

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA
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THE PENDULUM



Los miembros de la Universidad de Elon y la comunidad en general reconocen la historia de herencia hispana de Elon.

Members of Elon University and the greater community recognize Elon's history of Hispanic Heritage.



LEYENDAS DEL PASADO Y DEL FUTURO: TALLANDO UN LUGAR EN LA HISTORIA

LEGENDS OF THE PAST AND FUTURE: CARVING A SPOT IN HISTORY

Emery Eisner | Elon News Network | @eisneremery

Este mes de la Herencia Hispana, una mirada retrospectiva a las figuras que han dado forma a Elon y que esperan dar forma al futuro de la comunidad

This Hispanic Heritage Month, a look back at the figures who have shaped Elon and who hope to shape the community's future

HACE MÁS DE 100 años, el español apareció en el catálogo académico de la Universidad de Elon como una opción de lengua extranjera, junto con opciones más antiguas como el alemán y el latín. Se ofrecieron varios niveles del lenguaje, pero todos fueron enseñados por un hombre llamado "Sr. Rivera." Oriundo de Ponce, Puerto Rico, Rivera fue uno de un largo grupo de estudiantes extranjeros que recorrieron el campus de Elon como parte del trabajo misionero de la escuela.

MORE THAN 100 YEARS ago now, Spanish appeared in Elon University's academic catalogue as a foreign language option, alongside older-standing options such as German and Latin. Several levels of the language were offered, but they were all taught by a man the catalogue called "Mr. Rivera." At the time, in 1920, Victor Manuel Rivera was a student at Elon. Hailing from Ponce, Puerto Rico, Rivera was one of a long legacy of foreign exchange students to walk Elon's campus as a part of the school's missionary work.

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HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION CALENDAR



WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 22
PERSPECTIVAS
Lakeside 5-8 p.m.

Únase a El Centro para una serie de presentaciones sobre temas relacionados con las realidades de las comunidades latinas / hispanas

Join El Centro for a series of presentations on issues related to the realities of the Latinx/Hispanic communities

SATURDAY, SEPT. 25
ALAMANCE HISPANIC HERITAGE FESTIVAL
Captain White House 12-8 p.m.

Organizado por Alamance Citizens for a Drug-Free Community y Alamance Arts, el festival celebrará y explorará las culturas hispana y latina

Hosted by Alamance Citizens for a Drug-Free Community and Alamance Arts, the festival will celebrate and explore Hispanic and Latin cultures

TUESDAY, SEPT. 28
IDENTITY PANEL
Lakeside 5:30-8 p.m.

Obtenga más información sobre la complejidad y la belleza de las identidades latinas / hispanas

Learn more about the complexity and beauty of Latinx/Hispanic identities

THURSDAY, SEPT. 30
HISPANIC FILM SERIES: "ON THE ROOF"
Global Commons 103 5:30-8 p.m.

La película "On The Roof" se proyectará en Global Commons para que la vean los estudiantes.

The film "On The Roof" will be showing in Global Commons for students to watch

FRIDAY, OCT. 7
OPEN MIC
Oak House 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Venga a ver diferentes presentaciones de estudiantes latinos / hispanos que van desde piezas musicales hasta palabras habladas

Come watch different performances by Latinx/Hispanic students ranging from music pieces to spoken words

FRIDAY, OCT. 8
HISPANIC FILM SERIES:
"THE JOURNEY OF MONALISA"
McEwen 013 5:30 p.m.

La película "The Journey of Monalisa" se proyectará en McEwen para que los estudiantes la vean

The film "The Journey of Monalisa" will be showing in McEwen for students to watch

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29
HISPANIC FILM SERIES:
"GUIE'DANI'S NAVAL"
Global Commons 103 5:30 p.m.

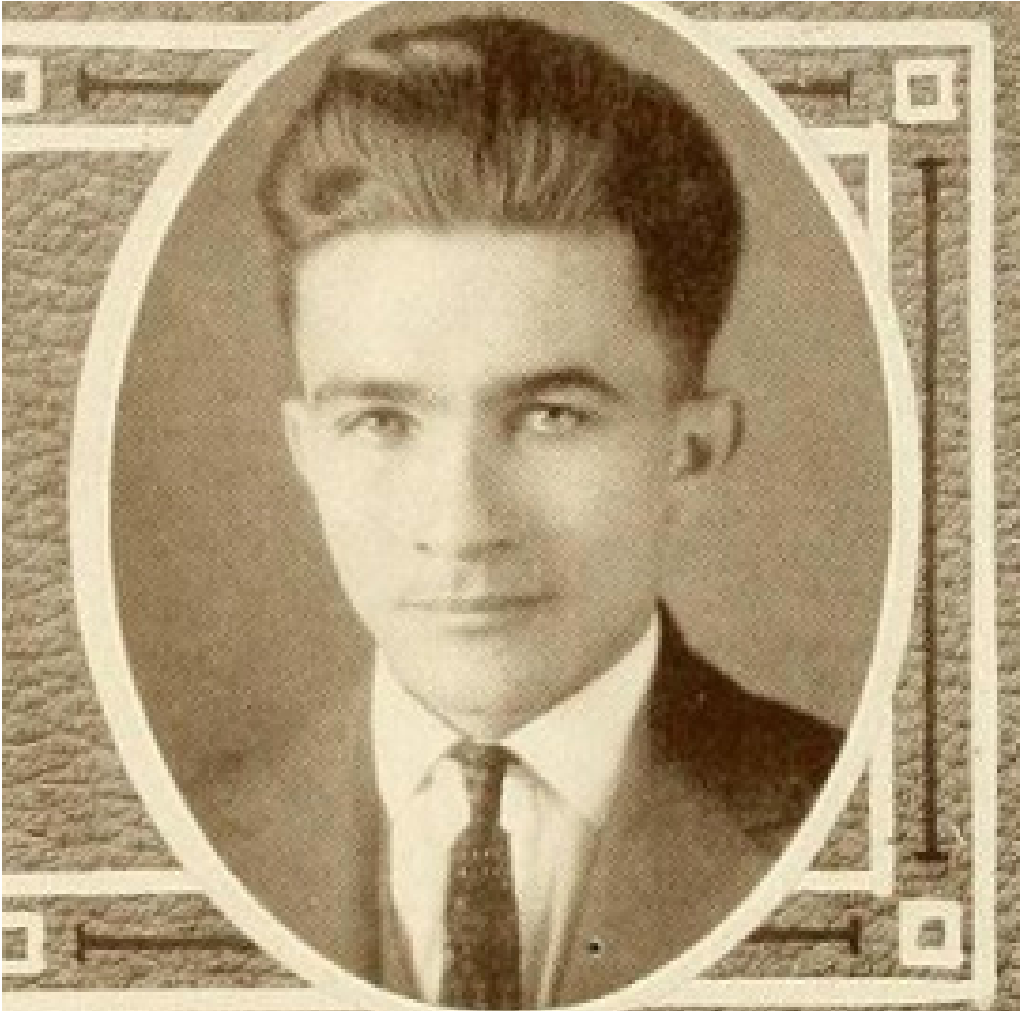
La película "El ombligo de Guie'dani" se proyectará en Global Common para que la vean los estudiantes

The film "Guie'dani's Navel" will be showing in Global Common for students to watch



TALLANDO UN LUGAR EN LA HISTORIA

CARVING A SPOT IN HISTORY



Victor Manuel Rivera era estudiante en Elon en 1920 de Puerto Rico. Fue uno de los muchos estudiantes de intercambio extranjeros que caminaron por el campus de Elon como parte del trabajo misionero de la escuela.

Victor Manuel Rivera was a student at Elon in 1920 from Puerto Rico. He was one of many foreign exchange students to walk Elon's campus as a part of the school's missionary work.

HISTORIA | de la portada

Según la edición de 1923 de Phi Psi Cli, el anuario de Elon, Rivera participó en una serie de clubes y actividades, incluyendo la Asociación Ministerial, el Club de Estudiantes Voluntarios y la Banda Universitaria. Un pasaje sobre Rivera en el anuario lo describió teniendo “una sonrisa brillante y feliz, una mente alerta, un objetivo definido y una determinación para alcanzar ese objetivo”, y dijo que la clase de 1923 “habría estado incompleta” sin su profesor de español.

Rivera enseñó español como uno de sus muchos trabajos en el campus para compensar los gastos durante su tiempo en Elon, según una edición de 1921 del Maroon y Gold, que era entonces el periódico estudiantil de Elon.

Durante la historia de Elon, una fuerte concentración de estudiantes de intercambio han venido de países de habla hispana. Entre 1905 y 1974, cuando los registros fueron listados en el Catálogo Académico, el 73% de los estudiantes extranjeros eran de países de habla hispana, con la mayor concentración de Cuba en la primera mitad del siglo.

En los últimos años, la comunidad hispana y latina de Elon ha seguido creciendo. La directora de El Centro Sylvia Muñoz dijo que aprecia la diversidad dentro de esta comunidad en el campus.

“A pesar de que venimos de diferentes orígenes y de diferentes lugares del mundo, o de aquí en los Estados Unidos, y que hemos tenido diferentes maneras en que hemos crecidos,” dijo Muñoz. “Creo que ese sentido de comunidad y ese orgullo de ser latina o latino o latinx, sigue ahí.”

Muñoz dijo que aunque aprecia la celebración del Mes de la Herencia Hispana en el campus, desea que la comunidad hispana y latina sea reconocida más a menudo.

“Creo que es importante que la comunidad reconozca que somos parte de la comunidad, que no debemos ser celebrados un mes al año,” dijo Muñoz. “La riqueza de la comunidad [de los estudiantes hispanos y latinos] y la diversidad debe ser celebrada, y debe ser aprendida y debe ser apreciada y debe ser incluida todo el año.”

Junto con la comunidad hispana y latina de Elon, la población hispana del condado de Alamance está creciendo. Entre el censo de 2010 y 2020, hubo un 48.5% de cambio en el porcentaje de personas que se identificaron como hispanas, según datos de la Oficina del Censo de los Estados Unidos.

Lucy Rubiano, especialista en Apoyo a la Familia del Centro La Comunidad de Burlington, dijo: En los 10 años desde que se mudó a Carolina del Norte desde

Massachusetts, las comunidades hispanas y latinas han crecido y ha visto a más y más familias pasar por El Centro.

El Centro La Comunidad — parte de las Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Raleigh — es lo que Rubiano llama una “agencia de referencia”, en la que ella misma y su nuevo Trabajador de Apoyo a la Familia Jonathan Moralez ayudan a las familias locales a solicitar fondos o a ver otras agencias especializadas.

Moralez se unió recientemente a Rubiano en el Centro, y dijo que quería devolver a la organización que ayudó a su propia familia hace años.

“Ayudaron a mi mamá con muchas cosas, y quiero hacer lo mismo por la comunidad para cualquier otra familia que necesite ayuda,” dijo Moralez.

“

CREO QUE ES IMPORTANTE QUE LA COMUNIDAD RECONOZCA QUE SOMOS PARTE DE LA COMUNIDAD, QUE NO DEBEMOS SER CELEBRADOS UN MES AL AÑO.

SYLVIA MUÑOZ
LA DIRECTORA DE EL CENTRO

El futuro de las familias hispanas y latinas del condado de Alamance también es importante para Rubiano, quien dijo que quiere ver a los niños forjando nuevas historias.

“No me gusta escuchar que cada persona latina que acaba de graduarse es una historia de éxito,” dijo Rubiano. “No se supone ser un éxito, se supone ser un tema común que te gradúes de la universidad, que vayas a escuelas postsecundarias.”

