

BASKETBALL

SEASON PREVIEW



2021 - 2022

ELON WOMEN’S BASKETBALL LOOKING TO BOUNCE BACK

The Phoenix look to take a jump after a difficult, shortened season

Trevor Boehm
Elon News Network

The Elon University women’s basketball team and head coach Charlotte Smith are looking to build upon last season’s record of 7-8. A COVID-19 ridden 2020-21 campaign presented many challenges for the Phoenix. But with a plethora of talent and returning leaders, this Elon Phoenix squad will be looking to take that next step and contend with the upper echelon of the Colonial Athletic Association.

The Phoenix is looking to utilize a combination of experience in their starting lineup, which features four senior players and junior Vanessa Taylor. One of the leaders for this squad is senior guard Brie Perpignan. Smith said Perpignan has been an influential member of this season’s team.

“Brie brings great energy to practice every day,” Smith said. “She brings a smile on her face every day. She’s done a great job of leading this team in the preseason.”

Along with Perpignan, Smith said senior center Evonna McGill, senior guard Kayla Liles and redshirt senior guard Ariana Nance will all be taking on elevated roles in the 2021-22 campaign for the Phoenix.

The CAA preseason poll tabs Elon to finish sixth in the upcoming season, with Perpignan garnering All-CAA honorable mention honors. Even though the Phoenix is projected to finish in the middle of the pack in the CAA, this squad aims to be more than prepared for CAA competition after a daunting non-conference slate, which features matchups between women’s basketball giants: University of South Carolina and North Carolina State University.

“We have always been fearless when it comes to non-conference scheduling,” Smith said. “We play the best because it’s



JOHN LUKE FARAH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redshirt senior guard Peyton Carter shoots a three-pointer during Elon’s game against Howard University on Monday, Nov. 15 in Schar Center. The Phoenix won 60-44.

either you win, or you learn.”

NC State opens the new season ranked fifth, while South Carolina enters the 2021 season ranked second. The Wolfpack and the Gamecocks will provide stiff competition for the Phoenix. Smith and the team welcome the challenge to play the best of the best.

“I don’t think there’s any losses in playing games like that because you have everything to win, everything to gain and nothing to lose,” Smith said. “You can’t beat if you don’t play. So you have to step up to the challenge and be willing to play games like that, to see what you’re made of.”

This attitude projected by Smith is

already having a carry over effect on the players. She said playing great competition will help the Phoenix grow and prepare for the CAA conference.

The Phoenix will look to continue to work hard in the preseason and build momentum for its non-conference slate and CAA campaign. Perpignan said she believes consistency is the key for this squad to be able to create shockwaves throughout the conference this upcoming season.

“Just want to go out there everyday with the same mindset and try to have the same outcome every day,” Perpignan said. “So just trying to be consistent this year and

hope that our team can also be consistent.”

Elon hosts William & Mary to open up its conference slate on Sunday, Jan. 2 at 2 p.m.

BY THE RECORD

7-8

was the record for last years Elon women’s basketball team.

Rewriting the record books for Elon women’s basketball

With two more wins this season, Charlotte Smith will break the program record for all-time wins as a head coach

Kole Noble
Elon News Network | @SlawSportsShow

Elon University women’s head basketball coach Charlotte Smith is looking at having a noteworthy and historic season for her and her team.

Leading up to Thursday’s game against the University of Richmond, Smith is two wins away from becoming the all-time winningest head coach in program history, surpassing Brenda Paul (172). Smith is in her 11th season as the head coach of the program, currently has an overall winning percentage of .568 (171-130).

“She has worked tirelessly to lift up her players, guiding them and serving as a mentor to them on and off the court,” Elon President Connie Book said. “It has been exciting to see her take her players and this program to new heights, and she has earned this moment to celebrate as the Elon women’s basketball program’s all-time winningest coach.”

For Smith, getting to that magic win number doesn’t matter as much, even though the achievement is well deserved and recognized by her peers.

“My personal accomplishments don’t matter to me,” Smith said. “When I think back over my career, I got more rings than I got fingers and really stuff like that doesn’t matter. I just want to see the team reach their fullest potential. I want them to win a championship for themselves.”

From 2016-18, Smith led the Phoenix to back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances, after winning the CAA Tournament, and was recognized as the CAA Coach of the Year for the first time in Elon program history since 1981.

Former Elon basketball player Saadia Munford ‘21 said beyond the stats and records, the impact Smith made on and off the court for her players and fellow coaches will always be what defines her as a coach.

“She’s passionate,” Munford said. “You never really can question whether she cares or not because you can see all of the work and time she puts in, sometimes it even takes a toll on her health. But, once you see that, it makes you want to go hard for her on the court when you’re playing.”

“

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CHARLOTTE SMITH
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

Smith, one of the most decorated players in UNC basketball history, will continue to add to her legacy as one of the best head coaches in Elon University history.

“You can see the dedication that coach Smith has to her players and the university, and her personal investment in each individual’s success,” Book said. “The leadership she has brought to this program and the commitment she has had to her players are legacies that will last beyond her coaching days.”



TED TSOUBRIS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Women’s basketball head coach Charlotte Smith leads her team on Monday, Nov. 15 in Schar Center against Howard University. The Phoenix won its home opener 60-44.

