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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM



LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tres McMichael and Hope Koene were crowned as Homecoming Royalty during the home football game on Saturday, Nov. 3.

REIGNING PHOENIX

Crowned royalty: Two seniors win the Homecoming vote and take their checks to charity

HANNAH MASSEN | Elon News Network | @massenhannah

CHARITY DONATIONS

Each of the winners received a prize of \$100 to donate to a philanthropy of their choice.

SURROUNDED BY CHEERING FANS and the bright lights of Rhodes Stadium, seniors Hope Koene and Tres McMichael were crowned Elon University's 2018 Homecoming Royalty.

McMichael, a music theatre major and member of the Alpha Beta Beta chapter of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity at Elon, keeps a busy academic schedule. He's pursuing a double major in arts administration and music theatre and minors in leadership studies, business administration and African and African-American studies.

Koene is a member of the Epsilon Delta Delta chapter of Delta Delta Delta sorority, a Students Promoting Awareness, Responsibility, Knowledge and Success (SPARKS) peer educator and a tour guide. She's majoring in public health studies and minoring in neuroscience and psychology. She is on the pre-med track and hopes to pursue a career in pediatrics someday.

Both seniors, who were elected from a group of 20 nominees, were surprised when their victories were announced

“

IT WAS JUST A REALLY GREAT WEEKEND TO BRING TOGETHER THE FIGHTING CHRISTIANS AND THE PHOENIX — ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO ... MAKE ELON SO SPECIAL.

TRES MCMICHAEL
SENIOR, HOMECOMING ROYALTY

to the crowd of Elon students, staff and alumni. McMichael said he didn't even hear his name called at first.

“When we went onto the field, everything was happening so fast, and I didn't realize they had started announcing people's names,” McMichael said. “I kind of, sort of heard the runner-ups, and I heard them announce Hope's name. Then there was a pause, and people started clapping, so I

started clapping, too.”

Koene said she was happy and excited when she heard her name called.

“I do a lot of work in health promotion and I'm really passionate about Planned Parenthood, so knowing that I can support a philanthropy that I really care about and also utilize my love for the Elon community, it made sense for me to kind of try out and run for Homecoming,” Koene said.

The winners each received a prize of \$100 to donate to the philanthropy of their choice. Koene and McMichael's philanthropies are both geared toward women's rights and empowerment.

McMichael decided to give back to A BroaderWay Foundation, where he interned his freshman year. Founded by Idina Menzel and Taye Diggs, one of the foundation's programs, which is open to girls from urban communities, is a four-weeklong summer camp in Massachusetts called Camp BroaderWay.

See **ROYALTY** | pg. 6

MIDTERMS: The battle over the sixth district

Understanding Mark Walker's and Ryan Watt's political platforms that were constantly at odds

Selina Guevara
Elon News Network | @selinaguevara

Republican Mark Walker and Democrat Ryan Watts went head-to-head in the race for North Carolina's sixth district for the U.S. House of Representatives.

The base of Walker's platform was job and economic growth, while Watts focused on partisan gerrymandering and providing new leadership in Washington, D.C.

Watts, a 28-year-old University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill business graduate, believed it was time for a change in leadership and policy within North Carolina. Walker, a Baptist minister who has held office since 2015, believed he was still best for the job.

The platforms of both candidates were largely at odds. The two political opponents clashed on issues such as immigration, gerrymandering, education and gun control.

See **MIDTERMS** | pg. 4



NEWS • PAGE 4

Breaking down the candidates' opposing platforms.



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 7

Burgers, fries, shakes and a classic vibe in downtown Graham.



SPORTS • INSERT

Behind Elon's largest sporting event of the year.

THE PENDULUM

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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.

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

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CORRECTIONS

NEWS

No corrections were issued to Elon News Network for this section.

LIFESTYLE

No corrections were issued to Elon News Network for this section.

SPORTS

In the article titled "Ready to defy expectations," Elon News Network misstated the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as the reigning NCAA tournament champion. UNC won the tournament in 2017, but the current reigning champion is Villanova University.

OPINIONS

No corrections were issued to Elon News Network for this section.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY - STARTING THE SEASON ROUGH



FILE PHOTO BY ELON NEWS NETWORK

Steven Harvin '05 makes his way down the court against Athletes in Action during the team's loss on Nov. 1, 2003.

NOV. 6, 2003. Elon University's men's basketball team was preparing for the start of the season on Nov. 17. At the time, Ernie Nestor was in his first year of being head coach.

Nestor spoke highly of the opposing team, Athletes in Action, and said the pre-season game, which resulted in a loss of 73-62, allowed him to have a clearer idea of his team's capabilities. One of the quickest players on the team, guard Carlos Moreira said that while their "effort was pretty good. ... It was basically a learning experience." The team was still adjusting to playing together, and it was unfortunate to see efforts made by players like Moreira

be let down by others. Nonetheless, this allowed Nestor to see where the problems were and how future training needed to be revolved around things like speed.

Four new freshmen joined the team that year, and Nestor stated this was "a unique opportunity for them to play" and for him to assess those new members. While frustrating, this loss was important in the progress of the team. The 2003-2004 team went on to have a losing season with a 12-18 record.

This week in 2018, the men's basketball team started off the season by playing the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

GAMES

How to Play: Guess the missing word in the five clues, and find them in the word search below.

1. The _____ Soda Shop and Grill. *See page 7 for answer*
2. SUB's main Homecoming performer was _____. *See page 6 for answer*
3. _____ donated her Homecoming winnings to Planned Parenthood. *See page 1 for answer*
4. _____ donated his Homecoming winnings to A BroaderWay Foundation. *See page 1 for answer*
5. The mascot of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is _____. *See Insert page 2 for answer*

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

CALENDAR: NOV. 7 - NOV. 13

JULIE SMITH, 'JUST CLICK HERE, COMRADE' 7 P.M. Turner Theatre	'EL ACOMPAÑANTE' FILM SCREENING 5:30 P.M. LaRose Digital Theatre	FALL DANCE CONCERT OPENING NIGHT 6 P.M. Roberts Studio Theatre, Scott Studios	POST-MIDTERM ELECTION COMMUNITY CONNECTION 6 P.M. McKinnon Hall	FAKE NEWS GAME SHOW 7 P.M. Oaks 212, McCoy Commons
7	8	8	8	8
KAREN YOKLEY'S WORKSHOP 12:15 P.M. Oaks Commons 212	CAREER VERSUS CALLING WORKSHOP 3:45 P.M. Moseley 165	FACES OF HOMELESSNESS PANEL 7:30 P.M. McKinnon Hall	ALAMANCE HEALTH PARTNERS INFO SESSION 4:15 P.M. Moseley SPDC	ELON MBA OPEN HOUSE 6 P.M. Koury Business Center
12	12	12	13	13

Students and faculty compete in the inaugural student/faculty basketball game, which was played in Alumni Gym on Tuesday, Oct. 30.



CORY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



ABBY GIBBS | PHOTO EDITOR

A member of the Harlem Globetrotters, nicknamed “Dragon,” completes a slam dunk in Schar Center during Homecoming festivities on Thursday, Nov. 1.



LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The University of Rhode Island's defense takes down an Elon wide receiver during the Homecoming game on Saturday, Nov. 3.



LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Defensive coordinator Tony Trisciani talks strategy on the sidelines of the Homecoming game against the University of Rhode Island on Saturday, Nov. 3.