Rubiano agregó que el crecimiento en la comunidad hispana y latina del condado de Alamance no se está desacelerando en el corto plazo, y espera ver la unidad en todos los ámbitos a medida que estas dinámicas demográficas sigan cambiando.

“Estamos aquí para quedarnos, y estamos aquí para crecer,” dijo Rubiano. “Así que tenemos que enfrentar eso como una realidad y hacer lo mejor que podamos como miembros de la comunidad para mejorar la calidad de vida de nuestra comunidad.”

HISTORY | from cover

According to the 1923 edition of Phi Psi Cli, Elon's yearbook, Rivera participated in a host of clubs and activities, including the Ministerial Association, Student Volunteer Club, and College Band. A passage about Rivera in the yearbook described him as having “a bright and happy smile, an alert mind, a definite goal, and a determination to reach that goal,” and said that the senior class of 1923 “would have been indeed incomplete” without their Spanish professor.

Rivera taught Spanish as one of his many campus jobs to offset expenses during his time at Elon, according to a 1921 edition of the Maroon and Gold, what was then

“

I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE'RE PART OF THE COMMUNITY, THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE CELEBRATED ONE MONTH A YEAR.

SYLVIA MUÑOZ
DIRECTOR OF EL CENTRO

Elon's student newspaper.

OverElon'shistory,aheavyconcentration of foreign exchange students have come from Spanish-speaking countries. Between 1905 and 1974, when rosters were listed in the Academic Catalogue, 73% of foreign exchange students were from Spanish-speaking countries, with the heaviest concentration from Cuba in the first half of the century.

In recent years, Elon's Hispanic and Latinx community has continued to grow. Director of El Centro Sylvia Muñoz said she appreciates the diversity within this community on campus.

“Even though we come from different backgrounds, and we come from different places in the world, or here in the states, we have had different ways that we have been raised,” Muñoz said. “I think that sense of

community and that pride of being Latino or Latina or Latinx, it's still there.”

Muñoz added that although she appreciates celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month on campus, she wishes the Hispanic and Latinx community was acknowledged more often.

“The richness of the community [Hispanic and Latinx students] bring and the diversity they bring should be celebrated, and should be learned and should be appreciated and should be included the whole year,” Muñoz said.

Along with Elon's Hispanic and Latinx community, Alamance County's Hispanic population is growing. Between the 2010 and 2020 census, there was a 48.5% change in the percentage of people who identified as Hispanic, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Family Support Specialist at Burlington's Centro La Comunidad Lucy Rubiano said In the 10 years since she moved to North Carolina from Massachusetts, the Hispanic and Latinx communities have grown and she has seen more and more families come through.

Centro La Comunidad — part of the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh — is what Rubiano calls a “referral agency,” in which herself and her new Family Support Worker Jonathan Moralez help local families apply for funding or see other specialized agencies.

Moralez recently joined Rubiano at Centro, and said he wanted to give back to the organization that helped his own family years ago.

“They helped my mom through a lot of stuff, and I want to do the same for the community for any other families that need help,” Moralez said.

The future for Alamance County's Hispanic and Latinx families is also important to Rubiano, who said she wants to see children forging new legacies in the area.

“I don't like to hear that every Latinx person who just graduates is a success story,” Rubiano said. “It's not supposed to be a success, it's supposed to be a common issue that you graduate from college, that you go to post-secondary schools.”

Rubiano added that growth in Alamance County's Hispanic and Latinx community isn't slowing down any time soon, and she hopes to see unity across the board as these demographic dynamics continue to change.

“We are here to stay, and we are here to grow,” Rubiano said. “So we need to face that as a reality and do the best that we could as community members to improve the quality of life of our community.”

IDENTIFICÁNDOSE COMO HISPANO O LATINX IDENTIFYING AS HISPANIC OR LATINX



Estudiantes, profesores investigan lo que significa ser Hispanos, Latinxs

Students, faculty dig into what being Hispanic, Latinx mean

Nyah Phengsitthy | Managing Editor | @nyahphengsitthy

NYAH PHENGSTITTHY | MANAGING EDITOR

Junior Cici Salazar represents her culture with the Mexican flag around her back. As Mexican American, Salazar said she identifies as both Hispanic and part of the Latinx community.

Junior Cici Salazar representa su cultura con la bandera Mexicana a la espalda. Cómo Mexicana-Americana, Salazar dijo que se identifica como hispana y como parte de la comunidad latina.

LA SENSACIÓN DE ESTAR limitada a una identidad siempre estuvo presente para Cici Salazar a medida que crecía. Marcando casillas en cualquier aplicación que preguntara sobre la raza y la etnia, la primera pregunta que siempre tuvo que responder fue: ¿Eres hispano/latino? Pero esos dos términos no fueron suficientes para describir las culturas y orígenes reales no sólo para ella, sino también para otros miembros Hispanos y Latinxs.

Cómo Mexicana-Americana, Salazar dijo que ella se identifica como Hispana y parte de la comunidad Latinx. Pero creciendo, no siempre fue así.

“Digo que soy Hispana primero porque siempre fui categorizada de esa manera cuando niña, entonces eso es lo que digo automáticamente ahora.”

Hispano se refiere a las personas que vienen de países hispano-hablantes y hablan español, lo cual incluye a España, Argentina, El Salvador, y otros países. El término Latinx se refiere a las personas, culturas y países en Latinoamérica.

Las culturas y lenguajes son lo que distinguen los dos términos, pero como es visto en América, especialmente con la introducción del término Latinx, ha habido conversaciones acerca la identidad y el rastreo de la herencia cultural hasta Latinoamérica o España. Latinx surgió particularmente en los Estados Unidos como una alternativa para los términos Hispano o Latino, pero su uso es principalmente para describir la población Hispana de la nación.

“El concepto de ser Latinx o Hispano ha sido politizado por mucho tiempo,” dijo Sylvia Muñoz, Directora del Centro para la Educación sobre Raza, Etnicidad, y Diversidad. “Cuando decimos Hispano, estamos incluyendo a todos los que hablan español y que fueron colonizados por España, y eso incluye a España. Latino es un concepto interesante porque tiene mucho que ver con cultura.

Salazar dijo que la representación cultural siempre ha sido importante para ella, pero nunca la empezó a acoger hasta la elección presidencial de 2016.

Además de Salazar, el número general de estudiantes de pregrado Hispano-Americanos en Elon en el año académico 2020-2021 fue de 6.5%. En cuanto a la población Hispana en Elon, hubo 10 en el año escolar de 2020-21.

Usando “Latinx”

El término Latinx apareció por primera vez en 2004, según Google Trends, en una pieza de la literatura académica puertorriqueña, y

en 2018, se agregó al Diccionario Merriam-Webster. Sin embargo, el término no se usa ampliamente. Una encuesta de Gallup en junio de 2021 encontró que solo el 5% de los adultos hispanos en los Estados Unidos prefieren el término Latinx, mientras que el 37% prefiere el término Latino. Además, el 57% prefiere los hispanos a ambos.

Usar el término Latinx, e incluso preguntar si alguien se identifica como Hispano o Latinx, varía alrededor de la nación, y aún más en otros países.

“Si hicieras esta pregunta en Texas, la respuesta sería completamente diferente porque depende de la ubicación y región,” dijo Muñoz.

El profesor de español Juan Leal-Ugalde ha estado en Elon por alrededor de tres años, enseñando clases sobre Latinoamérica y literatura Hispana, en donde se enfoca en la representación de eventos históricos que han formado la cultura hispana y latina hoy en día. En sus enseñanzas y alrededor del campus de Elon, Leal-Ugalde dijo que él cree que el termino Latinx representa a las comunidades aquí, pero que es importante entender el significado detrás.

“Yo refuerzo el termino para representar a las comunidades aquí, pero en ese mismo punto, yo insisto en pensar acerca de la diversidad más allá de ese termino,” dijo Leal-Ugalde.

Leal-Ugalde también dijo que mientras algunos no estén de acuerdo con el uso del término “Mes De La Herencia Hispana,” o incluso alejarse del uso de Latinx, la parte más importante para considerar es la cultura y lo que está siendo reconocido.

“Creo que es importante que todos comprendan la cultura y su identidad. Es importante pertenecer a algo — a la comunidad latina o hispana. Su cultura es su sentido de pertenencia,” dijo Leal-Ugalde.

Números de hoy

Según los resultados del censo de 2020 sobre raza y etnia, la población hispana o latina, que incluye a personas de cualquier raza, fue de 62.1 millones en 2020. La población hispana o latina creció un 23% desde el último Censo. Pero si bien ha habido un aumento en el número, Muñoz dijo que cree que entender las muchas culturas detrás de los dos términos es lo que debe ser reconocido lo más importante.

“Nos gusta poner a las personas en cajas,” dijo Muñoz. “No podemos poner a todos en una caja solo porque venimos de diferentes orígenes. Tenemos que hacer esa caja lo más inclusiva posible, tan rica como podamos.”

THE FEELING OF BEING limited to one identity was always present for junior Cici Salazar as she grew up. Checking off boxes in any application that asked about race and ethnicity, the first question she always had to answer was ‘are you Hispanic/Latino?’ But those two terms weren’t enough to describe the actual cultures and backgrounds for not only her, but for others who either identified as Hispanic or and Latinx.

As a Mexican American, Salazar said she identifies as both Hispanic and part of the Latinx community. But growing up, that was not always the case.

“I say Hispanic first because I was always put into that category as a child, so that is what I automatically say nowadays,” Salazar said.

The term Hispanic refers to people who are from a Spanish speaking country and speak Spanish, which includes Spain, Argentina, El Salvador and other countries. The term Latinx refers to the people, cultures and countries in Latin America.

The cultures and language are what distinguish the two terms, but as seen in America, especially with the introduction of the term Latinx, there have been conversations about identity and tracing heritage back to either Latin America or Spain. Latinx particularly arose in the states as an alternative to the terms Hispanic or Latino, but it’s usage is primarily for describing the Hispanic nation’s population.

“The concept of being Latinx or Hispanic has been politicized a lot of the time,” said Sylvia Muñoz, director of the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education. “When we say Hispanic, we are including everybody that speaks Spanish and who were colonized by Spain, and that includes Spain. Latino is an interesting concept because it has a lot to do with the culture.”

Salazar said cultural representation has always been important to her, but she didn’t truly begin embracing it until the 2016 presidential election.

“I’ve always struggled with my identity and it wasn’t until it was senior year of high school and freshman year at Elon, where I would say it loud and proud that I’m Hispanic,” Salazar said.

In addition to Salazar, the overall Elon undergraduate number of Hispanic American students in the 2020-21 academic year was 6.5%. There were 10 Hispanic faculty members at Elon in the 2020-21 academic year.

Using “Latinx”

The term Latinx first appeared in 2004, according to Google Trends, in a piece of

Puerto Rican academic literature, and in 2018, it was added to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary. However, the term is not widely used. A Gallup poll in June 2021 found that only 5% of Hispanic adults in the United States prefer the term Latinx, whereas 37% prefer the term Latino. Further, 57% prefer Hispanic over both.

Using the term Latinx, and even asking if someone identifies as either Hispanic or Latinx, varies across the nation, let alone in other countries.

“If you were to ask this question in Texas, the answer would be completely different because it depends on the location and the region,” Munoz said.

Professor of Spanish Juan Leal-Ugalde has been at Elon for almost three years now, teaching classes on Latin America and Spanish literature art, where he focuses on the representation of historical events that have made up the Hispanic and Latinx culture today. In his teachings and around Elon’s campus, Leal-Ugalde said he believes the term Latinx represents the communities here, but it’s important to understand the meaning behind it.