ISTANBUL TO ELON: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT REFLECTS ON BASKETBALL JOURNEY

Senior Duru Tasman reflects on her passion for basketball and growth within the sport in the United States

Hope Valenti
Elon News Network

Stepping off the plane in America at 16 years old, Elon senior Duru Tasman wasn't sure what to expect. Just four years prior, she had picked up a basketball for the first time, and now she was leaving behind everything she'd ever known in Istanbul, Turkey to pursue her academic and athletic careers in Baltimore. Having played on the national team and in the European Youth Olympics, she had a new objective in her career — advancing to the collegiate level.

Coming to Elon is an accomplishment that Tasman holds in high regards, and one that she said made her journey worth it. The bold decision to study in another country, away from her family and home, was not an easy one — but one she said she stands by nonetheless.

"At first, my parents were a little bit reluctant, but they realized that I was very serious, and they supported me," Tasman said. "The moment they were going to leave, my father and mother looked straight at me and said, 'Whatever you need, if you feel unhappy at all, you will always have that return ticket in your pocket.'"

For years, Tasman tried her hand at the same sports as her brother, such as tennis, Tasman turned to her father who had played semi professionally in Turkey. When she first picked up a basketball at the age of 12, she fell in love immediately.

Despite her late start, she advanced rather quickly with the support of her family. According to Tasman, their bond was strengthened by their mutual infatuation of the game. And now, it only continues to grow despite the 8 hour time difference between



HOPE VALENTI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Duru Tasman stands in Schar Center. An international student-athlete, Tasman joined the Elon women's basketball team in 2018.

them. The father takes great pride in his daughter's achievements, and is still invested in following her career.

"He will wake up at 3 a.m. to watch a game," Tasman said. "And then he'll text me after to say 'good job,' and it's moments like that just that fuel my passion."

Tasman said furthering her basketball career in college was always her goal, and she was determined to fulfill her aspirations. In order to achieve this, Tasman increased the duration of her practices, showed up at the gym for additional drills and coaching and stayed well after practice had ended.

But even after reaping the benefits of her diligence, Tasman soon realized the difference between playing in high school versus playing in college. Committed to improving her overall performance, she focused on building

her strength through conditioning — an area that she said needed the most refinement. After speaking with head coach Charlotte Smith, she made the necessary adjustments to her lifestyle, and was more conscious about her nutrition and fitness habits.

"I started to be more careful about what I put in my body and would stay even just 15 minutes after practice," Tasman said. "It's just little things like that helped me a lot with getting my conditioning right and transitioning to college basketball."

Tasman also said she felt an unparalleled sense of belonging at Elon the moment she stepped foot on campus; however, it was after her first meeting with Smith that she came to the conclusion that Elon was the right choice for her. During her visit, Tasman said that Smith had made a noticeable effort to

understand her and her culture.

"One day, she stopped, looked at me and she said, 'You know what? You are just like, your name's meaning — you are very pure,'" Tasman said. "That little comment made me feel very valued."

The interaction increased the player's fondness toward Elon, creating an atmosphere she said is reminiscent of her home in Istanbul. According to Tasman, Turkish culture is largely family oriented, a trait deeply embedded in Tasman's character as an individual and player. Since then, she's considered herself a Phoenix, finding a second family in the community.

"We have been clicking well together," Tasman said. "With this team and the vibes we're having, I genuinely believe that we can win the championship."

Introducing the new women's basketball transfers

Bria Harmon and Ajia James ready to start a winning culture at Elon

Sammy Johnson
Elon News Network

The Elon women's basketball team added some firepower over the off-season, acquiring transfers junior Bria Harmon and sophomore Ajia James.

James isn't headed into Elon blind, however, as senior guard Brie Perpignan was her teammate at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, Virginia. When James was a freshman, Perpignan was a senior. Perpignan said she was glad to be reunited with James.

"I remember when our coaches were telling us that they were looking at Ajia, I was like, that's my little girl right there. Like, that's my little sis," Perpignan said. "Definitely excited to play with her again."

James also shared her excitement about being able to play alongside Perpignan for her last year.

"The one thing I love about Brie is she always has energy and she's always been a leader in my eyes," James said. "So I'm glad that I got to do that again for one more year."

Harmon spent her first two years of college playing for the women's basketball team at Purdue University. She was ranked as the 42nd best recruit in the nation out of high school by Preferred Athletic Scouting Services, a

scouting firm that evaluates high school players, but saw little to no playing time in her two seasons at Purdue.

According to Harmon, she entered the transfer portal looking for a college where she could get some more opportunities.

"For me, it was really a leap of faith," Harmon said. "I never really looked into Elon before going to Purdue or thought about going to North Carolina or playing here at all. So, I just wanted to go closer to home, get a better opportunity to play. And once I started looking into Elon, it seemed like the right decision."

James transferred to Elon after one year at St. Peter's University. She started 27 out of 28 games, averaging 8.6 points and 8.1 rebounds per game, leading her team. James decided to transfer to Elon to live closer to family.

"With it being COVID and me being a freshman, it was hard being away from home and not being able to see my family," James said. "So, it was a great season, but after, I knew I would like to be closer to home and see my family during that time."

Head coach Charlotte Smith said she is excited to see what James and Harmon can bring to the team, and expressed confidence in both of them. Coming off a rough offensive season, Smith said she was looking for scorers, and that's exactly what she found.