JESSICA RAPOGEL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sean Kingston sings to a packed Schar Center during the Homecoming concert on Saturday, Nov. 3.

How candidate platforms clashed for the midterms

MIDTERMS | from cover

Walker is strong in his conservative beliefs — the Lugar Center labeled Walker one of the least bipartisan congressmen in 2017. He's ranked 427 out of 438.

Walker's Democratic challenger, Watts, is a political newcomer.

He's been working as a marketing and management consultant with Deloitte while campaigning and said his business background helped him prepare for politics.

"It's about bringing people together and coming up with solutions," Watts said. "That's what I do for a living. And I think that the experience will serve me very well in Congress."

During the campaign, Walker had a significant fundraising advantage. As of Oct. 17, Walker had raised \$1,228,751.58 while Watts had raised \$328,694.01 — almost \$1 million less.

Immigration

Walker said if he is re-elected, one of his top priorities will be fixing what he calls a broken immigration system. He has previously voiced his opposition to amnesty for people here illegally and has voted to increase funding for border security and making cuts to the number of legal immigrants allowed in.

"We want to make sure that we are leading from a humanitarian standpoint," Walker said. "But we also want to make sure that we're not overburdening our system when it's already depleted in so many areas."

Watts said he wants to protect Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients and investigate but not abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

"It's time for us to create an earned-citizenship program, which would strike a balance between Republican and Democratic ideas," Watts said. "It would create a pathway to citizenship for people who have been in this country for long periods of time, who have paid their taxes and abided by the law, never had any issues."

Gerrymandering

Watts said his top priority is to eliminate partisan gerrymandering.

"We need to address fair districting for this republic and this democracy to thrive," Watts said. Though the districts are drawn by the state legislature, Watts said he'll work to create a federal law outlawing the practice.

"We can require that every state form a nonpartisan, independent redistricting committee — which would have to abide by what the Supreme Court has now deemed to be illegal, which are racially or partisan drawn districts — so that's how the federal government can get involved," Watts said.



Mark Walker (R)



Ryan Watts (D)

Higher education costs

Both candidates have recognized the cost of college can be expensive. Walker said he supports limited debt forgiveness but only for people who work in a particular profession for a certain number of years. In Washington, he's on the bipartisan Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) caucus and has advocated for the creation of more Pell Grants, which provide aid to low-income students.

"The number one thing is to make sure that we're looking at overall cost, not just on the side of as far as borrowing, but what we do as far as lowering the cost of the universities," Walker said.

Contrary to Walker's scholarship approach, Watts said he wants to force banks to lower the interest rate on student loans.

"The difference between scholarships and student loan debt forgiveness is that student loan debt forgiveness would require graduation, right? So there's an

POLLING LOCATIONS NEAR CAMPUS

1. Holly Hill Baptist Church
2. First Baptist Church of Elon
3. Smith Elementary School
4. Church of God
5. Twin Lakes Center
6. Antioch Community Church
7. Fairchild Community Center
8. Mayco Bigelow Center
9. New Birth Baptist Church
10. First Presbyterian Church
11. Hillcrest Elementary School
12. Grove Park Baptist Church
13. Elmira Community Center
14. Kernodle Senior Activities Center
15. St. Paul's United Methodist Church



Students and community members gather for the "Election Night Watch Event" in Moseley Center on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

ZACH OHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

incentive for students to follow through," Watts said.

Gun control

When it comes to gun control, the National Rifle Association has endorsed Walker with an A rating. Watts, who received an F rating, said he would propose connecting background checks to federal databases. Watts added that he supports the Second Amendment and is a gun owner himself.

"I want to make sure that you, as a law-abiding citizen, have the right to own a gun," Watts said.

Watts owns a 20-gauge shotgun that he keeps in his home for protection, as well as a 40-gauge Smith and Wesson handgun. He doesn't usually carry it but has passed a concealed carry class.

Other significant issues on Walker's platform include growing the economy and lowering taxes. He's said he's also active in his faith and a part of the Congressional Prayer Caucus.

Watts said he wants to make Medicare a public option for health care but said he won't promise Medicare for all because he thinks that's unrealistic.

Before the end of voting, FiveThirtyEight predicted Walker's winning of the election. In the 2016 election, Walker won almost 60 percent of the votes against Democratic opponent Pete Glidewell.

Earlier this week, Watts remained optimistic about the odds being stacked against him.

"I don't put much stock in polls. I put stock in people," Watts said. "And what I have seen in early voting turnout is a lot of enthusiasm in our favor."

During their campaigns, neither candidate ran television ads, but both had volunteers making phone calls, knocking on doors and giving out yard signs to donors.

CANDIDATE FUNDRAISING

\$1,228,751.58

is the amount of money Republican Mark Walker raised for his campaign as of Oct. 17.

\$328,694.01

is the amount of money Democrat Ryan Watts raised for his campaign as of Oct. 17.

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OPINIONS



CAMPUS VOICES

We need more socioeconomic diversity at Elon



Kyra Letsinger
Columnist
@elonnewsnetwork

College administrations love claiming they want people of all socioeconomic backgrounds to attend their schools. This makes sense as overall trends show affordability has become increasingly important to those searching for the perfect university. This also leads to many universities adding affordability to their list of attributes.

Furman University’s website claims students can “earn [their degree] from one of South Carolina’s most prestigious universities — for an affordable price.” Davidson University encourages students to contact financial aid experts to ensure affordability. Elon University states in the website’s cost and financial aid section that “[The university] maintains its affordable cost through a careful strategy.”

These claims lead both

current and prospective students to believe their schools are doing the most to achieve socioeconomic diversity on their campuses, but unfortunately, these claims are just that: claims with no real facts or actions to back them up.

Data posted by The New York Times in January 2017 showed that 38 colleges in the nation had more students coming from families with incomes in the top one percent (making over \$630,000 a year) than they had students from families in the bottom 60 percent.

Furman was ranked 34th, with 16.2 percent of their student body in the top one percent and 15.5 percent coming from the bottom 60 percent. Davidson came in 33rd with 17.4 percent coming from the top one percent and 16.4 percent coming from the bottom 60 percent.

So where exactly did Elon fall? In 15th place.

That’s right, Elon is 15th highest in the nation for most top one percent students vs. lower 60 percent students, with a gap of 14 percent of students coming from the top one percent and 9.2 percent coming from the bottom 60 percent.

For Elon, this gap has only increased over time, which begs the question: what are schools actually doing to ensure socioeconomic diversity? Actually, finding the initiatives used to increase enrollment of students from low- and middle-class families is incredibly difficult.

With all that said, many people, especially students, ask why socioeconomic diversity is even relevant. In the eyes of many, the lack of low- and middle-income students enrolled in higher education

programs, especially private colleges and universities, isn’t even a problem. They ask these questions because they do not know what they’re missing out on by not attending school with students of a variety socioeconomic backgrounds.

A piece written two years ago in The New York Times and expanded on by the Association of American Colleges and Universities discusses one of the most crucial reasons this type of diversity is needed. It is often assumed that initiatives that assist low- and middle-income students in attending college is about those students alone. In reality, as the articles state, this diversity is a “favor to us all ... It’s a plus for richer students, who are then exposed to a breadth of perspectives that lies at the heart of the truest, best education.”