“I reinforce the term to represent the communities here, but at the same point, I encourage to think about the diversity beyond that term,” Leal-Ugalde said.

Leal-Ugalde also said that while some may not agree with using the term ‘Hispanic Heritage Month’ or even steer away from using Latinx, the most important thing to think about is the community and culture that is being recognized.

“I think it’s important for everyone to understand the culture and their identity. It’s important to belong to something — to the Latinx community or Hispanic community. Their culture is their sense of belonging,” Leal-Ugalde said.

Today’s numbers

According to the 2020 Census findings on race and ethnicity, Hispanic or Latinx population, which includes people of any race, was 62.1 million in 2020. The Hispanic or Latinx population grew 23% since the last Census. But while there has been an increase in numbers, Muñoz said she believes understanding the many cultures behind the two terms is what should be recognized most importantly.

“We like putting people in boxes,” Munoz said. “We cannot put everybody in a box just because we come from different backgrounds. We have to make that box inclusive as we can, as rich as we can.”

Programa de mentores ofrece comunidad, espacio para estudiantes latinos e hispanos

Mentoring program offers community, space for Latinx and Hispanic students



The Students Mentors Advising Rising Talent program was established in 1994, as a key part of the Center for Race, Ethnicity & Diversity Education. The mentoring program hopes to aid students in their academic and social engagement throughout their time at Elon.

El programa Students Mentors Advising Rising Talent se estableció en 1994, como una parte clave del Centro de Educación sobre Razas, Etnias y Diversidad. El programa de mentores espera identificar a los estudiantes en su participación académica y social a lo largo de su tiempo en Elon.

S.M.A.R.T trata de conectar a estudiantes de primer año y s que se transfieren

Kyra O'Connor
Executive Director | @ko_reports

Karen Cruz-Ruiz creció rodeada de personas de color en la escuela. Su sistema escolar era de minorías y nunca había conocido nada diferente. Así fue – hasta que vino a Elon. Asistira una institución predominantemente blanca como Elon fue una transición difícil para Cruz-Ruiz. Pero algo que ayudó a hacer el reto un poco más fácil, fue el sentido de comunidad que ella sintió del programa Odyssey y a través de su mentora de S.M.A.R.T, Joyce Llopis-Martell.

“Ella me hizo sentir en casa, me hizo sentir que yo sí pertenecía aquí,” dijo Cruz-Ruiz. “Como que yo podía e iba a tener éxito, aunque no veía personas que se veían como yo.”

El programa de Estudiantes Mentores Aconsejando a Nuevos Talentos (S.M.A.R.T en inglés) fue establecido en 1994, como parte del Center for Race, Ethnicity & Diversity Education. Con el objetivo de facilitar la transición de los estudiantes de color de Elon, el programa apoya las necesidades específicas de estudiantes que se identifican con la comunidad ALANAM -- la cual incluye a estudiantes afro-americanos, negros, latinos/ hispanos, asiáticos, nativos americanos, indígenas americanos, nativos de Alaska y multirraciales.

Al emparejar estudiantes de primer año y estudiantes transferidos con estudiantes de último año, el programa de mentores S.M.A.R.T también espera ayudar a los estudiantes en su participación académica y social durante su tiempo en Elon.

La familia S.M.A.R.T

John Robinson-Miller, director asistente del CREDE, dijo que cuando él piensa en el programa de mentores S.M.A.R.T, él piensa en familia.

“Realmente está destinado a ser una oportunidad para los estudiantes de primer año de obtener una relación muy profunda con las personas que han pasado por eso”, dijo Robinson-Miller.

Robinson-Miller dijo que la experiencia de caa estudiante de color en un campus predominantemente blanco es diferente, y el programa S.M.A.R.T toma eso en cuenta.

“Creo que todo el mundo está en un lugar diferente sobre cómo entienden su identidad racial y étnica, realmente toda su identidad, incluso antes ... de que venir a Elon”, dijo Robinson-Miller. “Me he dado cuenta que hay muchos estudiantes que, incluso si entiendes que eres parte del grupo racialmente minorizado o de la mayoría global, llegas a un lugar como Elon, principalmente blanco, y

piensas, ‘ Oh, esto es lo que esto significa.”

El programa en sí utiliza un “modelo de casa” para explicar los roles y responsabilidades de los miembros de la facultad, mentores y aprendices. El mentor es el techo de la casa, y se centra en el desarrollo personal y profesional, así como en la participación en la comunidad. El aprendiz es el cuerpo de la casa, y se centra en el desarrollo profesional, la participación comunitaria, el bienestar social y la identidad académica.

El programa también se enfoca en conectar a los estudiantes con otros recursos en el campus, desde la Unión Hispana Latinx y Emperatriz hasta la Unión de Estudiantes Negros y el Centro de Género y LGBTQIA +.

“Todo lo que hacemos en S.M.A.R.T trata de prepararlos para el futuro”, dijo Robinson-Miller. “Aprenden a ocupar espacio, porque todo en este mundo les dice que deben encogerse.. Aprenden a conectarse con la comunidad porque una vez que dejen Elon, van a tener que aprender a conectarse con las comunidades.”

La comunidad en el programa S.M.A.R.T enfatiza la competencia intercultural. Tanto Cruz-Ruiz como Robinson-Miller dijeron que la intencionalidad en ayudar a los estudiantes a comprender sus identidades interseccionales y cómo encontrar una comunidad en el campus es crucial.

“Como individuos hispanos, individuos de color, estamos muy acostumbrados a que nuestras comunidades sean muy unidas,” dijo Cruz-Ruiz. “Poder entonces traducir eso a esta comunidad, y poder sentir que tenemos una comunidad unida, nos ayuda a sentirnos mucho más cómodos con quienes somos.”

Mirando hacia el futuro

Este año, el programa de S.M.A.R.T se asoció con la Oficina de Residencia de la universidad Elon para hacer programación en el barrio Histórico. Hay mentores localizados dentro del barrio histórico específicamente para ayudar a los estudiantes de color de primer año a hacer la transición a los espacios residenciales, así como a ajustarse académicamente y socialmente.

Para Robinson-Miller, el año académico de 2021-22 es solo su primer año en el programa, y está especialmente emocionado por ver como el programa se verá en un entorno más presencial.

“Estoy emocionado de poder realmente continuarlo y transformarlo de una manera que se conecte con el estudiante de hoy, pero sin olvidar que todavía está sobre los hombros de la gente que vino antes”, dijo Robinson-Miller.

Cruz-Ruiz, quien ahora sirve como mentora en el programa S.M.A.R.T, espera con ansias más eventos en persona este año, y compartir la comunidad dentro del programa con su pupila.

“Es sólo el sentido de conexión, el sentido de poder sentir que estamos destinados a estar aquí”, dijo Cruz-Ruiz. “Porque en verdad lo estamos.”

S.M.A.R.T aims to connect freshmen and transfer students

Karen Cruz-Ruiz grew up surrounded by people of color at school. Her school system was minority majority, and she had never known anything different. That is– until she came to Elon.

Attending a predominantly white institution like Elon was a difficult transition for Cruz-Ruiz. But one thing that helped make the challenge a little easier was the sense of community she felt from the Odyssey Program and through her S.M.A.R.T mentor, Joyce Llopis-Martell.

“She made me feel at home, she made me feel like I actually belonged here,” Cruise Ruiz said. “Like I could and would succeed, even if I didn’t necessarily see people who looked like me.”

The Students Mentors Advising Rising Talent program was established in 1994, as a key part of the Center for Race, Ethnicity & Diversity Education center. Aimed to help ease the transition of students of color to Elon, the program supports the specific needs of students who identify with the ALANAM community — which includes African-American, Black, Latinx, Hispanic, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, American Indian, Alaskan Native and Multiracial students.

By pairing freshmen and transfer students with upperclassmen, the S.M.A.R.T mentoring program also hopes to aid students in their academic and social engagement throughout their time at Elon.

The S.M.A.R.T family

John Robinson-Miller, who serves as the assistant director for the CREDE, said when he thinks of the S.M.A.R.T mentoring program, he thinks of family.

“It really is meant to be an opportunity for first years and first time transfer [students] to get a very in-depth relationship with people who have been through it,” Robinson-Miller said.

Robinson-Miller said every student of color’s experience on a predominantly white campus is different, and the S.M.A.R.T program takes that into account.

“I think everybody has their different place of how they understood their racial and ethnic identity, really their whole identity, even before ... they came to Elon,” said Robinson-Miller. “I find that there’s a whole lot of students who, even if you understand that you’re a part of the racially minoritized group or the global majority, you get to a place like Elon, primarily white, and you’re like, ‘Oh, this is what this means.”

The program itself uses a “house model”

to explain the roles and responsibilities of faculty members, mentors and mentees. The mentor is the roof of the house, focusing on personal and professional development as well as community engagement. The mentee is the body of the house, focusing on professional development, community engagement, social wellbeing and academic identity.

The program also focuses on connecting students with other resources on campus, from the Latinx Hispanic Union and Empress to the Black Student Union and the Gender and LGBTQIA+ Center.

“Everything that we do in S.M.A.R.T is about preparing them for the future,” Robinson-Miller said. “They learn how to take up space, because everything in this world tells them to shrink themselves down. They learn how to get connected into community because once they leave Elon, they’re going to have to learn how to get connected into communities.”

The community in the S.M.A.R.T program emphasizes intercultural competency. Both Cruz-Ruiz and Robinson-Miller said the intentionality in helping students understand their intersectional identities and how to find community on campus is crucial.

“As Hispanic individuals, individuals of color, we’re very used to our communities being very close knit,” Cruz-Ruiz said. “Being able to then translate that onto this community, and being able to feel like we have a close knit community helps us feel a lot more comfortable with who we are here.”

Looking ahead

This year, the S.M.A.R.T program partnered with Elon University Residence Life to put programming in the Historic neighborhood. The are mentors placed within Historic specifically to help freshmen students of color transition in residential spaces, in addition to academically and socially.

For Robinson-Miller, the 2021-22 academic year is only his second year with the program, and he is most excited to see what the program will look like in a more in-person space.

“I’m excited to really be able to continue it and to transform it in a way that meets the student of today, but still stands on the shoulders of the people who came before,” Robinson-Miller said.

Cruz-Ruiz, who now serves as a mentor in the S.M.A.R.T program, is looking forward to more events in-person this year, and sharing the community within the program with her mentee.

“It’s just the sense of connection, the sense of being able to feel like we were meant to be here,” Cruz-Ruiz said. “Because we indeed are.”

El Taquito De Oro trae raíces hispanas a Burlington

Un camión de tacos de propiedad local invita a la comunidad a probar su auténtica comida mexicana

Jess Baker
Elon News Network

En la esquina de South Church Street y South Williamson Avenue se encuentra El Taquito De Oro, un camión de tacos de propiedad local, operado por una madre soltera y su hija. Juntas con sus dos empleados, han construido el negocio desde cero desde que abrió hace cinco años.

La madre de Janeth Ortiz la tuvo a la edad de 27 años. A los 44 años, su madre por fin había ahorrado suficiente dinero para comenzar su sueño. Pasó mucho tiempo hasta que las Ortiz tuvieron suficiente para iniciar su negocio, ya que tuvieron que encontrar maneras de cubrir muchos gastos — camión de comida, seguros, productos, permisos y otros elementos esenciales.

“Ella nos quería dar la mejor vida posible,” dijo Ortiz. “Estoy ahí para ayudarla.”

El Taquito De Oro sirve auténtica comida mexicana — con recetas creadas por Ortiz y su madre. Las salsas son especialidades caseras, las especias son esenciales para aromatizar y las carnes se eligen con cuidado.