"Bria's a great scorer from multiple levels," Smith said. "So just trying to get her to understand that she needs to be more aggressive offensively rather

than just orchestrating the team."

Smith also had praise for James, highlighting her outside scoring and rebounding ability and previewed how James's presence could lead to championships for the Phoenix.

"Ajia has great outside shooting," Smith said. "We need some really good three point shooting. One of the things that I liked about her is that she was a great rebounder and the years that we won championships, we were really good at rebounding."



BRIA HARMON

AJIA JAMES

HOME & AWAY

2021-22 BASKETBALL GAMES

MEN'S SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER

- 11/18 | WEST VIRGINIA
9 P.M.
- 11/19 | MARQUETTE/OLE MISS
TBA
- 11/27 | JACKSONVILLE STATE
1 P.M.
- 11/30 | UNC GREENSBORO
7 P.M.

DECEMBER

- 12/4 | HIGH POINT
7 P.M.
- 12/11 | UNC CHAPEL HILL
8 P.M.
- 12/15 | WINTHROP
7 P.M.

12/18 | SHAW UNIVERSITY
4 P.M.

12/29 | NORTHEASTERN
7 P.M.

12/31 | HOFSTRA
12 P.M.



WOMEN'S SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER

- 11/18 | UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
6 P.M.
- 11/22 | NORTH CAROLINA A&T
7:00 P.M.
- 11/26 | SOUTH CAROLINA
3 P.M.
- 11/29 | NC CENTRAL
7 P.M.

DECEMBER

- 12/5 | NC STATE
2 P.M.
- 12/12 | DAVIDSON COLLEGE
2 P.M.
- 12/15 | UNC GREENSBORO
7 P.M.
- 12/20 | GARDNER-WEBB
7 P.M.

JANUARY

- 1/2 | WILLIAM & MARY
2 P.M.
- 1/7 | TOWSON
7 P.M.
- 1/9 | JAMES MADISON
1 P.M.
- 1/14 | COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
7 P.M.

12/30 | FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY
7 P.M.

JANUARY

1/5	WILLIAM & MARY 7 P.M.
1/9	COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON 4 P.M.
1/11	UNC WILMINGTON 7 P.M.
1/15	TOWSON 4 P.M.
1/17	JAMES MADISON 4 P.M.

1/20	DREXEL 7 P.M.
1/22	DELAWARE 2 P.M.
1/29	WILLIAM & MARY 4 P.M.

FEBRUARY

2/3	UNC WILMINGTON 7 P.M.	2/17	DELAWARE 7 P.M.
2/5	COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON 4 P.M.	2/19	DREXEL 4 P.M.
2/10	JAMES MADISON 7 P.M.	2/24	HOFSTRA 7 P.M.
2/12	TOWSON 2 P.M.	2/26	NORTHEASTERN 4 P.M.



HUNTER WOODS



BRIA HARMON



ZAC ERVIN



ARIANA NANCE

1/16	UNC WILMINGTON 2 P.M.
1/21	NORTHEASTERN 6 P.M.
1/23	HOFSTRA 1 P.M.
1/28	DREXEL 7 P.M.
1/30	DELAWARE 2 P.M.

FEBRUARY

2/4	JAMES MADISON 7 P.M.
2/6	TOWSON 2 P.M.
2/11	UNC WILMINGTON 7 P.M.
2/13	COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON 2 P.M.

2/18	HOFSTRA 7:00 P.M.
2/20	NORTHEASTERN 1:00 P.M.
2/25	DELAWARE 11 A.M.
2/27	DREXEL 2 P.M.
MARCH	
3/5	WILLIAM & MARY 2 P.M.

LEAVING A LEGACY

Elon men's basketball hoping to build on momentum from last season, qualify for first ever NCAA Tournament

Jacob Kisamore
Sports Director | @jacobkisamore

Leave a legacy. Those words are written on a wall inside Elon University's men's basketball locker room, reminding team members of their goal this season.

Senior forward Chuck Hannah said the legacy defining moment for this year's team would be qualifying for the school's first ever NCAA Tournament.

"The biggest legacy I've always wanted to leave since I entered college was to go to March Madness," Hannah said. "With the team we have, we definitely have a real shot at making that happen."

Last season, the Phoenix reached its first ever Colonial Athletic Association Tournament championship game as an eight seed. Though the team lost, falling just one game short of an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament, it was the closest the program has ever been to reaching March Madness.

While Elon has the memories of last season to draw back on, head coach Mike Schrage said the team has already shifted its full attention to this season.

"We're not going to talk a lot

about last year, but we're going to remember it," Schrage said. "In the back of our minds is going to that first NCAA Tournament in Elon history, and that's the biggest legacy we can leave."

Elon returns several key players from last year's CAA Tournament run, including junior guard and leading scorer Hunter McIntosh, junior guard Hunter Woods, sophomore guard Darius Burford and sophomore forward Michael Graham.

The Phoenix also welcomes back two explosive scorers from injury: junior guard Zac Ervin, who missed all of last season with a torn ACL, and redshirt senior guard Jerald Gillens-Butler, who missed the final 16 games of last season with a ruptured achilles tendon.