The over 500 students at

Elon that receive Pell Grants have a perspective on life so astronomically different from a student who will never have to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This is not a bad thing, not by a long shot. Rather, this is a learning opportunity, a chance for all students to engage in discussions they may not have had until much later on in their lives if at all.

For the sake of all students, colleges and universities, including Elon, need to work harder to provide students with the educational opportunity of experiencing as many diverse perspectives as possible. This starts with ending claims of affordability, recognizing the issues at hand and working with students to find the best way to make this socioeconomic diversity happen at their institutions.

CAMPUS VOICES

We must respect the right to freedom of religion



Melissa Beck
Columnist
@elonnewsnetwork

Though politics has been dominating the news with midterm elections being next week, the Asia Bibi case is news that needs to be talked about. Aasiya Noreen, better known as Asia Bibi, was convicted of blasphemy by a Pakistani court and has spent the past eight years on death row. On Wednesday, Oct. 31, she was finally acquitted of her charges.

Asia Bibi is a Christian farm laborer who drank from the same cup as a Muslim, which then led to false allegations that she insulted the Prophet Muhammad. Now, there are thousands of Islamic protests happening against the Pakistani government for their decision. The state is currently in a battle with supporters of the Tehreek-e Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), a growing political party whose one goal is to punish

blasphemers.

When reading news such as this, it makes me take a step back and think about how lucky I am to live in the United States. When our founders wrote the Constitution, they were careful to separate church and state so we were guaranteed religious freedom.

Look at Asia Bibi.

This woman has spent eight years in prison because she drank water before giving it to the other Muslims. These were false charges. She spent all that time behind bars — and was almost killed multiple times — because she supposedly disrespected the Prophet.

I know looking now at some of the people in government that it is hard for certain groups of people to feel like this is a country built on freedom. Yes, much of the U.S. is still divided by

discrimination and prejudice, but we are promised the right to practice any religion we choose, whether others agree with it or not.

I can’t wrap my head around being imprisoned because I disrespected God. I am surrounded by people with different religious views than my own, and I respect them. The U.S. was created choosing to respect those differences.

We have states in the U.S. where a religion predominantly resides, such as Mormonism in Utah, but no one living in Utah is required to practice Mormonism. See the difference?

To make matters worse, there were riots when she was released. People were so outraged that this falsely accused woman wasn’t hanged for her “crime,” so they decided to riot.

These protests have forbidden her from leaving the country as she had originally planned to, and the TLP especially continues to try to publicly hang her.

It deeply disturbs me that Bibi’s life is on the line because of her religious values. I can’t even imagine living in a country where I don’t have the right to speak my mind or practice what I believe.

Our First Amendment rights are so valuable. It is why we as Americans are able to protest, pray and preach what we believe without fearing for our lives.

I am proud to be an American, even when I don’t agree with the way the government operates. I get to live and practice as I choose without being shamed for it, and that is something we should all be more appreciative of.

ONLINE:
For more Homecoming Weekend coverage, go to elonnewsnetwork.com

LIFESTYLE



The Harlem Globetrotters perform in Schar Center as a part of the Homecoming Weekend festivities on Thursday, Nov. 1.



Tres McMichael and Hope Koene become Homecoming Royalty on Saturday, Nov. 3.

and the winners are ...



Jesse McCartney performs in Schar Center for the Homecoming Weekend concert on Saturday, Nov. 3.

Getting to know the Homecoming Royalty

ROYALTY | from cover

“It’s paid for completely all four years — sixth, seventh, eighth grade and ninth grade,” McMichael said. “During the year, they have different Broadway shows, and they tour the country and meet celebrities.”

The foundation offers mentorships with other females in different industries such as fashion design and performance. “I wanted to find a way to give back to that organization and the cool things that they’re doing,” McMichael said.

Koene said she will give the prize money to Planned Parenthood. Though she doesn’t consider herself to be a controversial person, Koene said she decided that supporting Planned Parenthood would mean staying true to herself and her passion for health care.

“Obviously, just considering the political climate, it’s really important to advocate that women’s health care isn’t a controversial topic; it’s something that should be a right to all people,” Koene said. “I support all the activism as well as the health care that Planned Parenthood provides to people.”

Despite the political tension, Koene said she believes her choice played a significant factor in the elections.

“I had a lot of people tell me that they voted for me on that platform because they’re really supportive of women’s healthcare,” Koene said.

In 2016, SGA changed the way students would vote for Homecoming Court. In previous years, students voted for one female and one male —

now students vote for two nominees, no matter the gender — changing the title from Homecoming King and Queen to Homecoming Royalty.

McMichael said he believes the winners should simply be referred to as Homecoming Royalty.

“I definitely support the idea of it being Homecoming Royalty and not necessarily Homecoming King and Queen. It’s kind of dismantling this idea that everything has to be heteronormative,” McMichael said. “It should be two people who the community wants — whether it’s two males, two females or two people who don’t identify on the gender binary — to represent the university. It’s all about the spirit of the person and how that spirit is existent with Elon and how they support the university and represent the university, and it doesn’t have to be limited to their gender.”

McMichael says he enjoyed seeing the Elon community come together to celebrate the university.

“It was just a really great weekend to bring together the Fighting Christians and the Phoenix — all of the people who are part of this great community and make Elon so special,” McMichael said.

“

I SUPPORT ALL THE ACTIVISM AS WELL AS THE HEALTHCARE THAT PLANNED PARENTHOOD PROVIDES.

HOPE KOENE
SENIOR, HOMECOMING ROYALTY

A look back at an eventful weekend at Elon

Michael Asch Elon News Network | @asch_michael

This past weekend, Elon University students, staff, faculty and alumni came together to celebrate Homecoming weekend.

The university was able to show off the brand new Schar Center, which hosted a variety of events during its inaugural Homecoming Weekend. The Harlem Globetrotters kicked off the weekend at Schar Center by entertaining a crowd of more than 3,000 people.

Freshman Danielle Thomas said seeing the Globetrotters gave her a sense of nostalgia and that the event “brings all the families together ... this is just a good Thursday kickoff to Homecoming.”

Due to weather concerns, Schar Center became the location of “Rock the Block.” The event went on without a hitch as people were still able to enjoy the food trucks, games and live music.

Schar Center also hosted its first Homecoming concert on Saturday night, which featured Quinn XCII, Sean Kingston and Jesse McCartney. SGA Executive Secretary Jack Johnson said the concert gave students a throwback vibe with a modern twist.

Johnson said most students know the words to Sean Kingston’s 2007

”

STUDENTS WANTED EXACTLY WHAT WE GAVE THEM, ACCORDING TO SURVEY RESULTS.

JACK JOHNSON
SGA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

classic “Beautiful Girls” and Jesse McCartney’s 2004 classic “Beautiful Soul.” Johnson also described Quinn XCII as an “up-and-coming major artist.”

“Students wanted exactly what we gave them, according to survey results,” Johnson said.

Johnson said his favorite part of the weekend was the tailgate. “Students should come out to these tailgates,” Johnson said. “We are changing the culture of this university slowly, but we need their buy-in if we’re going to make tailgates the massive student event that everyone seems to want to have.”

Elon was able to take the energy from the tailgate onto the football field, where they beat Rhode Island 24-21. After the third quarter, the Homecoming Court winners were announced.

Johnson said Elon has “moved away from a King and Queen model to a model that does not include gender in the specifications for who can win or lose, and I think that was a great way to be more inclusive.”