El objetivo final de los Ortiz es expandirse a una ubicación estacionaria. Aunque aún no lo han encontrado, esperan crear un ambiente gastronómico de los 90. Estos sueños se han detenido, sin embargo, debido a la pandemia COVID-19 y su efecto en su pequeña empresa.

“Desde que comenzó la pandemia, el negocio bajó mucho,” dijo Ortiz. “No venía nadie, ni siquiera para llevar, normalmente tenemos cuatro taburetes aquí. La gente de la construcción suele venir y comer. Pero nada de eso ... nada de eso estaba pasando”

El Taquito De Oro está acostumbrado a ver alrededor de 100 clientes al día, pero la caída de clientes tuvo un fuerte impacto en sus ingresos. Las empresas de todo el país estaban luchando, pero debido a su perseverancia, clientes como Jorge Gutierrez fueron capaces de experimentar la cocina local, auténtica mexicana.

“Yo estaba aquí en Food Lion como



DELANEY DANIELS | PHOTO EDITOR

Junior Tiffany Huang disfruta de un taco de El Taquito De Oro un lunes por la tarde.
Junior Tiffany Huang enjoys a taco from El Taquito De Oro on a Monday afternoon.

sé que tienen un puesto de tacos aquí,” dijo Gutierrez. Gutierrez, un residente de Burlington, dijo que estaba emocionado de probar algo nuevo en el camión de tacos.

“La comida es rica y barata,” escribió Kaitlyn Cherniss, una estudiante de cuarto año, a Elon News Network. “La gente también es muy amable. Se necesita dinero en efectivo, y es difícil saber cuándo estarán allí pero es una opción sólida en general.”

Ortiz anima a la comunidad de Elon a visitar El Taquito De Oro para una comida, especialmente porque está justo al final del campus.

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ELLA NOS QUERÍA
DAR LA MEJOR VIDA
POSIBLE. ESTOY AHÍ
PARA AYUDARLA.

JANETH ORTIZ
EL TAQUITO DE ORO OWNER

“Si alguna vez tienen hambre y quieren explorar diferentes tipos de alimentos, son más que bienvenidos a venir aquí,” dijo Ortiz.

IF YOU GO
El Taquito De Oro
Donde: 3503 S. Church St.
Cuándo: Lunes a Viernes
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Solo en Efectivo



El Taquito De Oro brings Hispanic roots to Burlington

A locally owned taco truck invites Elon students to try their authentic Mexican food

On the corner of South Church Street and South Williamson Avenue sits El Taquito De Oro, a locally owned taco truck, operated by a single mother and her daughter. Along with their two employees, they’ve built the business from the ground up since it opened five years ago.

Janeth Ortiz’s mother had her at the age of 27. By 44, her mother had finally saved enough money to begin her dream. It was a long time until the Ortizs had enough to start their business, as they had to find ways to cover many costs of a startup — food truck, insurance, products, permits and other essentials.

“She wanted to give us the best life she could,” Ortiz said. “I’m there helping her.”

El Taquito De Oro serves authentic Mexican food — with recipes created by Ortiz and her mother. The sauces are homemade specialties, the spices are essential to flavoring and the meats are chosen with care.

The Ortizs’ end goal is to expand into a stationary location. Though they haven’t found it yet, they’re hoping to create a 90s dining vibe. These dreams have been paused, however, because of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on their small business.

“Ever since the pandemic first started, business was really low,” Ortiz said. “There was no one coming, even for takeout,

we usually have four stools out here. Construction people usually come and eat. But none of that ... none of that was going on.”

“

SHE WANTED TO GIVE US
THE BEST LIFE SHE COULD.
I’M THERE HELPING HER.

JANETH ORTIZ
EL TAQUITO DE ORO OWNER



JESS BAKER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ubicado a pocos minutos del campus de Elon, El Taquito De Oro ofrece auténtica comida mexicana.
Located just minutes away from Elon’s campus, the El Taquito De Oro offers authentic Mexican Food.

taco truck.

“Food is good and cheap,” senior Kaitlyn Cherniss wrote to Elon News Network. “The people are nice too. You need cash, and it’s kind of hard to tell when they’ll be there, but a solid choice overall.”

Ortiz encourages the Elon community to visit El Taquito De Oro for a meal, especially since it’s just down the road from campus.

“If they’re ever hungry and ever want to explore different types of food, they’re more than welcome to come here,” Ortiz said.

IF YOU GO
El Taquito De Oro
Where: 3503 S. Church St.
When: Monday-Friday
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Cash only

VANESSA BRAVO PIDE REPRESENTACIÓN LATINA JUNTO AL LANZAMIENTO DE SU NUEVO LIBRO

Vanessa Bravo continúa impulsando por más representación latina en Elon al mismo tiempo que lanza su nuevo libro

Luke Jackson
Elon News Network | @lukebjax

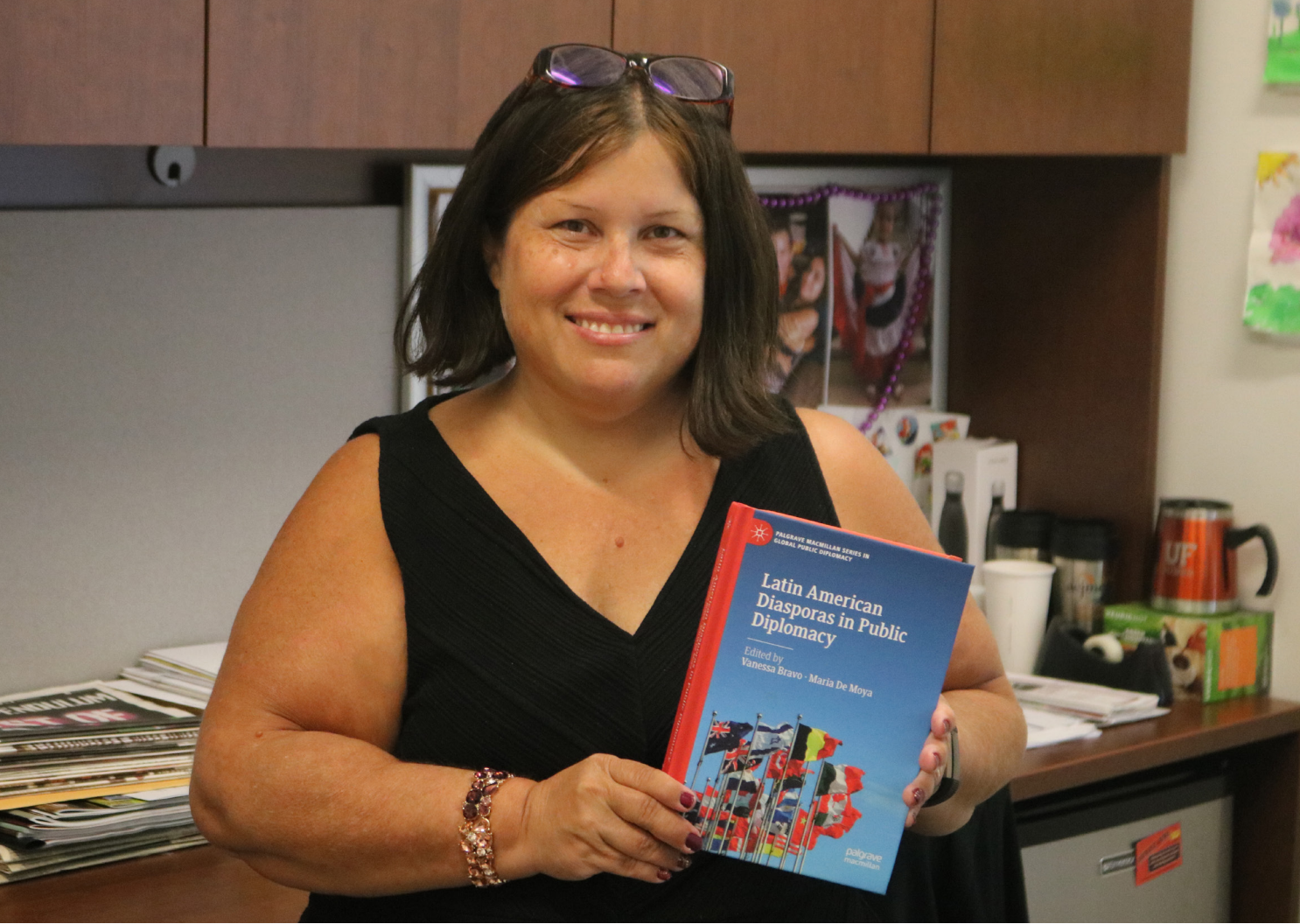
Una de 10 profesores latinos en Elon, Vanessa Bravo es miembro de una población que es a menudo poco representada en la academia. Bravo, profesora y jefe del departamento de comunicaciones estratégicas, es un apasionado miembro de la comunidad latina en el campus. Bravo publicó recientemente su primer libro titulado “Latin American Diasporas in Public Diplomacy,” en julio del 2021, junto a su co-autora Maria De Moya. Según el editor Palgrave Macmillan, el libro “explica e ilustra, a través de estudios de caso, los diferentes roles estratégicos que la diáspora juega en los esfuerzos modernos de la diplomacia pública.

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LA COMUNIDAD LATINA EN ELON ESTÁ MUY COMPROMETIDA Y ES INVOLUCRADA, Y SE SIENTE MUY ORGULLOSA DE SER PARTE DE ESTA UNIVERSIDAD, PERO CREO QUE LA UNIVERSIDAD NECESITA SEGUIR TRABAJANDO FUERTE EN TÉRMINOS DE REPRESENTACIÓN.

VANESSA BRAVO
JEFE DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE COMUNICACIONES ESTRATÉGICAS

Aunque Bravo ha escrito artículos en el pasado que han sido objeto de rigurosas revisiones, esta es la primera vez que escribe un libro. Bravo y De Moya co-escribieron la introducción y conclusión además de un capítulo acerca de la diáspora cubana. Bravo escribió sola acerca de las diásporas de El



Vanessa Bravo, profesora asociada y directora del departamento de comunicaciones estratégicas, editó y fue coautora de cuatro capítulos de “Diásporas latinoamericanas en la diplomacia pública.” El libro ilustra los diferentes roles estratégicos que juegan los grupos de la diáspora en los esfuerzos de la diplomacia pública moderna.

Vanessa Bravo, associate professor and department chair of strategic communications, edited and co-authored four chapters in “Latin American Diasporas in Public Diplomacy.” The book illustrates the different strategic roles that diaspora groups play in modern public diplomacy efforts.

Salvador y Colombia. “Tenemos otros nueve capítulos externos,” dijo Bravo. “Son de universidades alrededor del país — alrededor del mundo, en realidad. Hay autores de México, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, y Brasil así como de los Estados Unidos, por supuesto.” Brian Aimerich, un estudiante de tercer año de sociología quien se identifica como Latinx, dice que en su experiencia, Elon intenta crear un ambiente acogedor para sus estudiantes Latinos. Aimerich y Bravo expresaron gratitud por los esfuerzos que la universidad ha hecho, aunque ambos dijeron que aún puede mejorar más. “El área alrededor no es muy acogedora, y la demografía de Elon no ayuda. Los programas de la universidad con El Centro ayudan,

pero es poco común que se promocionen a todos los estudiantes. Aunque Elon está intentando ayudar con la diversidad, hay más que podrían estar haciendo,” dijo Aimerich. Bravo es una de 10 profesores latinos en Elon, quienes representan sólo el 2% del profesorado. “Somos muy pocos, pero estamos presentes” dijo Bravo. “La comunidad latina en Elon está muy comprometida y es involucrada, y se siente muy orgullosa de ser parte de esta universidad, pero creo que la universidad necesita seguir trabajando fuerte en términos de representación.” El promedio de Estados Unidos todavía es discutido, pero estudios del 2021 del Centro Nacional para Estadísticas de Educación sugieren que más o menos el 9% de los

profesores de la nación se identifican como latinos, y un tercio de esta cifra se identifica como mujeres. “Debemos mejorar a largo plazo, pero tenemos que mejorar a corto plazo especialmente. Las demografías en nuestro país están cambiando, y mi comunidad sigue teniendo bebés aunque algunas otras comunidades no,” dijo Bravo. Bravo cree que el curso de acción ideal es atraer a más estudiantes latinos, pero eso no se puede lograr sin más representación. “La comunidad Latina en Elon es muy unida y activa, pero creo que aún podemos hacer un mejor trabajo con la facultad y el personal,” dijo Bravo. “Elon hace un buen trabajo con esto, pero yo no creo que los números estén donde deberían estar.”