McIntosh said the Phoenix's depth is one of its biggest strengths and that the team's balanced offense will create challenges for opposing defenses.

"Hopefully, it could be an advantage over a lot of other teams," McIntosh said. "They can't really just scheme for one or two players, they have to scout our whole team."

Schrage said one of the team's main goals is to earn a bye in this season's CAA Tournament, meaning the Phoenix will need to finish in the top six of the conference's regular season standings — something the program has not yet done in his tenure as head coach.



Junior guard Hunter McIntosh drives the ball to the basket against Bluefield University on Sunday, Nov. 14 in Schar Center. The Phoenix beat the Rams 89-72. LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hannah said Elon is no longer an underdog program and needs to get off to a better start to its conference season in order to build momentum for the postseason.

"It was great to go on that run last year, but I think we have to understand that we're not the little engine that could anymore," Hannah said. "We don't want to dig ourselves into holes and try to fight out of them."

The Phoenix has a challenging non-conference schedule, highlighted by a game against West Virginia University at the Charleston Classic on Nov. 18, as well as road games against the University of North Carolina and University of Arkansas in December.

"We've got a big time schedule," McIntosh said. "We play some big time teams and I think the biggest

thing is it is going to prepare us for our conference."

With 10 of 16 players being upperclassmen, Schrage said the team's experience and chemistry will play a crucial role this season.

"As we go through tough times this season, as every team's going to no matter what, we've got to stay together," Schrage said. "We've got an amazingly together group right now."

Zac Ervin returns to Phoenix basketball

The junior guard is back after missing the 2020-21 season due to injury

Caleigh Lawlor
Elon News Network | @caleighlawlor

After missing the entire 2020-21 season due to a torn ACL, junior guard Zac Ervin has returned to Elon University's men's basketball team.

In the spring, while the team had a historic season, Ervin was on the sidelines, going to rehab and working on some of his skills.

"Obviously, last season, I missed the whole thing and the spring. It was just a lot of making sure that I was ready to go. I was still rehabbing quite a bit," Ervin said. "I was doing workouts, but it wasn't like 100% until the summer that officially got cleared."

Ervin said he has to work more than he is used to as he gets ready for the season, but he is fully healed and able to play again.

"I still have to do a little bit of extra stretching or I have to get loose, maybe a little bit more than I used to, but other than that, I'm ready to go," Ervin said.

His freshman season, Ervin started 15 of the 34 games. He averaged 8.4 points for every 21.8 minutes a game — totaling 202 points for the season. He also made 46 three-point shots, shooting almost 37% from distance.

This year, he is looking to be just as successful shooting from the three-point range.



Junior guard Zac Ervin shoots a three-point shot at the Elon men's basketball scrimmage on Saturday, Oct. 23 in Schar Center. LUCAS CASEL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"That's one of my biggest roles on the team," Ervin said. "I practice it all the time, whether it's getting back in the gym again, that's extra shots. I just try to have a short memory and just let it fly."

Head coach Mike Schrage said he is just as hopeful that Ervin's shooting can help the team's offense as the season develops.

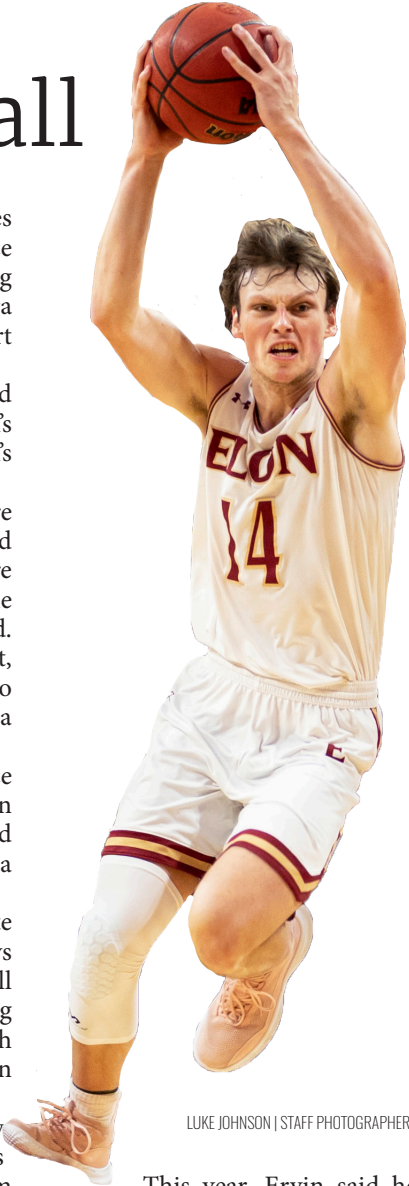
"Everyone's going to be aware of Zac Ervin on the court. And certainly we got to make sure we're getting them shots, at the appropriate times," Schrage said. "And if he's hot, keep him hot, because he's the kind of guy who can hit six, seven, eight threes in a game."

According to Schrage, since his injury, Ervin has worked on becoming more of an all-around player rather than just being a talented three-point shooter.

"He's become a really complete player," Schrage said. "He always has been, but he did so much skill work last year, even as he was taking a step by step with his passing, with his handling to see his progression there has been really impressive."

Ervin said that after his injury last year, his teammates and his coaching staff supported him throughout the process.