This weekend, Elon’s class of 1968 celebrated its 50th graduation anniversary, also known as the Golden Anniversary.

Betsy Deerborn Miller ’68 reflected on the milestone. “It feels wonderful that you had this legacy,” Miller said. “It’s very surprising what Elon looks like today, and it’s great to see friends that you haven’t seen in a long time.”

Elon students, faculty, staff and alumni had a lot to celebrate this year. The events from this year’s Homecoming Weekend did just that.

ELON EATS

Homemade dining in downtown Graham

A classic American vibe, complete with burgers, fries and milkshakes

Kaitlin MacIntyre
Elon News Network | @macintyrekait

About a 20-minute drive from campus is the Graham Soda Shop and Grill, a small-town diner and grill that serves up classic American meals and milkshakes. Located at the Court Square, the Graham Soda Shop and Grill sits snugly in a corner near the courthouse.

“Originally there was a soda shop, but not in the same location. We opened in 2007; the original shop was where the bell is. It burned down 15 or 20 years ago,” said Barbara Jones, a server at the Graham Soda Shop and Grill.

Upon walking in, customers are enveloped in a classic atmosphere, inviting them to seat themselves at vinyl booths or the ageless bar.

The “Room of Legends” holds memoirs of past first-responder departments in the surrounding areas.

“Owners are very community-oriented and it’s their way of acknowledging first responders,” Jones said. Keeping with the theme

of community, old photographs line the walls, creating a nostalgic feeling for customers.

“We still have to this day [customers] who say, ‘That’s me in this picture,’” Jones said. “A lot was donated and given by the community when they first started.”

The menu presents affordable, delicious appetizers, entrees and deserts ranging from \$4.29 to \$12.99.

Pricing at the Graham Soda Shop and Grill makes it a perfect destination for groups, college students and families looking for a quality meal on a budget.



A LOT WAS DONATED AND GIVEN BY THE COMMUNITY WHEN THEY FIRST STARTED.

BARBARA JONES
SERVER

“Our chips are homemade, our fries are homemade, our ranch and sweet sauce is homemade,” Jones said.

The Graham Soda Shop and Grill creates homestyle

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Hours:
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Friday – Saturday: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

food that tastes authentic, making customers long for home.

Robert Pelosi, a customer and Elon freshman, commented on the “Heavy Hitter Bacon Cheeseburger” he ordered.

“It was amazing. I even doubled it, it was so good,” Pelosi said.

The Graham Soda Shop and Grill also offers a mixture of specialty drinks, soda and milkshakes in flavors such as black cherry.

The shop’s investment in the community benefits not only the patrons, but also those working for the eatery.

When asked what the best part of working at the Graham Soda Shop and Grill was, Jones said, “Working here, I’ve gotten to know the community and patrons. Watching the kids grow and do different things in the community. And we’ve got a pretty cool manager in the back.”

The Graham Soda Shop



KAITLIN MACINTYRE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Customers are encouraged to enjoy a range of burger options, including the “Heavy Hitter Bacon Cheeseburger,” which can be served with a side of French fries.

and Grill brings in customers with their good food, but creates regulars with their dedication to the community. Not only does it invite the community in; it is also dedicated to helping the community in times of turmoil.

After Hurricanes Michael

and Florence tore through the state, the Graham Soda Shop and Grill offered different forms of relief, according to Jones.

“We donated ice, we donated drinks, we did have a meal here. The owners themselves did a lot to help

those in need. We stayed open and kept serving people who asked for it,” Jones said.

This relief was what North Carolina needed in its hours of need, creating a safe haven and comforting those who needed it most.

ELON WATCHES

Turner Theatre revisits the past and looks toward the future

Movies and documentaries provide campus entertainment

Maria Barreto
Elon News Network | @maria_abarreto

Since opening in December 2016, Turner Theatre has provided Elon University with an on-campus movie theater experience available to all students, faculty, staff and families. Films ranging from documentaries to blockbuster features are screened on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and are decided by Turner Theatre management with the help of the Student Union Board Cinema Committee. Elon Watches is where Elon News Network previews the films to be screened the following weekend, offering insight into the moviegoing opportunities available.

“Jewish American Soldiers: Stories from WWII”

Homecoming Weekend is a time of reunions and welcoming alumni back home to Elon University. While the weekend festivities may have ended, there’s no reason to stop the celebration there.

This week, Turner The-

atre is screening the documentary “Jewish American Soldiers: Stories from WWII,” directed by Glenn Fishkin. And members who stay until the credits roll might recognize the name of Elon alumnus Mason Sklut ’14, first assistant camera of the film. The Sklut Hillel Center is named after Mason’s parents, Eric and Lori Sklut, who have been leading figures in growing the Jewish community on campus since first touring Elon with Mason many years ago.

The film tells the story of 12 Jewish WWII veterans, nine of whom were from the Carolinas. The film focuses on how the veterans were facing adversity externally from the Nazis and the Japanese but also internally from anti-Semitism within the United States’ borders.

The film brings attention to the lesser-told perspective of Jewish WWII veterans who faced difficulties from every side and experienced trials that transcended class, region and religious beliefs.

“Crazy Rich Asians”

In 1993, Wayne Wang’s “The Joy Luck Club” hit theaters and reached critical and box office success. The film featured an all-Asian cast and was thought

to spark a new era of representation for Asian and Asian-American communities in the United States. Twenty-three years later, Asians and Asian Americans only held 3.1 percent of film roles in 2016, according to a Hollywood Diversity Report published by University of California Los Angeles.

Jon M. Chu’s “Crazy Rich Asians” has once again opened the path to hope of wider representation previously forged by “The Joy Luck Club.” Chu’s film follows the tale of a Chinese economics professor Rachel Chu (Constance Wu), who falls in love with Nick Young (Henry Golding), who turns out to be from an incredibly prestigious and wealthy family in Singapore.

Audiences looking for a feel-good escape from reality will enjoy the film’s originality and authentic emotion brought out by extravagant set pieces and multidimensional characters that embody everything great about romantic comedies.

“Back to the Future”

For audiences not in the mood for war stories or romantic encounters, Turner Theatre offers the perfect alternative with the

sci-fi classic “Back to the Future,” directed by Robert Zemeckis. The film follows teen Marty McFly (Michael J. Fox) and his eccentric scientist friend Doc Brown (Christopher Lloyd) as Brown’s latest experiment goes wrong and ends up sending the teen to the 1950s.

Since its release in 1985, the film has become a classic in film and pop culture history and is pointed to as the instigator of a boom of science fiction and space-oriented stories that emerged in the 1990s and early 2000s.



IF YOU GO...