VANESSA BRAVO PUSHES FOR LATINX REPRESENTATION ALONGSIDE RELEASE OF NEW BOOK

Vanessa Bravo continues to push for Latinx representation at Elon as she debuts her first book

One of 10 Latinx professors at Elon, Vanessa Bravo is a member of a population that's often underrepresented in academia. Bravo, professor and department chair of strategic communications, is an impassioned member of the Latinx community on campus. Bravo recently released her first book, “Latin American Diasporas in Public Diplomacy,” in July 2021, along with co-author Maria De Moya. According to publisher Palgrave Macmillan, the book “explains and illustrates, through case studies, the different strategic roles that diaspora groups play in modern public diplomacy efforts.” Though Bravo has written articles in the past that have undergone rigorous peer review, this is her first time writing a book. Bravo and De Moya co-wrote the introduction and conclusion as well as a chapter about the Cuban diaspora. Bravo wrote about

diasporas from El Salvador and Colombia on her own. “We have nine other external chapters,” Bravo said. “They’re from universities around the country — around the world, really. There are authors from Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, and Brazil along with the United States, of course.” Junior sociology major Brian Aimerich identifies as Latinx and says that in his experience, Elon does try to create a welcoming environment for Latinx students. Aimerich and Bravo have both expressed gratitude for the efforts that the university has made, but they also said there is room for improvement. “The surrounding area is not super welcoming, and the demographics at Elon don’t help. The university’s programs with El Centro are helpful, but it’s uncommon that they’re promoted to all students. As much as Elon is trying to help diversity, there’s more they could be doing,” Aimerich said. Bravo is one of 10 Latinx professors at Elon, who account for only 2% of the teaching faculty population.

“

THE LATINX COMMUNITY AT ELON IS VERY ENGAGED, IS VERY INVOLVED, AND IS VERY PROUD TO BE PART OF THIS UNIVERSITY, BUT I THINK THE UNIVERSITY NEEDS TO KEEP WORKING HARD IN TERMS OF REPRESENTATION.

VANESSA BRAVO
DEPARTMENT CHAIR OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

“We are very few, but we are present,” Bravo said. “The Latinx community at Elon is very engaged, is very involved, and is very proud to be part of this university, but I think the university needs to keep working hard in terms of representation.” The United States average is disputed, but 2021 studies from the National Center for Education Statistics suggest that roughly 9% of professors nationwide identify as Latinx, with a third of those professors identifying as female. “We need to do better in the long term, but especially in the short term we need to be doing better. The demographics in our country are changing, and my community is still having babies even though some communities are not doing so,” Bravo said. Bravo believes that the ideal course of action is to attract more Latinx students, but that can’t be done without more representation. “The Latinx community at Elon is very tight and active, but I think we can still do a better job with faculty and staff,” Bravo said. “Elon does a good job with this, but I do not think the numbers are where they should be.”

Más que un juego: El camino de Carlos Marte al Beisbol de Elon

Viniendo de la República Dominicana a los seis años, Carlos Marte reflexiona en su pasado y su futuro

Hope Valenti
Elon News Network | @HopeValenti12

De pie bajo las luces del Latham Baseball Park, el infielder Carlos Marte no pudo evitar reflexionar sobre cómo llegó allí. Desde los juegos de pelota en el jardín delantero en la República Dominicana hasta la NCAA, Marte acreditó su educación dominicana con la introducción del béisbol en su vida. Él ve su deporte como una manera de conectar más estrechamente con su cultura.

“Es por lo que somos conocidos”, dijo Marte. “Estoy orgulloso de ser dominicano y jugador de béisbol.”

Recoger un bate de béisbol por primera vez con su padre a la edad de cuatro años fue sólo el comienzo. Al llegar a los Estados Unidos dos años más tarde, Marte estuvo expuesto a nuevas oportunidades e hizo el cambio de los juegos del patio delantero a los campos de la liga pequeña - y el resto, dice, es historia.

El padre de Marte plantó el deporte en su vida, apoyándolo mientras perseguía el béisbol. Para él, era casi como una tradición que se transmitía. Desde su primera práctica, Marte recordó un estímulo constante de hacer todo lo que fuera necesario para lograr sus metas.

“Mi padre siempre ha sido mi mayor apoyo,” dijo Marte. “Él es el quien me metió en beisbol.”

Marte destacó el papel que sus entrenadores de la infancia tuvieron en su desarrollo personal también.

Las lecciones que ha aprendido de sus mentores van más allá del juego. Reconoció cómo el consejo que ha acumulado a lo largo de los años ha contribuido a su crecimiento como individuo y como jugador.

“Algunos de mis entrenadores han estado conmigo por 15 años”, dijo Marte. “Aquí, mis entrenadores me han empujado a ser mejor, especialmente a este nivel.”

Marte continuó su carrera a lo largo de la escuela secundaria, intentando ingresar al equipo All-American dos veces, y continuó su carrera en Union County College en Nueva Jersey antes de transferirse a Elon en su tercer año. La decisión de mudarse a Elon y entrar al nivel universitario, dijo Marte, fue fácil.

“Venir a Elon es probablemente mi mayor logro”, dijo Marte. “siempre he tenido en mi mente que quería jugar en la universidad”

Desde que llegó a Elon, Marte ha mejorado significativamente, a pesar de que COVID-19 cortó su primera temporada. El entrenador Mike Kennedy ha notado el desarrollo de Marte mientras lo ve ganar confianza en sí mismo y sus habilidades.

“Su primer año, el año pasado, estuvo muy callado”, dijo Kennedy. “Ahora, hay una diferencia notable. Está hablando y comunicándose más con los compañeros de equipo.”

Como muchos niños atletas, Marte idolatraba a los jugadores profesionales. Específicamente admiraba a Alex Rodríguez, un dominicano que jugó para los Yankees. Viendo características de sí mismo en Rodríguez, Marte se encontró fantaseando sobre el jugador que podría llegar a ser.

“Cuando empecé a ver béisbol, él me motivó a querer ser como él”, dijo Marte.

Junto con su interés en el béisbol, Marte reconoció el impacto de sus antecedentes en sus valores personales e identidad. Al venir de la República Dominicana, ha ganado un sentido de humildad y gratitud. De niño fue testigo de las dificultades cotidianas y recordó la lucha por encontrar alimentos, trabajo y vivienda en la nación.

Marte también notó la falta de libertad en la RD y desde una edad temprana fue consciente del valor del trabajo duro y la autosuficiencia. A su llegada a los Estados Unidos, Marte llevó estos ideales con él, ansioso por aprovechar las nuevas oportunidades a las que estaba expuesto.

“La gente aquí lo tiene mucho más fácil que allá”, dijo Marte. “Así que cuando vine aquí no quería dar nada por sentado.”

A pesar de la adversidad, Marte mira su pasado con orgullo, recordando una infancia de funciones familiares que consistían en el béisbol y, su favorito, la cocina dominicana.

“Estamos muy orientados a la familia”, dijo Marte. “Siempre hacíamos barbacoas familiares, eso es lo más importante.”

La actitud trabajadora y optimista de Marte no ha pasado desapercibida. Kennedy reconoce que todo está dando sus frutos y espera que él se convierta en un activo ofensivo y defensivo.

“Está muy concentrado”, dijo Kennedy. “Nada parece afectarlo.”

Marte dijo que cree que las oportunidades a las que ha estado expuesto en los Estados Unidos han contribuido en gran medida a sus éxitos y comportamiento diligente. El estímulo que ha recibido de sus entrenadores y compañeros de equipo le ha ayudado a aumentar su



HOPE VALENTI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Carlos Marte, un jugador de béisbol de República Dominicana, dijo que su mayor logro fue asistir a Elon para jugar un deporte universitario. Marte es un jugador de cuadro para el béisbol de Elon.

Carlos Marte, a baseball player from the Dominican Republic, said his biggest accomplishment was attending Elon to play a college sport. Marte is an infielder for Elon baseball.

confianza como jugador e individuo. Dijo que la resistencia y la determinación han sido vitales a lo largo de su carrera como atleta estudiantil. Dedicando aproximadamente 28 horas a la semana al juego, Marte reconoce que balancear la escuela y el béisbol no es una tarea fácil, pero siempre vale la pena.

“Creo que lo primero es simplemente tener una pasión por el béisbol. Vas a fallar más de lo que tendrás éxito”, dijo Marte.

More Than A Game: Carlos Marte’s Journey to Elon Baseball

Coming from the Dominican Republic at the age of 6, Carlos Marte reflects on his past and future

Standing under the lights of Latham Baseball Park, infielder Carlos Marte couldn’t help but reflect on how he got there. From front yard games of catch in the Dominican Republic to the NCAA, Marte credited his Dominican upbringing with introducing baseball into his life. He views his sport as a way of closer connecting with his culture.

“It’s kind of what we’re known for,” Marte said. “I’m just proud to be a Dominican and a baseball player.”

Picking up a bat for the first time with his dad at the age of 4 was just the beginning. Upon coming to the United States two years later, Marte was exposed to new opportunities and made the switch from front yard games of catch to little league fields — and the rest, he says, is history.

Marte’s father planted the sport into his life, continuing to support him as he pursued baseball. To him, it was almost like a tradition being passed down. Since his very first practice, Marte remembered consistent encouragement to do whatever necessary to accomplish his goals.

“My dad has just always been my biggest support,” Marte said. “He’s the one that got me into it.”

Marte noted the role his childhood coaches have played in his personal development as well. The lessons he’s learned from his mentors go beyond just gameplay. He acknowledged how the advice he has accumulated over the years has contributed to his growth as an individual, as well as a player.

“Some of my coaches have been with me for 15 years,” Marte said. “Here, my coaches have just pushed me to be better, especially at this level.”

Marte continued his career throughout high school, trying out for the All-American team twice, and furthered his career at Union County College in New Jersey before transferring to Elon in his junior year. The decision to make the move to Elon and enter the collegiate level, Marte said, was an easy one.

“Coming to Elon is my probably biggest accomplishment,” Marte said. “I’ve always had in the back of my mind that I wanted to play in college”

Since coming to Elon, Marte has improved significantly, despite COVID-19 cutting his first season short. Head coach Mike Kennedy has noticed Marte’s development as he’s watched him gained

confidence in himself and his abilities.

“His first year, last year, he was very quiet,” Kennedy said. “Now, there’s a noticeable difference. He’s talking and communicating with teammates more.”

Like many child athletes, Marte idolized professional players. Specifically, he looked up to Alex Rodriguez, a Dominican playing for the Yankees. Seeing remnants of himself in Rodriguez, Marte found himself fantasizing about the player he could grow to be.