"They were the best — my teammates — especially when I was out and I couldn't really walk around and stuff. I mean, they would do anything for me, and the coaching staff was the same way," Ervin said. "They were really, really supportive of me and checking in on me, my mental health, all of that."



This year, Ervin said he is happy to be an extra asset to the team.

"I'm ready to do whatever the team needs me, and whether that's knocking down shots, or if I'm not hitting, defending well being in the right spots or, making my teammates better," Ervin said. "Just being out there, having an extra body, an extra person just provides more depth, and I'm excited."

BIG MEN ON CAMPUS



FRESHMAN SAM SHERRY | 6'10"



LUCAS CASEL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redshirt junior Andrew Junkin shoots a hook shot at a scrimmage on Saturday, Oct. 23 in Schar Center. Junkin, a 7-foot tall center, transferred to Elon this season from Mississippi State University.

New editions to the Elon men's basketball team bring new height to the court

Mason Willett
Elon News Network

LAST SEASON, ELON UNIVERSITY'S men's basketball team struggled with interior defense and scoring. Head coach Mike Schrage said the Phoenix needed more size to help Michael Graham and Chuck Hannah in the frontcourt and is confident the team addressed that need this offseason.

"I feel like we have a four-headed monster, at the center position. They're all a little bit different," Schrage said.

Coming into the 2021-22 men's basketball season, Elon welcomes five new players to the team. Two of these additions - senior Andrew Junkin and freshman Sam Sherry - have the size and length the Phoenix was looking for.

"We will see how much he can help us game in and game out but day in and day out just to have a guy of that size, and that strength is important," Schrage said about Junkin.

Junkin, an incoming transfer from Mississippi State University, is exactly 7 feet tall and said he will use his experience from playing in the Southeastern Conference to add to the team. He said he has already found a family and home with this team.

"Some of the closest teammates I've ever had, everybody here is just for one another 100%," Junkin said. "We're a family to the fullest extent".

Junkin said the coaches have already told him what his role is

for this season. They will rely on his toughness and experience from playing against players in one of the NCAA's toughest conferences.

"That's my whole deal to just be tough, coming from an SEC school playing against some of the best of the best at practice," Junkin said.

Another addition to the Phoenix is Sherry, a 6'10" center from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. He said he is eager to contribute to the team and believes his versatility can help the team offensively.

Sherry said the coaches are looking for him to develop in many ways this season, and to contribute whatever he can off of the bench.

"I think they're just looking for me to contribute in any way possible," Sherry said. "If that's on the bench cheering for my team, or if that's on the court bringing energy and playing defense. They're just looking for me to be ready always, and I will be."

Schrage said he believes the addition of Junkin and Sherry to the frontcourt will help increase the team's presence down low compared to last year. Last season, the Phoenix averaged only 2.1 blocks and 34.3 rebounds per game last year and Schrage said these additions will help the team improve in these areas.

"It makes practices flow better when you've got several pieces at that center spot. They give us a lot of size, length, and depth," Schrage said.

ELON UNIVERSITY



PHOENIX

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021
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THE PENDULUM

LOCAL FOOD BANKS PREPARE FOR THANKSGIVING



ABBY REED | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Maddie Johnson receives a canned good from senior Leila Jackson at the Filling the Truck event on Tuesday, Nov. 16 at College Coffee. Elon Campus Kitchen will be filling trucks the week of Nov. 15 to 19 to recognize National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week.

Local food banks become busier due to National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, upcoming holiday

Abigail Hobbs

Elon News Network | @abigaillhobbss

ELON CAMPUS KITCHEN WILL be filling trucks the week of Nov. 15 to 19 — National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. With this week bringing awareness to food insecurity in the area, and the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday, Campus Kitchen is working to increase food and donation preparation.

Autumn Cox, assistant director of the Kernodle Center who works with The Filling Truck Initiative, said she is eager to start the season of giving.

“We work with Elon Dining to get a catering truck that will be stationed at just different areas across campus,” Cox said. “And the goal will be to fill the truck with different donated goods by the end of the week.”

Campus Kitchen, an Elon University organization works with students, Elon Dining, Loy Farm and Allied Churches of Alamance County. According to Feeding America, Alamance County had a 13.7% food insecurity rate in 2019, which is how local organizations measure

the lack of consistent access to food.

Cox is eager to start this season.

“

UNITED WAY OF ALAMANCE COUNTY IS REALLY WONDERFUL AND JUST KNOWING WHAT THE NEEDS ARE ACROSS THE COUNTY AND KIND OF SENDING THINGS OUT AS THEY'RE NEEDED.

AUTUMN COX

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE KERNODLE CENTER

All the donations from Filling the Truck will go to United Way of Alamance County, who will distribute the food among its participating food banks throughout Alamance County.

Elon Campus Kitchen is also working with UWAC, who redistributes donations to pantries who need it, according to director of community change Sally Gordon '18.

“We’ve been in Alamance County for a little over 90 years now ... raising money and donating it back out to the community,” Gordon said. “That kind of slowly morphed over the years and became the big campaign that we do every year and the grants that we give out.”

Elon Campus Kitchen has also collaborated with Allied Churches of Alamance County to prepackage Thanksgiving meals that will be distributed Nov. 22 and 23, according to executive director of ACAC Jai Baker.