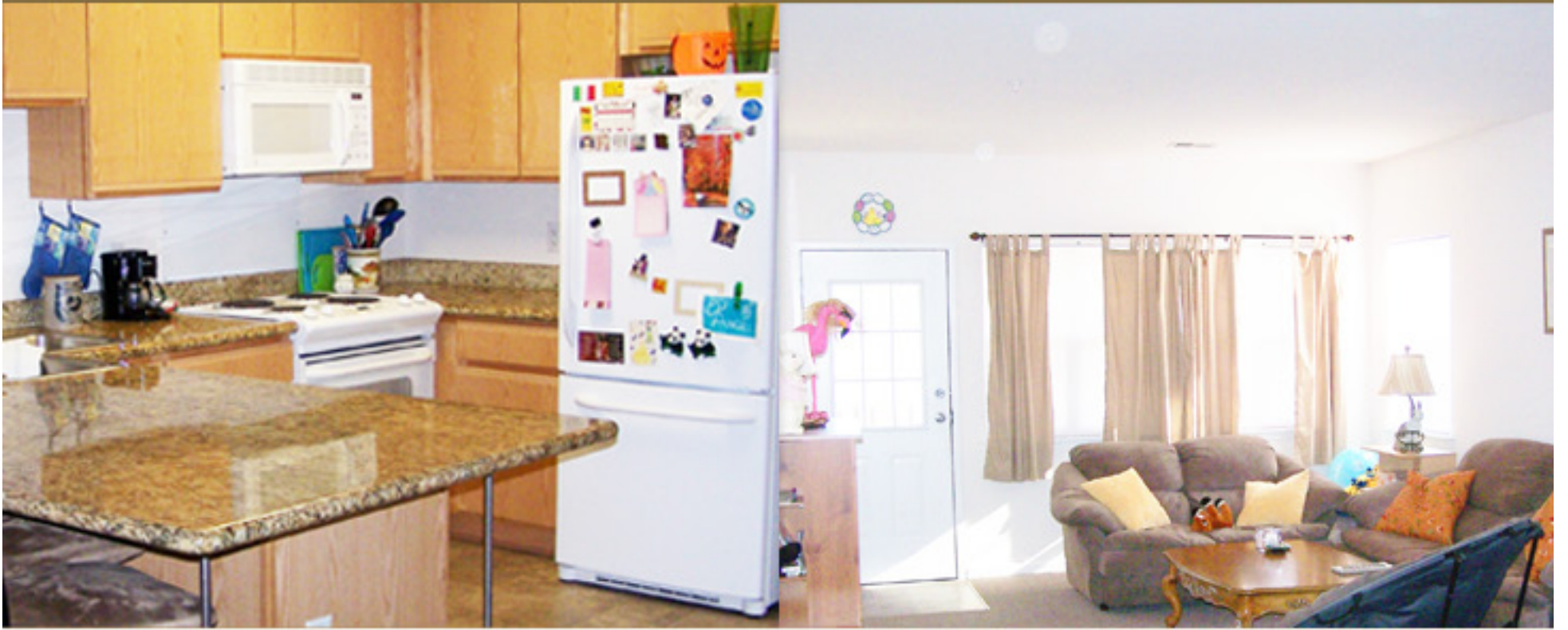
Jewish American Soldiers: Stories from WWII:

Thursday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m.

Crazy Rich Asians: Friday, Nov. 9, 8 p.m. and

Saturday, Nov. 10, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

Back to the Future: Sunday, Nov. 11, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.



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THE PENDULUM



2018-2019



LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon's women's basketball team huddles together before their game against the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Schar Center on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

How the dream of opening Schar Center became a reality

Jack Haley & Nick Bisconti

Sports Director & Elon News Network
@jackhaley17 | @elonnewsnetwork

One of Elon University's major components of its strategic plan began its journey on Oct. 21, 2016. Surrounded by members of the board of trustees, then-President Leo Lambert broke ground on the new 5,100-seat, 160,000-square foot Schar Center.

More than two years later, the space sees the sun.

Elon will get to celebrate the new athletic space with a game to which little is comparable in the history of Elon athletics. The men's basketball team will get the opportunity to break in Schar Center with an in-state basketball powerhouse.

On Nov. 9, the Phoenix will welcome the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Tar Heels to Schar Center in a blockbuster debut for the space.

"The attention that we're getting to open up the facility against a storied program like North Carolina is unbelievable," said head coach Matt Matheny. "You can't help but hear from people about tickets or 'Wow, you guys got North Carolina to open up your building,' and we're getting major attention from it."

Though Schar Center has already played host to all volleyball home games, the inauguration of President Connie Book, the Harlem Globetrotters and the women's basketball team getting to open basketball competition in the arena three days earlier, the Friday night contest has been circled on the calendar by most as the day Schar Cen-

ter officially opens.

Elon will get the chance to be on the national stage in their own home by bringing in No. 8 UNC to put on a show.

"We've got a great facility right now, and for everybody that comes in, there's just this 'wow' factor, and there's been several people already in the facility from Chapel Hill and work at North Carolina, and they have the same response of 'Wow, this is really awesome,'" said Director of Athletics Dave Blank.

The Tar Heels have a long, storied history in the world of college basketball.

“

WE'VE GOT A GREAT FACILITY RIGHT NOW, AND FOR EVERYBODY THAT COMES IN, THERE'S JUST THIS 'WOW' FACTOR.

DAVE BLANK

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

A seat at the table of legendary programs in college basketball has been officially reserved for UNC.

So how did Elon coax the perennial powerhouse to board buses and make the 37-mile drive west to step Under the Oaks?

With the Phoenix looking to have a big-name team come to open up Schar Center, lots of places were considered. "We considered everybody and anybody because it is not an easy thing to get a team to agree to do," Matheny said. But UNC stuck out in the minds of those in charge of making

a schedule because of some key connections.

For one, Elon has two former UNC basketball players currently sitting on their bench. Jack Wooten graduated from UNC in 2009 after winning a national championship with the Tar Heels under Roy Williams that same year. Wooten, who has a strong relationship with the Tar Heel program, is also an integral part of the scheduling making process for the Phoenix.

Blank made it a point to note that this was not the only key to getting UNC to come to Schar Center. "I think that's always helpful to have that. I don't think that was the key factor. I think it was the relationship and the willingness of Coach Williams and the people in the North Carolina staff that we're all friends with, and we just thought it would be a great thing to do if they could manage it in their schedule," Blank said.

Matheny and Blank seemed to be on the same page in recognizing the impact Williams had on making this dream a reality.

"A lot of credit goes to coach Williams. I've always heard he enjoys doing that; he and I have talked about it, and he told me he likes doing that. There's a lot of very prominent and powerful supporters that support North Carolina and Elon, and I think that played a major role in his willingness to do it, and the proximity to the school helps too," Matheny said. "When we made the strong connection to coach [Roy] Williams and he was able to do it, we were pretty thankful."

Another suit on the bench also played for Williams. J.B. Tanner played in the Dean Dome and also won a 2009 ring with Wooten. Tanner is now in his fifth season with the Phoe-



LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomores Shekinah Reese and Lauryn Harper, members of Phoenix Phanatics, dance off the stress of the game during a timeout in Schar Center on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

nix. With the connections to UNC, it seems only logical that they pay a visit to Elon.

From a marketing perspective, it is not shocking Elon wanted to try and reel in a big name to headline the opening event. Elon is familiar with playing against big-name teams. Elon signed a deal with Duke University to play them three consecutive years, the last of which was 2017. The difference is that the contract stipulated that the two teams met twice in Cameron Indoor, the 9,300-seat home of the Blue Devils, and they played the third game in the Greensboro Coliseum Complex. While that deal was a great one to get the Phoenix some national recognition, it did not let them play on their home hardwood.

Elon struck a deal with UNC similar to the one they had with Duke, also playing

SCHAR CENTER BY THE NUMBERS

5,100

total seats in Schar Center.

160K

square-footage of Schar Center.

