: Kristin Payne and Zach Wallace of Elon University's cheer team work together to hype up the crowd during a home football game against the University of Delaware on Saturday, Oct. 12.

She said that her teams now have formed a bond between the countless hours they spend practicing, eating dinner and preparing for game days.

Miller said this all helps develop the most important aspect of cheerleading: trust.

"Trust is everything," Miller said. "You need to be able to show up. You need that trust in yourself to show up and give 110% every single day."

According to Miller, that trust is seen before the start of each game day during what the team calls "pregame."

During this time, the band, dance team and cheerleaders spread out all along the field to greet the football team as they enter the field.

"I actually do get butterflies sometimes before pregame," Wallace said. "Sometimes I'm like, 'OK, everyone's watching all of us. I can't make a mistake here,' but it's just so much fun that I just forget all about it the minute the music starts playing."

Wallace said his favorite moment of his cheer career so far was when a crowd at a basketball game encouraged him to do backflips.

Wallace said he did about four flips, which made him dizzy by the end of it, but he said he enjoyed it.

"At the end of the day, we really do want to get the crowd involved. You want to get them pumped up no matter what," Wallace said.

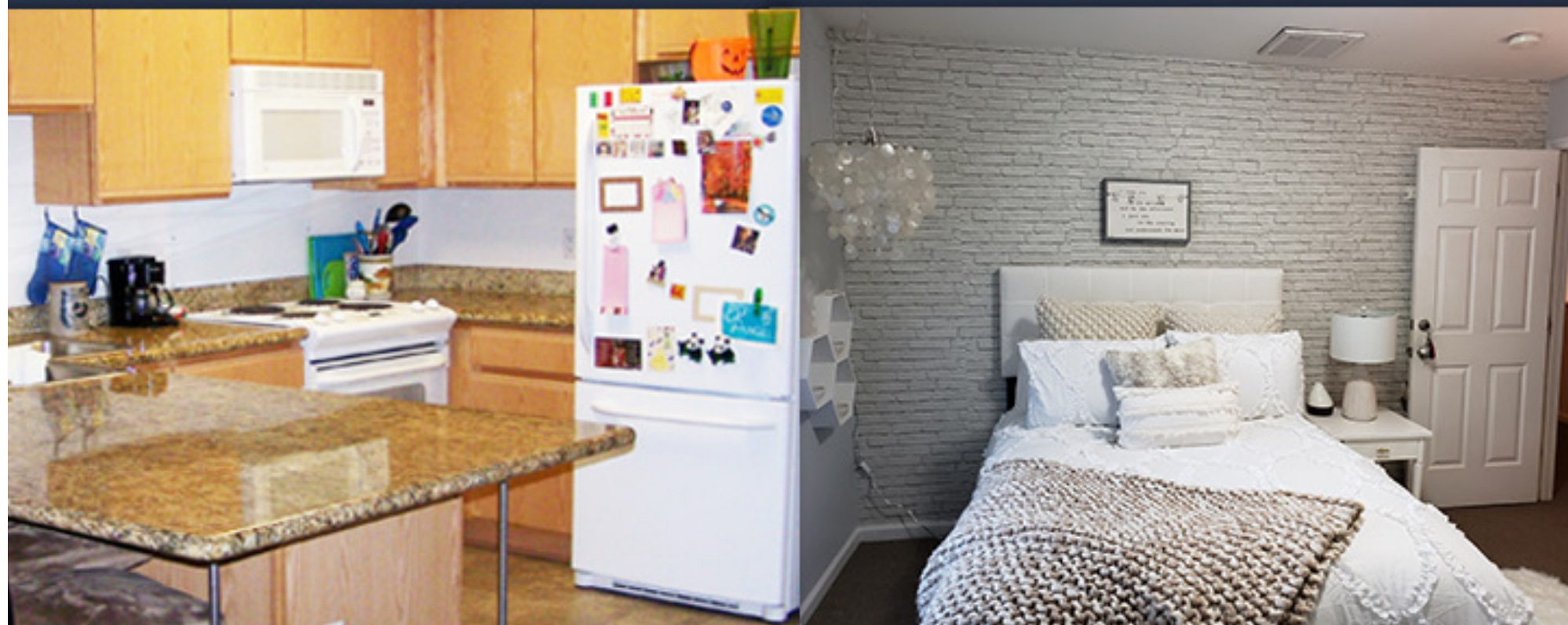
Miller also said she is close to the women's basketball team and is their number one fan.