See **FOOD** | pg. 4B

Elon sees more early graduates for winter 2021

Graduating early can provide students with job opportunities sooner and can cause a financial loss for the university

Sophie Rosenthal

Chief Copy Editor | @sophrosenthal

As of Nov. 12, 98 students are graduating after the fall semester this year, as opposed to 83 and 84 in the past two years. Though university registrar Rodney Parks said he doesn't think this is a significant increase, students like senior Mia Fernandez said they have noticed a higher interest among their class in graduating early.

For Fernandez, graduating early had been a possibility, but it wasn't on the forefront of her mind until she mentioned it to her boss at her summer internship.

“They were like, ‘That would be amazing, we would love to hire you in December,’” Fernandez said. “So, I decided to overload my classwork, and then I can graduate early and work for them.”

Another incentive for some students to graduate early is not having to pay another semester's tuition.

“It saves a lot of money, financially, even with overloading courses,” Fernandez said.

“

IT SAVES A LOT OF MONEY, FINANCIALLY, EVEN WITH OVERLOADING COURSES.

MIA FERNANDEZ

SENIOR

In order to graduate early, Fernandez had to take an overload of credits this semester. At Elon, a full semester includes up to 18 credits. If students take more than that for any reason, each credit costs an extra \$1,217 for the 2021-22 academic year. But adding a few thousand dollars to this semester is still a cheaper option than paying for another full semester's tuition and housing.

Because of the pandemic, Fernandez believes the number of early graduates will increase, which could further any financial loss for the university.

Fernandez said she's not the only one graduating early due to tuition and job prospects. For students who already started working over the summer or still have remote work, she said this is a way to get a head start. Fernandez also said that since she didn't study abroad, she was already pretty close to being able to graduate early.

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Students struggle to find off-campus housing



NEWS • PAGE 6B

Elon fire chief reflects on 45-year career before retirement



SPORTS • PAGE 7B

Q&A with Former Elon basketball player Ikenna Ndugba

THE PENDULUM

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Elon News Network is a daily news organization that includes a newspaper, website, broadcasts and podcasts. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to enn@elon.edu as Word documents. ENN reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of ENN and will not be returned.

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EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

CORRECTIONS POLICY:

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

Contact
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Elon Local News
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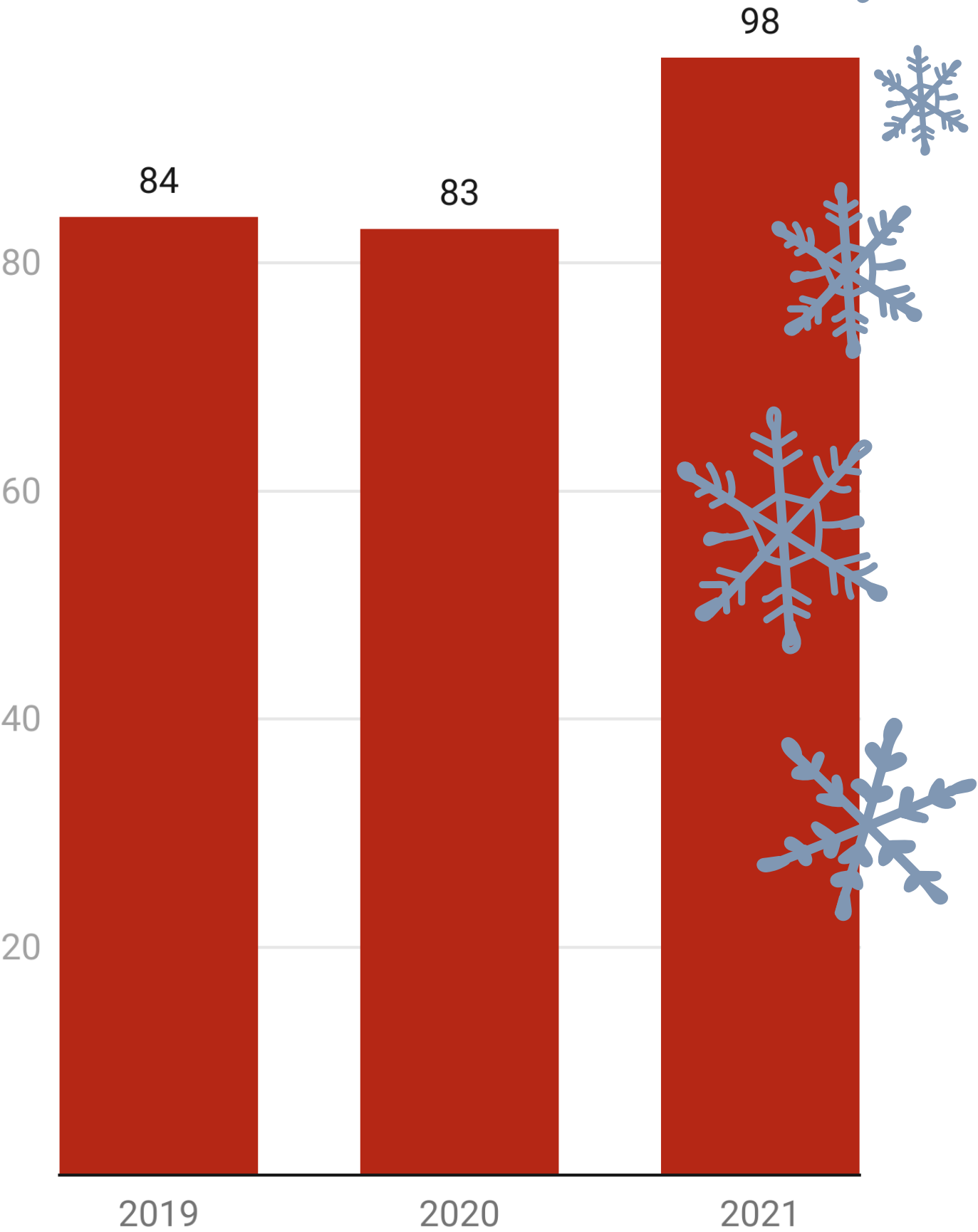
ENN Radio Podcast
publishes Friday afternoon