“When I started watching baseball he kind of motivated me to want to be like him,” Marte said.

Alongside his interest in baseball, Marte recognized the impact of his background on his personal values and identity. Coming from the

Dominican Republic, he has gained a sense of humility and gratitude. As a child he witnessed hardship on a daily basis and recalled the struggle to find food, work and housing in the nation.

Marte also noticed the lack of freedom in the DR and from a young age was aware of the value of hard work and self-reliance. Upon his arrival in the United States, Marte carried these ideals with him, eager to take advantage of the new opportunities he was exposed to.

“People here have it a lot easier than over there,” Marte said. “So when I came here I just didn’t want to take anything for granted.”

Despite adversity, Marte looks at his background with pride, remembering a childhood of family functions consisting of baseball and, his personal favorite, Dominican cuisine.

“We’re very family oriented, “ Marte said. “We would always do family barbecues, that’s our biggest thing.”

Marte’s hardworking demeanor and optimistic attitude has not gone unnoticed. Kennedy acknowledges that it’s all paying off and expects him to be an asset both offensively and defensively.

“He’s very focused,” Kennedy said “Nothing seems to phase him.”

Marte said he believes the opportunities he’s been exposed to in the United States have contributed greatly to his successes and diligent demeanor. The encouragement he has received from his coaches and teammates has helped him to increase his confidence as a player and individual.

He said that resilience and determination have been vital throughout his career as a student athlete. Dedicating roughly 28 hours a week to the game, Marte acknowledges that balancing school and baseball is not an easy task, but it always pays off.

“I think number one is to just have a passion for baseball. You’re going to fail more than you’ll succeed,” Marte said.



HOPE VALENTI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA
VOLUME 51, EDITION 6

THE PENDULUM

ALAMANCE COUNTY HOLDS FIRST HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH FESTIVAL



The Ballet Folklórico Mexican Tradition of Julio Ruiz performs on Medallion Plaza at El Centro's Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff on Wednesday, Sept. 15. The dance group will perform at Alamance County's first Hispanic Heritage Month Festival on Saturday, Sept. 25.

On Saturday, Sept. 25, the community will celebrate what it means to be Hispanic in Alamance

Kyra O'Connor
Executive Director | @ko_reports

When Lore Meca Lara thinks of Hispanic heritage, she thinks of food, music, dancing and celebrating her roots, but also where she is now, as a Mexican American living in Alamance County. Now, she hopes to bring her thoughts to life at Alamance County's first annual Hispanic Heritage Month Festival on Sept. 25.

Meca Lara, the chair of the committee working on the festival, was inspired by an art show for Latinx students in Alamance County. Seeing students celebrate their heritage and identity motivated Meca Lara to advocate for a bigger event to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

"I want this to be about our roots, but I also want it to be a celebration of being part of this country," Meca Lara said. "Being in the United States is a goal for so many Latinx people, and origins and being here is also a celebration, how we are now part of this country."

Junior Sarah Rusthoven began working on the festival committee over the summer as an intern for Alamance Arts. At the end of her internship, she asked Meca Lara to stay and continue working on the festival.

“

I WANT THIS TO BE ABOUT OUR ROOTS, BUT I ALSO WANT IT TO BE A CELEBRATION OF BEING PART OF THIS COUNTRY.

LORE MECA LARA
FESTIVAL COMMITTEE CHAIR

"I've never had the chance to really work with people that were so dedicated to planning an event," Rusthoven said. "It's just awesome being around people who are so passionate about planning this event."

See **FESTIVAL** | pg. 4B

Post-consumer composting efforts return to Elon



Elon sustainability Eco-Reps measure post-consumer waste in McEwen Dining Hall to showcase how much food waste will be composted that evening.

Elon Dining brings back post-consumer composting after a pause because of the COVID-19 pandemic

Abigail Hobbs
Elon News Network

Elon Dining's green reusable to-go boxes are back, reviving the university's efforts to become carbon neutral by 2037. During the 2020-21 academic year, reusable to-go boxes were replaced by single-use compostable containers due to concern over the spread of COVID-19 through high-touch and communal surfaces.

Student intern at the Office for Sustainability Lauren Hill is excited to bring back post-consumer composting as well as the reusable to-go boxes to limit the amount of waste she witnessed last year.

“

LAST YEAR, ELON STRUGGLED TO SAFELY MAINTAIN THEIR POST-CONSUMER COMPOSTING PROGRAM DURING THE PANDEMIC, ULTIMATELY PRIORITIZING SAFETY.

LAUREN HILL
STUDENT INTERN AT THE OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

"Last year, Elon struggled to safely maintain their post-consumer composting program during the pandemic, ultimately prioritizing safety," Hill wrote in an email to Elon News Network.

Elon Dining has been composting pre-consumer waste since 2008 and post-consumer waste since 2011, according to Kelly Harer, assistant director of sustainability for education and outreach. Elon Dining, Environmental Services and the Office of Sustainability collaborate to promote composting on campus.

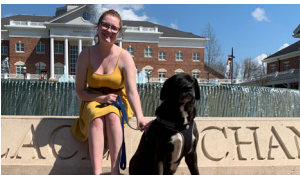
Pre-consumer waste includes materials that never made it to the consumer, while post-consumer waste is trash that the consumer has used and is now disposing of. To-go boxes are an example of post-consumer waste.

According to Harer, Elon Dining was able to continue pre-consumer food waste composting during the pandemic, but not post-consumer. Casey Clafin, guest experiences manager at Elon Dining, wrote in an email to Elon News Network this halt was due to the staff shortage that occurred during the pandemic.

See **COMPOST** | pg. 2B



NEWS • PAGE 4B
Elon mourns passing of Vice President Emerita Jo Watts Williams



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 6B
Pet Therapy to bring paws and smiles to campus



SPORTS • PAGE 8B
ElonRUNS finally gets its club start after a year-long pause

Composting efforts contribute to Elon’s carbon neutral goal

COMPOST | from cover

“During the pandemic, compost receptacles around campus became too contaminated with non-compostable materials, and our composting partner decided that, due to the volume of contaminated post-consumer waste and a short labor force, they could not effectively sort compostable materials from non-compostable materials,” Claflin wrote.

The Environmental Services team takes the compost from the various orange bins around campus, where it is collected by the third party service CompostNow, which takes Elon’s contributions to their facility in Goldston, NC.

“Replacing single-use compostable to-go boxes with Green To-Go’s eliminates the resource and energy costs associated with processing tens of thousands of single-use containers annually and avoids the additional concern of improper disposal contributing to landfill waste,” Claflin wrote.

Claflin said that last year the dining halls provided compostable silverware kits, cups, lids, and other containers due to the pause of using the reusable to-go boxes.

“We are thrilled, however, to be able to bring back reusable to-go containers, and mitigate the piles and piles of to-go boxes that were thrown away last year,” Hill wrote. “There are goals to bring back widespread composting throughout campus again, in addition to continuing composting in all the dining halls during food prep.”

Community Garden and Loy Farm

The Community Garden and Loy Farm also take student compost, including food, newspapers and coffee grounds. They also receive yard waste from Environmental Services, including grass clippings, leaves, fallen tree limbs and more.

Professor of environmental studies and English Michael Strickland writes that the garden and farm limit their footprint by not using artificial fertilizers or fossil fuel machinery.

“The compost is brought back to campus to feed the flower beds and new shrubbery plantings around campus,” Strickland wrote in an email to Elon News Network. “That is a big operation, and not only saves the university a lot of money, but is also a very green, sustainable practice.”

Strickland said that while Elon Dining struggled to keep up with composting efforts, the garden and farm did not.

“While the dining hall waste part of the process (which is a big part of course) has been knocked offline because of Covid restrictions, the landscaping aspect of composting on campus has gone on without a hitch,” Strickland wrote.

Robyn Lane, manager of the Community Garden and Loy Farm, said that gardening has grown in popularity due to the pandemic.

“The garden is completely organic and utilizes all waste created,” Lane wrote in an email to Elon News Network. “The process is a multi-stage churning of locally composted food, weeds and old dirt. In short, we use a ‘lasagna method’ in which layers of dead brown materials, green live materials, and



ELLIS CHANDLER | NEWS DIRECTOR

Elon students throwing the rest of their dining hall food in blenders to be composted for the garden.

old soil compress and break down due to heat produced by microorganisms over time.”

Contributing to waste management

“A good saying to remember is, ‘When in doubt, throw it out,’ meaning if you aren’t sure of whether or not something is recyclable, compostable, or belongs in the landfill, it’s actually better to put it in a landfill bin than risk contaminating the entire compost bin,” Harer wrote in an email to Elon News Network.

Hill said she values educating students about sustainability and enjoys spreading awareness of waste contribution to help Elon reach its goal of being carbon neutral

by 2037. The full program is outlined in the Sustainability Master Plan.

Students can get involved with the Office of Sustainability to further the university’s sustainability efforts through volunteer programs, such as proper waste sorting and local clean-ups.

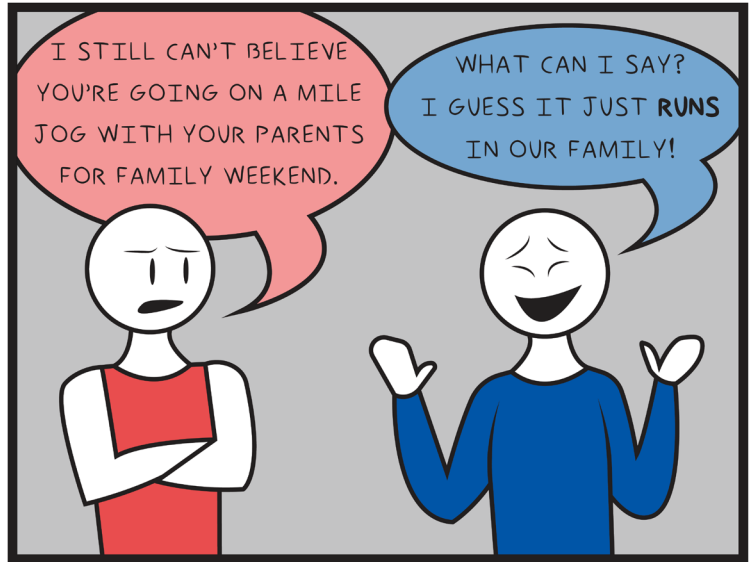
“Through all of our initiatives and events to get students on campus more involved in sustainability, we can help lower personal carbon footprints,” Hill wrote. “Increasing awareness and providing easy swaps and practices to decrease our personal carbon emissions, helps us take one more step forward towards carbon neutrality as a campus.”

CORRECTIONS

In the last edition of The Pendulum, Skye Ziegler had her name spelled incorrectly in a cutline. Elon News Network regrets this error.

COMIC

FAMILY WEEKEND



COMIC SAMS – SAM POROZOK

THE PENDULUM

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EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

CORRECTIONS POLICY:

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

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Freshman offensive lineman Kevin Burkett celebrates after a play at the football game against Appalachian State on Sept. 18. The Phoenix lost to the Mountaineers 10-44.



LUCAS CASEL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



ADDIE BUCCO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Left to right: Ethan Porter, Austin Moore, Madison Holmes, Chazz Harley and Joycelyn Bentley speak at the National Panhellenic Council's "Meet the Greeks" event on Monday, Sept. 20. The event was as an opportunity to get to know members of the NPHC and learn about Black greek letter organizations at Elon.



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Construction workers assess their plans on the second floor of IQ2, the tallest building on the Innovation Quad. The IQ will serve as a place where Elon students and faculty mentors can collaborate in their studies.



Senior Carson Jones crosses the ball into the box in a soccer game against Furman on Friday, Sept. 17. The Phoenix beat the Paladins 2-0.