~\$40M

was the approximate cost of the entire space.

a trio of games. But this time, Elon gets a true home game while still visiting the Tar Heels twice as they did with Duke. Matheny wants to make sure students take full advantage of being able to see the Phoenix take on a prestigious program like UNC.

"What's going to be really cool is the student section. It's going to be full and packed," Matheny said. "To see an Elon fan base hopefully rabid and enjoying college basketball on our campus is something that we enjoy and have dreamed about for a long time."

Win or lose, Elon students will be treated to a marquee matchup that was many months in the making.

For one night, the eyes of one of the nation's most popular college basketball programs will be focused on the scene unfolding in Schar Center.

LEGACIES AND LEGENDS

How Charlotte Smith prepared her team to face her own alma mater and mentor

Jack Haley

Sports Director | @jackhaley17

The year is 1994. Bill Clinton is president of the United States, Forrest Gump is in theaters tugging at heartstrings and current Elon University women's basketball head coach Charlotte Smith is playing for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

IN THE PAST

Elon has faced UNC on the basketball court. In 2011, the Phoenix lost 78-73 to the Tar Heels.

On April 3, 1994, with just 0.7 seconds on the clock, Smith shakes her defender and drains a three-pointer to give UNC their first — and to this day, their only — national title.

Since that day 24 years ago, Smith has gone to the WNBA and worked as an assistant coach for her former mentor, UNC women's basketball head coach Sylvia Hatchell.

But that was then, and this is now.

Smith is now in her eighth season guiding the Elon women's basketball team as the sixth head coach in program history. Smith has had just one losing season with the program — when her 2013-2014 team dipped one game below the .500 mark to finish the season. Smith got her team up to speed in a hurry since joining the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA). In the four years they have competed in the new conference, Smith's team has won it twice.

Now moving into this new season, Smith gets to take on different challenges. Her biggest challenge may be making her new house her home. Smith and her team moved from the corner of Haggard and North Williamson Avenues to their new residence in Schar Center down the street. The move may not have been a large one in terms of distance, but the atmosphere compared to their old digs in Alumni Gym could make anyone's head spin.

With the 5,100-seat, 160,000-foot, nearly \$40 million convocation center looking to make a splash in its first year on campus, it seemed only fitting that the teams playing there get star treatment and a big game to ring in the new space. For the women's basketball program, that meant welcoming in the UNC Tar Heels, Smith's alma mater.

Smith knows very well just how rare of an occasion it is for UNC to give schools this opportunity.

"It's an honor to be able to play this game because typically, coach Hatchell does not play a lot on the road in the non-conference. So, we were excited to be able to get them to come to our gym," Smith said. "UNC has a great tradition and a great reputation, so it should be very exciting."

Director of Athletics Dave Blank noted there was a little bit of luck involved in getting everything to fall in place and get these two teams together to open Schar Center.

"The relationship with coach Smith on our side and coach Hatchell on their side, it just fell into place as something that would

be a great thing to do," Blank said. "This year, we got lucky with the NCAA changing the opening to Tuesday, so we've positioned the women to play on Tuesday and the men to play on Friday. We didn't want to have to collide with each other, and it ended up working out great."

Another challenge Smith is facing this year is the youth of her squad. The Phoenix yet again are one of the youngest teams in the country. With just two juniors and no seniors on the roster, it's going to be up to the less experienced players to win this year. But to Smith, mindset and culture mean much more than age.

"You have to give them confidence, and I think a lot of the confidence derives

from our tradition and our program's legacy and the things that we've done against top competition," Smith said. "We've been very competitive in those games, and so they just have to realize that if you go out and compete to your highest potential, anything can happen."

But this isn't the first time Smith has had to deal with youth.

Last year, the Phoenix was lucky enough to be anchored by three very talented seniors, but they were still headlined by a large freshman class, making up half the roster. Smith has taken what she learned in her time in Chapel Hill to help develop her coaching approach. Smith reflected on the "holis-

“

I'M EXCITED BECAUSE ANY TIME YOU PRESENT YOURSELF WITH A CHALLENGE, YOU NOT ONLY BECOME BETTER AS PLAYERS, BUT WE ALSO BECOME BETTER AS COACHES.

CHARLOTTE SMITH
HEAD COACH



Head coach Charlotte Smith hugs her old college coach Sylvia Hatchell before their respective teams go head-to-head in Schar Center on Tuesday, Nov. 6.



FILE PHOTO BY CAROLINE BREHMAN

Head coach Charlotte Smith raises the Tom Yeager Trophy after winning the 2018 CAA Tournament on March 10. This is Smith's second championship in a row.

tic approach" coach Hatchell had, getting prepared to take on anything. From daily quotes to life lessons, Smith knows Hatchell shaped who she has become today as a coach and person.

"One of the things I'm really big on is journaling, so I went back and read my journal from last season, and it was some of the same stuff that I'm seeing now. So I'm having to encourage myself to get wiry in what we're doing and be patient in the process and know that things will get better each day," Smith said.

This isn't the first time Smith has taken on her old school and former place of employment. The teams met in Chapel Hill two years ago, and the Phoenix gave UNC all it could handle, taking the Tar Heels to the wire and falling in a 78-73 decision on Smith's bobblehead promotional night.

Smith is excited to get the opportunity to coach against her old mentor once again. She knows that while they are very close off the court, as soon as they step on the hardwood, it's all business.

"We know each other pretty well. And some of the things that they ran, I brought here and tweaked them a little bit," Smith said. "I always tell my players, 'There's a defense for every offense, and there's an offense for every defense, and may the best man win.' So we'll see how it turns out."

Though the matchup with UNC may seem like the biggest challenge of the year for the women's basketball team, there are many tests in the schedule. Before getting to conference play, Elon must go through a tough non-conference schedule, which Smith hopes will continue to make the team better.

"We always learn something when we play against tough competitors. We have Marist coming in as well as UNC and also Auburn, so those will be games where we test ourselves and learn a lot about ourselves. And so I'm excited because any time you present yourself with a challenge, you not only become better as players, but we also become better as coaches," Smith said.

While Smith has been used to hunting for titles in her time at Elon, she knows this year will present different challenges. For her team this year, it's about taking the schedule day by day.

"We have to get better each day. That was the key to our success last year," Smith said. "It's just a learning curve we have to try to shorten and take it one game at a time and just try to get better at something each day, and eventually we'll find ourselves clicking around tournament time. So that's the goal."

LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

2018-2019 HOME BAS

MEN'S NOVEMBER

ALL GAMES HELD IN

09

UNC
7 P.M.

15

MILLIGAN
7 P.M.

27

CENTRAL PENN
7 P.M.

DECEMBER

01

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY
2 P.M.

04

FURMAN
7 P.M.

07

UNCG
7 P.M.

16

CANISIUS
2 P.M.

28

TOWSON
7 P.M.

30

JAMES
MADISON
4 P.M.

JANUARY

10

NORTHEASTERN
7 P.M.

12

HOFSTRA
7 P.M.

31

DELAWARE
7 P.M.

FEBRUARY

02

DREXEL
7 P.M.

16

WILLIAM &
MARY
7 P.M.

21

UNCW
7 P.M.

23

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
7 P.M.



BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

SCHAR CENTER

WOMEN'S
NOVEMBER



06

UNC
100-69

28

CHOWAN
7 P.M.

30

MARIST
7 P.M.