CORRECTIONS

In the last edition of The Pendulum, Elon University was incorrectly cited as joining Project Pericles. The university was a founding member of the project. Also, Elon's land acknowledgment was inaccurately attributed as a response to university involvement with Project Pericles. The land acknowledgment was an independent recognition. Additionally, Clyde Ellis's retirement was incorrectly stated as 2018. He retired in 2020. Elon News Network regrets these errors.

December graduates at Elon University

The number of students graduating after the fall semester for the past three years, as of Nov. 12, according to university registrar Rodney Parks.



WINTER | from cover

Parks said he doesn't think the limited study abroad opportunities for the class of 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic had an effect on their eligibility to graduate early, and if it did, he said it would likely be a negative one.

"A student can take five courses, sometimes six, classes in the study abroad programs and they come back as four credit courses," Parks said. "That's a lot more than when they don't study abroad for a term, that you're just taking one course during winter term and four in spring term."

But Fernandez disagreed, and said she doesn't think there would have been any way for her to do what she is doing now if she had studied abroad.

"Because of COVID, they can take their courses early, and have that last semester off and kind of apply for jobs and everything," Fernandez said.





Elon University sophomore guard Darius Burford goes for a lay-up against the Bluefield University on Monday, Nov. 14. in Schar Center. The Phoenix won 89-72 against the Rams.

CLARE GRANT | VIDEO PRODUCTION MANAGER



RYAN KUPPERMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Farmer John Campbell sorts through his carrots on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at the Alamance County Farmers Market. Campbell represents Dinner Bell Farms located in Snow Camp, North Carolina.



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon NewWorks holds their final dress rehearsal on Monday, Nov. 15 for their upcoming production, Sensory Overload production, which takes place at multiple sites around campus.



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Three cadets from both Army and Air Force ROTC programs representing Elon University and North Carolina A&T raise the American flag over Scott Plaza as part of Elon's observance of Veteran's Day on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

STUDENTS STRUGGLE TO WORK WITH OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING OPTIONS



Oasis Apartments is one of the off-campus housing locations managed by NCR Management. All of the apartments at Oasis are already full for next year.

Housing process for students can be difficult for those with minimal connections

Greta Cunningham
Elon News Network

Sophomore Jacob Trumbo didn't know where he would be living next year until recently. After debating whether or not to live off campus and searching for housing options, he was able to find a place through his involvement in club baseball.

Like Trumbo, many students get their off-campus housing passed down to them through organizations or other students, and as the fall semester is coming to an end, students are beginning to look for 2022-23 housing. But this year, some students are struggling to find what's left of the off-campus housing options.

NCR Management, a property management company in Burlington, oversees many of the off-campus housing locations for Elon students — including Elon Place, Oasis Apartments, West Pointe Apartments, Emerald Court and Diamond Square Apartments, as well as 22 listed off-campus houses. While they offer many options, the renewal period is early than some students start looking. In a statement to Elon News Network, Jay Alt, a property manager from NCR Management, said the company reported that every house and 95% of apartments they manage were passed down by students last year.

Sophomore Lauren Hanchar said she didn't know when renewal lease dates began or when to start looking for off-campus housing.

"I had no idea when I should start looking for housing, and by the time I did, some leasing periods were already up," Hanchar said.

NCR's student houses, Oasis Apartments and Elon Place typically have a renewal period between

Sept. 15 and Oct. 15, according to Alt. Though this year, Elon Place renewals have been slightly delayed. Current residents can either renew their lease or pass down their spot to someone else within this time period. According to NCR, Oasis Apartments have already been filled for the 2022-23 school year and there are currently only four houses available.

Alt said that housing proximity to campus is also a major factor in the demand of a given property or unit.

"The closer houses are to campus, the more often they are passed down or renewed," Alt said.

I HAD NO IDEA WHEN I SHOULD START LOOKING FOR HOUSING, AND BY THE TIME I DID, SOME LEASING PERIODS WERE ALREADY UP.

LAUREN HANCHAR
SOPHOMORE

Down the road from Oasis Apartments, University Pointe and Victoria Station also face the same renewal patterns — approximately 50% of apartments are passed down, according to landlord Jane Overman. She said that half of those available apartments are typically filled by referrals from residents and are almost always filled by the end of December.

BY THE NUMBERS

25

spots still available in NCR properties for the next rental period.

Many off campus units are passed down through greek life, sports teams and other organizations. Hanchar said being in a sorority has opened up more housing options for her, though she does not have a housing plan for the following year yet.