LUCAS CASEL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon mourns passing of Vice President Emerita Jo Watts Williams

Jo Watts Williams ‘55 worked with the university for nearly 75 years

Joseph Navin
Elon News Network

Smith Jackson remembers Elon University Vice President Emerita Jo Watts Williams: her selflessness, her kindness and how inspiring she was. Williams interviewed the former vice president for student life and professor of education for his job at Elon and was a friend to him throughout his time at the university.

“Even in her latter days, when I went to see her, she gave me a gift,” Jackson said. “She gave me, and others too I’m sure, a lucky penny. A blessing from her. That will stick with me as somebody who just is inspiring.”

Williams died at the age of 92 at her home in Burlington on Sept. 16. Her death comes two months after the Dr. Jo Watts Williams School of Education was named in her honor.

“It is just such an honor to have our school endowed with her name because she loved Elon,” said Ann Bullock, dean of the School of Education.

Williams graduated from Elon in 1955 with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education.

During her time at Elon College, she met her husband, William Leaford Williams Jr.

After graduating from Elon, Williams became a public school teacher at multiple school districts in North Carolina and continued in the profession for 14 years. In 1971, she earned her master’s degree in education, and, in 1973, she received her doctorate at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

At the request of then President J. Earl Danieley, Williams returned to Elon in 1969 as a faculty member in the Department of Psychology and Education. In 1977, she became the associate dean of academic affairs and the director of the Learning Resources

Center.

Williams later became the first president for development at Elon, a role she remained in for 16 years. She was named a special assistant to then President James Young in 1995.

“Jo Watts Williams was among the most prominent architects of today’s Elon University. As a respected faculty member and a talented administrator, she strengthened every aspect of the university and touched the lives of thousands of students,” said President Emeritus Leo M. Lambert in a statement.

In 2010, Williams was named vice president emerita by Lambert. Other than the recently named School of Education, a residence hall in the Oaks Neighborhood is also named after Williams.

Williams was honored with the Elon Medallion in 1998. In 2008, she was awarded with the Frank S. Holt Business Leadership Award, and in 2014, Williams was recognized with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, which was bestowed upon by then North Carolina Governor, Pat McCrory. The Long Leaf Pine is one of North Carolina’s highest awards.

“Her legacy will ... help students, you know through scholarship money and do activities and such have opportunities, and the ability to be a great teacher to have impact on students, and in the schools where they teach,” Bullock said. “The endowment from her gift, which named the school, will help students for years to come be able to afford to come to Elon and get a great education and become a wonderful teacher.”

While Williams’ accolades within the school are impressive, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives Jeff Stein said he hopes Williams’ legacy includes her spirit and personality, too.

“What’s easy to forget is just her character,” Stein said. “You see me getting emotional because she’s such an amazing woman, she’s so kind.”

Williams is survived by her sons, Dr. Randall Watts Williams and William Leaford



COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

Jo Watts Williams received the university’s top award recognizing leadership in business, the Frank S. Holt Jr. Business Leadership Award, in 2008.

Williams III. Memorials can be made to the William L. and Jo Watts Williams Scholarship, 2600 Campus Box, Elon University, Elon, NC 27244; or to First Presbyterian Church, 508 W. Davis St., Burlington, NC 27215.

“Today we honor Jo’s confidence in this

community,” Book said at Williams’ funeral service. “And the gift that God gave us of Jo Watts Williams.”

Kyra O’Connor and Emery Eisner contributed to the reporting of this story.

Hispanic Heritage Month Festival to welcome all



ADDIE BUCCO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Ballet Folklórico Mexican Tradition of Julio Ruiz from Greensboro gives a preview performance on Sept. 15 for its upcoming appearance at the first Alamance County Hispanic Heritage Month Festival on Sept. 25.

FESTIVAL | from cover

“I’ve never had the chance to really work with people that were so dedicated to planning an event,” Rusthoven said. “It’s just awesome being around people who are so passionate.”

According to Meca Lara, the festival is made up of many components, but is centered around three: music, dancing and food. The festival will also include live dancers, crafts, a parade and community resources.

With the festival being family-centered, Meca Lara said she hopes people will bring their children to experience everything it has to offer. Meca Lara will be bringing her own children to remind them of their heritage and to help them celebrate their culture as Mexican Americans.

“This for them to learn our heritage and to celebrate it,” Meca Lara said. “We won’t stop just because we’re in a different country. You can still bring that with you and celebrate your ancestors.”

Rusthoven said Elon University can be seen as its own bubble, and the festival is a great way to get outside of that and explore the community.

“Alamance County does have a large Hispanic population, so go and meet some people that are living right next to you,” Rusthoven said. “It’s a great, easy way to go have some fun yourself and expose yourself to the surrounding area.”

As a Mexican American who has lived in the area for over 20 years, Meca Lara said she hopes Hispanic people in Alamance County who attend the event walk away knowing they are accepted and celebrated in the community.

“Alamance County is a place where we are also respected and welcome. We are part of the growth of Alamance County,” Meca Lara said. “I also want the only American side to know that we are happy to be here and that we will also be respected, and we want to bring the best and give the best because this is now our home.”

IF YOU GO

Hispanic Heritage Month Festival

Where: 213 S Main St, Graham, NC

When: Saturday, Sept. 25

12- 8 p.m.

YOU WOULDN'T
TRUST JUST
anybody
WITH YOUR
BEST CLOTHES.

Your clothes deserve the best. Don't take your best to just any dry cleaners this school year. Visit McPherson Cleaners in Burlington for service that's been trusted for over 60 years.

OPINIONS



BIDEN ABANDONS PRINCIPLE OF “**LEAVE NO MAN BEHIND**” IN CHAOTIC AFGHANISTAN WITHDRAWAL

President Joe Biden speaks about Kabul, Afghanistan, from the East Room of the White House on Thursday, Aug. 26 in Washington, D.C.

DREW ANGERER | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CAMPUS VOICES



Sadie Wiswall
Sophomore

In our nation’s frantic retreat from Afghanistan, President Joe Biden, our commander-in-chief, repudiated the idea of “no man left behind,” one of the United States military’s central and enduring values. Our defeat and hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan marks a low point, and it shows our nation’s willingness to abandon core foreign policy values and defense strategies we’ve championed on the world stage.

Twenty years ago, the United States embarked on a mission to topple the Taliban-run government of Afghanistan, which was serving as a training ground for Al-Qaeda terrorists, including the architects of the 9/11 attacks that left nearly 3,000 Americans dead. Over time, that limited mission broadened and became so murky that neither party could justify our continued involvement.

In 2020, former President Donald Trump and President Biden campaigned on a platform of ending our “forever war.” Trump reduced the number of troops in Afghanistan significantly and in February 2020, agreed to an almost unachievable deal with the Taliban to end the U.S. presence completely just over three months after Biden took office.

After unilaterally extending that deadline to Sept. 11, Biden ultimately fell in line with the Taliban’s demand that all American troops exit by Aug.

31. On Aug. 15, within 24 hours of our initial “soft exit,” the Taliban mobilized, seizing Kabul, and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country. Within 48 hours of our planned exit, the government we had propped up for 15 years crumbled, marking the end to life as they knew it for the Afghan people.

Rather than a coordinated departure, the U.S. fled the country in a hapless, chaotic and embarrassing fashion, abandoning any semblance of strength or control in performing what can only be described as the most embarrassing military exit since Saigon.

That all contrasted sharply with the assurances Biden gave in a July 8 speech that, in retrospect, was replete with broken promises and naiveté towards the looming crisis. While blaming that contrast on changes in the intelligence community’s assessment of the stability of the Afghan government between early July and mid-August, the Biden Administration has never explained or taken responsibility for its utter failure to grasp the reality on the ground before it was too late.

Throughout his speech, Biden promised that “U.S. support for the people of Afghanistan will endure.” A month later, he led a hasty retreat, leaving over 100 Americans and tens of thousands of our Afghan partners to fend for themselves in a country run by ruthless

thugs.

Over the last 15 years, the Afghan military has depended heavily on U.S. airpower to fend off the Taliban’s advances. On July 8, Biden emphatically promised to “ensure [the Afghan military will] have the capacity to maintain their air force.” However, within 72 hours of our exit, the Afghan Air Force was desperately seeking lessons — via Zoom — from the U.S. military about how to repair their aircrafts.

The Biden Administration has unfairly blamed the Afghan people for the withdrawal debacle. The president’s remarks, such as “Afghan forces are not willing to fight for themselves,” ignore that over 70,000 Afghans laid down their lives during the war, and thousands more will now be targeted by the Taliban for fighting alongside the United States. With critical U.S. support pulled out from under them, could we expect the Afghan military to die in the face of a hopeless battle that the U.S. had abandoned?

On July 8, Biden also claimed that, when exiting Afghanistan, “Speed is safety.” For whom? Perhaps Biden should have been mindful of Mahatma Gandhi’s admonition that “Speed is irrelevant if you are going in the wrong direction.” In our quest for speed — and by withdrawing our military personnel before evacuating civilians — we abandoned tens of thousands of American citizens, Afghan allies and U.S. green card holders and mourned the loss

of 13 U.S. service members. We also left millions of dollars of taxpayer-funded military equipment, which is now in the hands of the Taliban — a terrorist group known for brutalizing women and political opponents — on whom we must now rely for the safety of Americans and our allies who we left behind.

To some extent, all four presidents who held office during the Afghanistan War are responsible for fumbling the “passing of the torch” of that war. Each was unable to grapple effectively with how to ensure lasting stability for a democratic government after the eventual withdrawal of American troops. But regardless of one’s political leanings or feelings about “forever wars,” our exit can fairly be singled out as particularly egregious. We should rightly be outraged by the manner in which the United States executed a half-baked plan that needlessly sacrificed human lives, abandoned Americans behind enemy lines, humiliated our nation on the world stage and will permanently damage the confidence of our allies and future allies in us. Much of this could likely have been avoided by competent planning and continued flexibility regarding the exit date. Patting ourselves on the back for “accomplishing what we went there to accomplish” cannot change the reality that America abandoned its promise to leave no man behind.

LIFESTYLE

PET THERAPY EVENT INVITED TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH

Planned for Sept. 22, the event will offer pet interaction to all students

Amanda Cantale
Elon News Network | @AmandaCantale

After the loss of one of her dogs, sophomore Jill Dow invited her registered emotional support dog, Beck, to campus. The 10-year-old rescue mix lives with Dow on campus, helping her alleviate the stress of college.

“Having Beck on campus has also helped me to meet people outside of my friend group,” Dow said. “Faculty, families and other students have come up to meet Beck and give him lots of love and attention.”

For students experiencing similar stress levels to Dow, SPARKS Peer Educators will host Pet Therapy with PAAWS Sept. 22 for students to take a break from their day with a therapeutic activity. Dogs, cats and bunnies will be waiting on the Moseley West Lawn for friendly interaction.

SPARKS Peer Educators focuses on the health and wellness of the Elon University community. The student-led group holds conversations including topics like substance education, mental fitness and sexual health. For the Pet Therapy event, SPARKS will partner with The Kopper Top Life Learning Center PAAWS program.

Pet therapy brings joy, comfort and community as it unites students with a common interest, animals. Beck provides care and support for Dow, just like anyone else experiences while having a pet.

Graduate apprentice for Recreation and Wellness Kelsey Baron advocates for the benefits of well-being provided by therapy animals.

“The main goal of pet therapy is really to help students have an experience that emphasizes their mind-body connection, and their wellness regarding that connection without the need for screens and technology,” Baron said.