DECEMBER

05

DAVIDSON
7 P.M.

18

NORTH
CAROLINA A&T
7 P.M.

22

AUBURN
2 P.M.

JANUARY

11

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
7 P.M.

13

UNCW
2 P.M.

FEBRUARY

01

DREXEL
7 P.M.

03

DELAWARE
2 P.M.

17

WILLIAM &
MARY
1 P.M.

22

JAMES
MADISON
7 P.M.

24

TOWSON
2 P.M.

MARCH

07

HOFSTRA
7 P.M.

09

NORTHEASTERN
2 P.M.

Ready to defy expectations: Men's basketball preview

Picked to finish eighth in the CAA, Elon is ready to prove people wrong

Nick Bisconti, Alex Reynolds & Caitlin Rundle
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Last year, after going 14-18 (6-12 CAA), Elon University men's basketball begins its first year playing in Schar Center. The Phoenix is predicted to finish eighth in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) this season.

Leading up to the season

The Phoenix graduated five seniors, one of them being redshirt-senior Brian Dawkins. The other seniors were Dmitri Thompson, Collin Luther, Jack Anton and Jack George. Dawkins was one of Elon's most efficient shooters and rebounders. Thompson has continued his basketball career in Lebanon, playing for BC Atlas Al Ferzol, and Dawkins now plays for GTK Gilwice in Poland.

The Phoenix will have to look to fill the holes on offense from Dawkins and Thompson, as well as find new leadership.

The team

Elon has an experienced team full of returning starters and a veteran coaching staff poised to make im-



ABBY GIBBS | PHOTO EDITOR

Freshman forward Chuck Hannah keeps the ball away from Randolph College defense in the Phoenix's exhibition game on Oct. 30.

provements from last season. Head coach Matthew Matheny is entering his tenth season as head coach of the Phoenix and fifth in the CAA.

Matheny has led the Phoenix to a 140-148 record since his time began at Elon, and has guided the team to 14 or more victories in each of the past seven years.

Also returning this year to lead the Phoenix is senior forward Tyler Seibring. Seibring led the team last year up and down the court

in defensive rebounds and blocks on the defensive end. On the offensive end of the court, Seibring anchored the middle, leading the team in total points and offensive rebounds. But what separates Seibring from the traditional forward is his ability to generate offense outside the arc.

Alongside Siebring is senior guard Dainan Swoope. Swoope serves as the director of the offense from the backcourt. Swoope tallied 126 assists and 12 points per game last season.

Among the list of freshmen who are most likely to make an impact this season is guard Kris Wooten. In high school, Wooten was named an MVP in all three seasons he played and was also a career 1,000-pointer.

Then there's forward Chuck Hannah, who was a captain of his high school team his senior year and was involved with two of his high school's national championship runs, finishing as runner-up in both.

Italian native, forward Federico Poser, played on

the Italian U20 men's national team in the Istanbul Tournament in 2018 and was involved in a team that won a national championship, where he averaged 16.7 points that season.

Looking at the road ahead

The Phoenix started the 2018-2019 season with a win against the Manhattan College Jaspers on Tuesday, Oct. 6. The final score of the game was 62-56. The team then plays the first men's

BY THE NUMBERS

1

season above a .500 record is Elon's record since joining the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA).

62-56

was the score of Elon's first win of the 2018-2019 season against the Manhattan College Jaspers.

basketball game in Schar Center's history against the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Tar Heels.

On Jan. 10, the Phoenix will host the preseason No. 1 team in the CAA, the Northeastern University Huskies. The Huskies have not lost much of a step coming into the 2018-2019 season as they are returning its top players from last year, redshirt-senior point guard Vasa Pusica and junior guard Shawn Occeus.

Northeastern, next to the College of Charleston, will be Elon's biggest test in conference play, and to beat one of them would be critical to Elon's ranking in the CAA.

Whether the Phoenix meet their preseason ranking or surpass expectations, it will be a historic first men's basketball season to open Schar Center.

Elon-UNC Preview: How David might topple Goliath

What has to happen for Elon to pull off an upset to start the season

Jack Haley
Sports Director | @jackhaley17

Elon University men's basketball kicks off their inaugural season in Schar Center this year. To ring in the special occasion, Elon brought in the No. 8 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Tar Heels to break in the new space. No matter how uneven the game may seem on paper, they play every game for a reason.

Scouting the Tar Heels

Last year was a down year by the standards of some UNC fans. The Tar Heels finished 26-11 overall and 11-7 in Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) play. They entered the NCAA tournament as a No. 2 seed but bowed out early, losing handily to No. 7 seed Texas A&M University in the second round.

The Tar Heels are bringing in a major recruiting class this year. The three freshmen coming in are five-star recruits Nassir Little and Coby White, and four-star recruit Leaky Black. For some perspective, the highest rated Elon player is senior shooting guard Steven Santa

Ana, who was a three-star recruit.

The Tar Heels are led by young players, returning only two seniors: forward Luke Maye and guard Kenny Williams.

Leading UNC's team is the legendary head coach Roy Williams. Williams, now in his fifteenth season at the helm, has racked up quite the list of accolades, and it doesn't look like he's slowing down. Williams has led the Tar Heels to three national titles, has gone to six national championship games and has the second most career tournament wins of all-time with 76.

How does Elon win this game?

It would be a longshot to expect Elon to win, but you can't count them out from coming out on top. It became a reality last year for the Tar Heels when they welcomed the Wofford University Terriers to the Dean Dome and then lost to them 79-75. Crazy things happen in sports. So how does Elon get it done?

It looks like playing down low is not going to work.

Elon does not have the size to compete with the UNC big men. Guys who can generally hold their own in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) like senior center Karolis Kundrotas, the six-foot, eleven-inch Lithuanian, and senior forward Tyler Seibring, are going to have trouble working in the low post against the UNC centers.

Elon is going to be forced to do



ERIC WEBB | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Left to right: Redshirt-sophomore Seth Fuller, seniors Sheldon Eberhardt, Danian Swoope and Tyler Seibring and sophomore Simon Wright walk off the court at the 2018 CAA Tournament on March 3.

what they do during lots of games — shoot the three.

If Elon can get hot from behind the three-point line, they are going to have a chance. The team is capable of making threes, and they recruit guys to be able to do so, but they need to be particularly exceptional when they play the Tar Heels.

The final thing Elon needs to do to have a prayer of pulling off an upset is to be physical. The big, strong, fast UNC players are going to make Elon work and make them

pick up the tempo of their play.

If the Phoenix really want to win this game, they need to use their possessions to slow down the tempo of the game and not take bad shots. It will probably be pretty tempting in the first half to try and take big shots while they are close with UNC, but that is the quickest way to dig themselves into a hole.

If Elon wants to win this game, they are going to need to score. They cannot win a defensive battle with the Tar Heels, but they can try and outshoot them.

BY THE NUMBERS

4-18

is Elon's all-time record against University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

100-62

was the final score of the last game between Elon and UNC in 2011.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL DROPS HOME OPENER TO UNC

Two injuries in the first game could end Elon’s season before it even starts

Jack Haley
Sports Director | @jackhaley17

Elon University’s women’s basketball team (0-1) was unable to start the reign of Schar Center in style, dropping their first game of the regular season 100-69 to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1-0) on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

It was a sloppy first half between the two teams. Missed layups, bad fouls and thrown away possessions led to a not very visually appealing first period of play. Elon got on the board with their first points from a layup by sophomore forward Emily Maupin, who drew a foul but was unable to convert the one-and-one play. Despite a distinct size differential, Elon did not seem deterred by the towering UNC players. Elon more than doubled the rebounding total of the Tar Heels 21-10 in the first quarter. Creating the most out of their opportunities and using some quick moves, Elon found itself down by just one point at the end of the first quarter.