"They are so awesome," Miller said. "To be able to be so immersed in that environment with all the fans going nuts and then all the players giving it their all and feel like you're helping them accomplish that title, it's really great to just be there and be in the moment."

With just a few football games left in the season for Miller, Wallace and the rest of the team, Miller has started looking back on her athletic career with nostalgia.

But she said she will cherish the uniqueness of the Elon cheer team.

"Every single team member plays such an essential part. We're one of the only sports where people aren't benched or there isn't a second string, a third string. Everyone's there 100% every single game. You are all on all the time," Miller said. "I think it's a really special dynamic, where you're constantly pushed to be your best self and make it work no matter what."

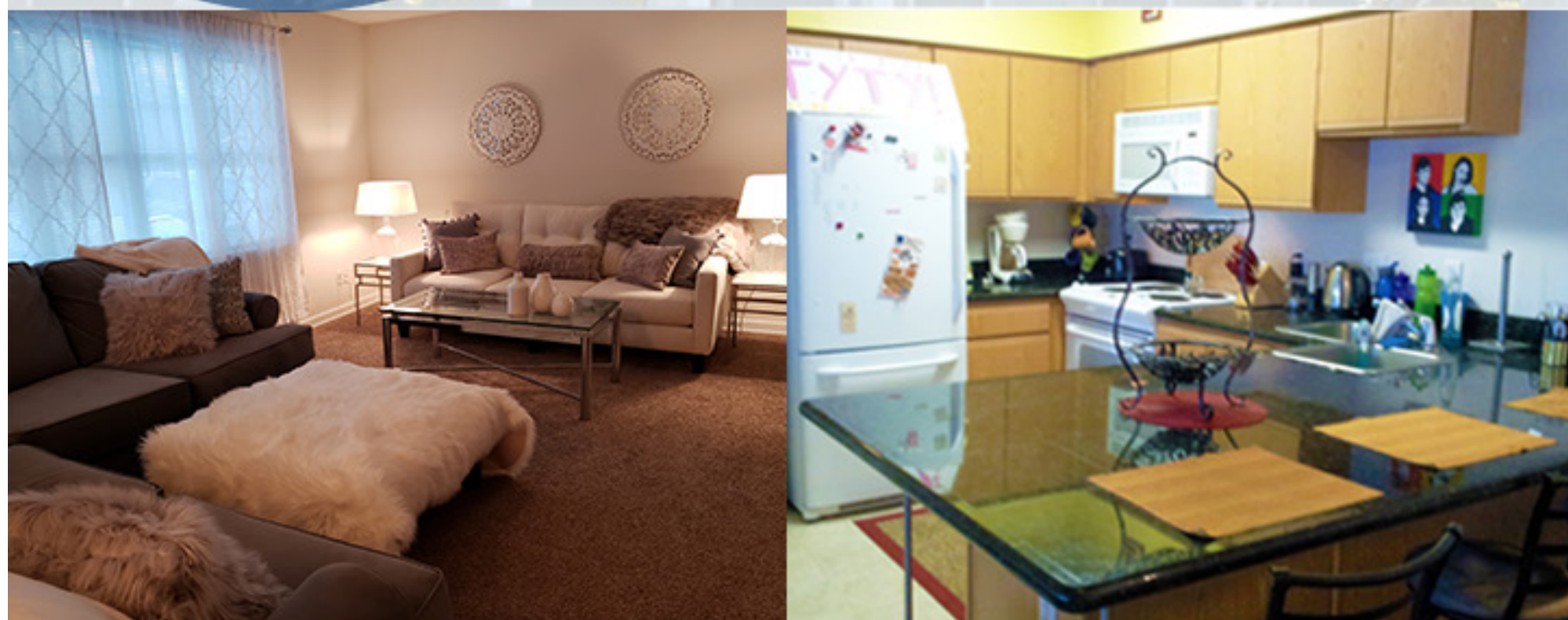


PROVENCE & EVELLIEN

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