Based in Burlington and Greensboro, the PAAWS program is a portable animal assisted therapy program. The Kopper Top Life Learning Center provides animals for the event, showing how beneficial pet therapy can be.

“It’s really nice to hear how [Beck] makes

someone’s day better and helps them to feel better, especially if they are missing their dog from home,” Dow said.

The pet therapy event also encourages students to socialize, helping decrease homesickness and brightening their day. Along with this comes the mental and physical benefits that help as well.



THE MAIN GOAL OF PET THERAPY IS REALLY TO HELP STUDENTS HAVE AN EXPERIENCE THAT EMPHASIZES THEIR MIND-BODY CONNECTION, AND THEIR WELLNESS REGARDING THAT CONNECTION WITHOUT THE NEED FOR SCREENS AND TECHNOLOGY.

KELSEY BARON
GRADUATE APPRENTICE FOR RECREATION AND WELLNESS

“Reactive petting actually produces an automatic relaxation response,” Baron said. “It stabilizes blood pressure, improves your heart health and your breathing slows, especially for those who are anxious.”

The event will also serve as a mood booster for students to experience as they walk through campus.

“This is a really great way to connect and relieve some stress and just laugh and not worry about all the assignments and other things going on in their lives,” Baron said. “Just focus on the little furry animals.”



COURTESY OF JILL DOW

Jill Dow’s therapy dog, Beck, helps her with her physical and mental health while she is on campus.

IF YOU GO

Pet Therapy

Where: Moseley West Lawn

When: Wednesday, Sept. 22

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

THE ELON BITE

THE ELON BITE IS A COLUMN THAT REVIEWS RESTAURANTS AND FOOD VENDORS IN THE LOCAL AREA

Prego’s Trattoria fettuccine Alfredo is a must-have



Eddie Keefe
Freshman

IF YOU GO

Prego’s Trattoria

Where: 422 Huffman Mill Rd., Suite 122, Burlington, NC 27215

When:

Monday-Saturday:

11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.,

4:30–9 p.m.

After Publix bought out Prego’s Trattoria’s former location, the restaurant was forced to relocate last year. Now found on Huffman Mill Road, the newly rebuilt Prego’s is back to serving the Burlington community. The Italian restaurant is just eight minutes away from Elon University’s campus, perfect for a dinner out with friends.

At first glance, Prego’s offers comfortable outdoor seating with a welcoming indoor setting. The decor and atmosphere of the restaurant is fresh, bright and welcoming.

For my appetizer, I ordered the “mozzarella en carrozza” which was a homemade fresh mozzarella fried cheese sandwich. I felt like I was eating a luxury grilled cheese, as it came with tomato soup on the side. The cheese, melting out of the sandwich, was filled with flavor. I also enjoyed Prego’s fresh, warm bread with olive oil, along with homemade potato squares that were addictive to munch on. It reminded me of “patatas bravas,” which is a dish native to Spain that also includes diced potatoes.

For my entree, I ordered fettuccine Alfredo with chicken. Prego’s homemade pasta paired with its Alfredo was an overall excellent dish. In fact, it was one of the best Alfredo pastas I’ve had. The dish was balanced, and the chicken was cooked perfectly

and breaded to perfection, adding an element of crunch to the dish. The strong flavor of parmesan was also present throughout, which made it much more enjoyable.

My friends ordered penne alla vodka and spaghetti alla carbonara. According to them, their dishes were excellent and filled with flavor.

My experience ended with a free tiramisu dessert for my friend’s birthday, courtesy of the waiters. The tiramisu’s creaminess and flawlessly constructed layers made every bite of the dessert delicious.

I would rate Prego’s Trattoria a 10/10 for its amazing service, beautiful decor and delicious food. Every meal was thoughtfully made and represented authentic Italian cuisine. Though it was on the pricier side, a visit to Prego’s is definitely worth it.

If you have any questions or a review idea, please reach out to me at ekeefe5@elon.edu.

EDDIE’S SCORE

10 of 10

Every week the restaurant reviewed is given a score out of 10.



EDDIE KEEFE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fettuccine Alfredo with grilled chicken from Prego’s Trattoria.

Career summit to connect students, alumni on the autism spectrum

The North Carolina Autistic Career Summit will be held virtually Sept. 23-24

Miranda Ferrante
Lifestyle Editor | @ferrantemiranda

A job. The one thing almost every college student thinks about when planning for their post-graduation future. Wesley Wade, a career services counselor at North Carolina State University, felt that not every college student had an equal opportunity when it came to entering the workforce.

Wade co-created Students Moving Forward, a career-centric program for students on the autism spectrum in 2017. Wade then created the North Carolina Autistic Career Summit in 2019 to raise awareness about neurodiversity — not synonymous with autism.

“That’s a stereotype, misnomer, misconception — if you are on the autism spectrum, you just do this tedious work that no one else wants to do. That’s not true,” Wade said. “I wanted to get an event where all the other universities can share resources.”

The third-annual summit will be held virtually on Sept. 23 and 24 with keynote speakers, panels, parent and guardian sessions and an awards presentation.

As a certified mental health counselor, Wade said he wants to strengthen the narrative surrounding autism and believes the summit expands equal opportunities for all types of people.

“None of us do this for a full-time job,” Wade said. “We are doing this because it needs to be done.”

While some colleges like the University of Maryland have career centers with

professionals who specialize in work with students with disabilities, North Carolina State does not. The summit, according to the NC State website, is designed for students and alumni on the autism spectrum to gain job-search tips and meet with potential employers who are recruiting for both paid internships and full-time roles related to the student’s degree.

“What I firmly stick to in the summit is that this is about people’s strengths,” Wade said. “This is about what you can do. This is about the fact that hiring processes have a lot of biases in them and a lot of unintentional forms of discrimination and bias in there, and this limits a lot of qualified applicants all over the place.”

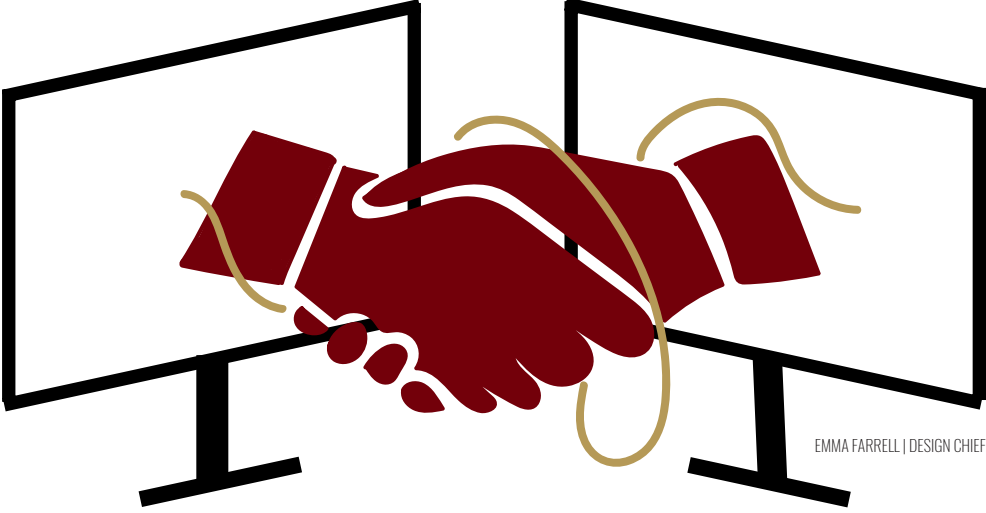
In the inaugural year of the summit, Wade said the leading goal was to gather people — employers, students and recruiters — in one space while providing the opportunity to network and connect.

Wade said he appreciated the diversity in gender identity, race, major and education level present at the student panel the first year. He said he believes representation in panels like this is crucial.

The summit is centered heavily around autistic voices with sessions that feature a group of autistic professionals.

One collaborator is Duke University assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences Tara Chandrasekhar, who said this year she was able to help execute a career readiness fair, with had a session prior to the event and will have one after. Chandrasekhar hopes students at this year’s summit will get the most out of their experience.

“We are really focused on the ways that they can prepare for the summit, how they can interact with recruiters, how they can think about following up with companies afterwards, just really giving them some



EMMA FARRELL | DESIGN CHIEF

really concrete tools,” Chandrasekhar said. “The feedback was students felt more confident about going into the summit. They felt like, ‘OK, I can do this,’ which was our goal.”

The free, statewide event is open to all college and university students and alumni who are on the autism spectrum, but Wade said diagnosis is not required to attend. This year, Chandrasekhar said Wade has tried to create something for every type of person.

“I think Wes was really intentional about making sure there was something for everybody, regardless of their expertise coming into this space,” Chandrasekhar said.

She hopes students feel excited and energized for this year’s event.

“The employers are proactively hiring and ensuring that they have inclusive spaces for autistic people,” Chandrasekhar said. “I think for autistic students to feel confident in their skills and abilities and know that there are people wanting to support them in achieving their goals outside of getting a degree.”

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The ElonRUNS club meets outside of Oak House, its home base, before a run around Elon's campus. The club's usual runs are a three mile or 5k around campus.

ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ELONRUNS

PROMOTES RECREATIONAL RUNNING

A new club for running, ElonRUNS fosters a fitness environment for all

Arianna Tristani
Elon News Network

Throughout her freshman and sophomore years at Elon, senior Maddie Walter wondered why there was no intramural running club on campus. Wanting to find a new community of runners, she decided to take matters into her own hands. “Coming onto campus my freshman year, I was never able to find a running club. Sophomore year it was the same as well. So, my junior year, I decided I should make one of my own, which turned into ElonRUNS,” Walter said. Walter created ElonRUNS last fall, however, the COVID-19 pandemic postponed the start of the club. Now a year later, ElonRUNS is finally getting its start. The club hosts weekly runs every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Walter said she hopes ElonRUNS will provide organized runs that are easy to schedule into a busy day, while also encouraging students to participate in a new community of runners. Beginning at Oak House, the usual Thursday run is either a three mile or 5k around campus.

Walter said that on average 10 to 15 runners attend each week, but with every run, the leadership team is hoping those numbers will continue to climb. “We definitely have regulars, and lots of new freshmen as well, which will help the club stay strong in the long run,” Walter said. Walter’s leadership team includes Treasurer Allen Fleming and Communications Manager Carissa Potter. The group of three teamed

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AFTER LAST YEAR BEING COVID, WE ARE ALL REALLY EXCITED TO GET THINGS RUNNING IN FULL SWING THIS FALL.

MADDIE WALTER
FOUNDER OF ELONRUNS

up with the graduate school physical therapy program’s running club and made ElonRUNS a cohesive group between undergraduate and graduate students. There is no skill level or past experience necessary to be a part of ElonRUNS, making the club a great way to get exercise with no stakes or expectations to live up to. There is no pace requirement, and groups of runners tend to break off throughout the run to their own comfort levels. Fleming said the goal of Elon RUNS is to create a very “low-key” environment and serve as a benefit for its members, not for serious competition. “We are not a competitive running team, and we do not participate in any meets or extensive practices,” Fleming said. Walter said the group is excited to finally get the club up and running after a lengthy delay. “After last year being COVID, we are all really excited to get things running in full swing this fall,” Walter said. ElonRUNS has also created a way to reward its members for participating. For every five runs attended, members earn a T-shirt, and for every two runs, a sticker. The club also participates in certified outdoor yoga sessions a few times a month to help runners

with soreness, injury prevention and recovery times. Potter, Fleming and Walter have all said with each week, there is an increase in runners, and they hope that it stays that way. Heading into the fall, Walter hopes that her leadership team and dedicated members of all different age groups will spell a successful future for ElonRUNS.

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