“I felt like we were locked in mentally and a lot more focused [in the first quarter]. I felt like we were a lot sharper in the first quarter of the game in terms of our defensive assignments and making sure we were boxing out,” said head coach Charlotte Smith.

The speed seemed to be a big challenge for the Phoenix. After every basket, UNC was pushing the ball up the court immediately to try and shake the Phoenix up in transition. Elon was able to keep up with the Tar Heels for the first quarter, using some missed layups to stay in the game. The pace of the play seemed to catch up to the Phoenix as early as the second quarter.

“What hurt us the most was when they went smaller,” Smith said. “They were able to switch a lot of things, and we weren’t able to capitalize on the switches.”

The Tar Heels came out quickly again in the second, opening up the period with the first five points. Elon was able to get some rhythm of their own

FINAL SCORE

100-69

was the final score for Elon’s opening regular season game against the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

going, with freshman guard Kayla Liles hitting two layups on back-to-back possessions to reel the Tar Heels back in. But the Tar Heels were able to put some distance between the two sides. A 13-2 run in the middle of the second quarter helped UNC open up a margin as high as 16 points with a minute and a half left to play until halftime.

“We made an adjustment to come out after halftime and send two people back on defense to try and stop the transition points,” said junior guard Lexi Mercer. “I think they got on a run in transition and scoring back-to-back baskets, and we got a little down on that. I think sometimes we were too worried about trying to get a rebound and we were losing our mentality to get back.”

But Elon was able to hold the Tar Heels and score the last six points of the period to stay within striking distance, down just 11 at the break. The margin Elon had on rebounds quickly evaporated as they were able to corral just three missed shots in the second quarter. Maupin led the way for the Phoenix in the first half with seven points and just as many rebounds.

Elon seemed to come out flat in the second half. After UNC got their legs and began to outrun the Phoenix, it seemed as though there was no stopping them. The length of the Tar Heels became a terror on the Phoenix and forced them into bad passes and settling for perimeter shots, all while catching up on rebounding, holding the Phoenix to another five rebounds.

“We allowed too many transition points in the second half,” Smith said. “That kind of hurt us, so we need to make some adjustments in terms of our transition defense.”

Shots were not falling for the Phoenix in the third quarter. Elon shot 7-14 from the floor, compared to UNC converting 12-17 shots and 4-8 three

pointers in the third quarter. Elon lost the services of sophomore forward Jaylin Powell just eight seconds into the half when she collided with a Tar Heel. Powell was helped off the court and returned later to sit on the bench in a sling.

Things went from bad to worse for the Phoenix in the fourth quarter. Down 32 points with just under six and a half minutes to play in the game, junior guard Jada Graves went down screaming in pain, grabbing her right knee. Though Smith may very well have just lost two of her starters in the first game of the season due to injuries, Smith is constantly focused on the end goal.

“Of course this is not what I had anticipated for our home opener, but it just goes back to what we’ve done all preseason: make adjustments and keep moving forward,” Smith said.

Graves was helped off the court to cheers from all fans but was completely unable to put any weight on her injured leg.

“We’re hoping ... Jada Graves is going to be okay. It’s pretty rough out there. We’ve been through that, so we’re just hoping she’s going to be okay,” said UNC head coach Sylvia Hatchell.

Elon went cold for the rest of the night, with a few spurts of offense. But after the injury, the life and energy of the team seemed to be drained.

“Overall, I felt like we played hard. We played for all 40 minutes even when we were down, so I’m very proud of my team,” Smith said.

Though the scoreboard may have told a different story, Smith is optimistic that the team will take away positives from this game and get ready to make another run.

“Getting back to the championship last year was a process. When we first started out, we got off to a rough start, but we started clicking and gelling at the right time, and that’s what it’s all about,” Smith said. “We may take some bumps and bruises early, but as long as we’re clicking at the right time, we’ll be fine.”

Elon gets back on the court Nov. 13 against North Carolina Central University on the road. Elon then stays on the road to play Duke University on Nov. 18 and Appalachian State on Nov. 20 before returning to Schar Center to take on Chowan University on Nov. 28.



Elon University’s women’s basketball team huddles at mid-court following the opening game of the season against UNC on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

HEART over HEIGHT

A young but hungry team is ready to hunt for their third straight championship

Nick Bisconti, Alex Reynolds & Caitlin Rundle

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Two hundred and thirty five days after walking off the court in disappointment following a loss to North Carolina State University in the first round of the NCAA tournament, Elon University women’s basketball will get its chance to step on to the court again. The Phoenix finished its season last year as Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) champions with an overall record of 25-8 and 14-4 in the conference.

The Phoenix roster is filled to the brim with underclassmen, with just two juniors on the team and no seniors. But head coach Charlotte Smith is confident they will be just fine.

Smith’s juniors, guards Lexi Mercer and Jada Graves, “have done a tremendous job stepping up to fill in that leadership role. They lead the team, they’re vocal, they’re doing great. ... If anything, we have more leadership than maybe we’ve had in the past in terms of the actual leading and being vocal.”

While Smith has five freshmen on the team, inexperience makes it feel like she has more. “Ariana Nance didn’t play last year because of her injury, Ariel Colón didn’t play much last year either and Emily [Maupin] didn’t play much last year, so we really have eight freshmen,” Smith said.

The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Tar Heels – Smith’s alma mater – will make the trek to Schar Center to open the season with the Phoenix.

Though it may feel like the UNC game is the biggest game

on the schedule, Smith and the rest of her team still have at least 29 other games to be prepared for.

Smith said that in years past, her main goal was to win championships, but this season, the approach has changed to focus on each individual game.

“Our goal is just to take it one day at a time and progress and get better every day,” Smith said. “In years past, I’d harp a lot on ‘championship, championship, championship,’ but this year, I’ll probably need to harp more on ‘Win the day.’”

Elon will have the luxury of staying close to home in the non-conference portion of their schedule as the team has just five away games on the calendar. The Phoenix only have to leave North Carolina twice, both times to neighboring states Virginia (Dec. 2 at Hampton University) and South Carolina (Dec. 9 at Winthrop University).

The Phoenix will start their quest for a third consecutive CAA championship on Jan. 4 against the Northeastern University Huskies. One month later, they will face the Drexel University Dragons on Feb. 1 in a rematch of last year’s CAA title game.

“We just need to play our style of basketball, and everything else will come,” Graves said.

The journey might be a long one to get to the championships and to the NCAA tournament, but Elon is ready for the challenge. As seen in the team’s exhibition game, the Phoenix are capable of sticking together when other teams fall apart.

Smith has high expectations of her team, but as Graves said, “Lexi and I know what coach Smith wants from us. ... We’re very coachable, [the other players] are very coachable, so we can handle anything she wants from us.”



Junior guard Jada Graves dodges UNC’s defense to make a layup in the third quarter on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

ABBY GIBBS | PHOTO EDITOR



SCHAR CENTER INAUGURAL SEASON