"Greek life has given me connections to upperclassmen that some of my unaffiliated friends don't have," Hanchar said. "I'm not as worried about finding a housing situation as I think I would be."

And for students who do choose to live on campus, there are still options — though they are limited. According to Shauna Zaupan, assistant director for housing operations, "passing down" of apartments is not a recognized housing policy of Elon Residence Life.

"Residence Life has a clearly outlined housing selection process based on housing selection day/times provided to students. Anything outside of this process is not part of the formal outlined housing selection process," Zaupan wrote in an email to Elon News Network.

Though cost is a part of choosing to live off-campus for some students, sophomore and current Oaks apartment resident Vivian Krause said independence is also a reason.

"Cost definitely isn't the only reason I am moving off campus, but it is a factor," Krause said. "It is hard for me to justify paying so much when I know there are cheaper options off-campus where I would have more freedom."

Campus Kitchen hosting food drive for National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, upcoming holidays



Constance Currie stacks boxes of food for dinner on Tuesday, Nov. 16 at Allied Churches of Alamance County. The shelter and kitchen provides temporary, emergency housing and food to those in need.

FOOD | from cover

"We've already been collecting and preparing boxes in association with Second Food Harvest and Food Lion," Baker said. "It will have all the needs or necessities to actually prepare and cook a Thanksgiving meal."

In addition to the boxes of food that will be prepared, ACAC will be giving away fully prepared Thanksgiving meals on Thanksgiving day. Because of the COVID-19, the process will operate as curbside pickup and carry out options. However, Baker said this won't sacrifice the quality of food.

UNITED WAY OF ALAMANCE COUNTY IS REALLY WONDERFUL AND JUST KNOWING WHAT THE NEEDS ARE ACROSS THE COUNTY AND KIND OF SENDING THINGS OUT AS THEY'RE NEEDED.

AUTUMN COX
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE KERNODLE CENTER

"We really take pride in making sure that when you look at the top of your meal that it is presented in a manner that is close to what you receive that four or five star restaurant," Baker said. "So it would definitely be a lot of detail going into that meal to make sure it is hot, delicious and presented in a great manner."

While Campus Kitchens and ACAC are working closely this holiday season, ACAC has had a close relationship with Campus Kitchen since 2015 when Baker became executive director.

"I just think over the years we have been able to really focus and deepen that relationship," Baker said. "It was a bud in 2015, but it has blossomed now to this great partnership."

Temporary outdoor seating in downtown Elon becomes permanent



Rendering of future downtown Elon permanent seating area next to Pandora's Pies.

COURTESY OF KATHLEEN PATTERSON

The outdoor seating created for COVID-19 physical distancing will become a designated space

Avery Sloan
Elon News Network | @averylsloan

Downtown Elon will be utilizing the current temporary seating outside of Pandora's Pies to create a permanent space for community events, in addition to the outdoor dining already in place. Kathleen Patterson, downtown development administrator of Elon, hopes that this new change in the downtown area will lead to a wide variety of future events.

"There's not really a location downtown that's safe, that we can do things ... this will give us that and it also gives us a place to gather and have the downtown Christmas tree, have the Menorah put up on the holidays," Patterson said.

According to Patterson, this change will address two main purposes: safety concerns and creating a sense of community. In regards to safety, before the road was closed off for temporary seating, Patterson said this area was not pedestrian friendly. She said there have been many near-accidents in downtown Elon.

Patterson said she believes there aren't many areas within downtown that people can come together, and this space can become that.

"Being able to have a mini market where we can get vendors to come for the holidays, like having a Christmas party, we don't have one of those. Being able to let the farmer's market stretch out a little bit more, so they're not just hanging in the street ... really, it's whatever our imaginations can become," Patterson said.

Kimberly Holt, owner of Pandora's Pies, said she is excited about the new changes occurring downtown, as the temporary outside seating has been good for her business.

"I'm all for this and it helps our business out too, because it's right beside," Holt said. "It's great that if a bunch of college kids are together and some want The Root, some want Tangent, some want us, then



NYAH PHENGSIITHY | MANAGING EDITOR

Senior Morgan Kearns and Dan Areis sit and chat at the seating area in downtown Elon.

“

BEING ABLE TO HAVE A MINI MARKET WHERE WE CAN GET VENDORS TO COME FOR THE HOLIDAYS, LIKE HAVING A CHRISTMAS PARTY, WE DON'T HAVE ONE OF THOSE. BEING ABLE TO LET THE FARMER'S MARKET STRETCH OUT A LITTLE BIT MORE SO THEY'RE NOT JUST HANGING OUT IN THE STREET... REALLY, IT'S WHATEVER OUR IMAGINATIONS CAN BECOME.

KATHLEEN PATTERSON
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
ADMINISTRATOR

they can sit together and eat their food from different restaurants and still be together.”

Patterson sees this new development as a starting point for other changes within downtown, kicking off Elon's new improvement plan “Streetscape.” This plan will include widening sidewalks and beautification of the street to improve the cohesiveness of downtown Elon. She also hopes that with this new outdoor area, other businesses will look to improve their existing facilities and create something similar.

“It gives the idea that there's something happening,” Patterson said. “I know that seems like a weird thing, but a lot of times when you see physical change, then people are like, ‘Oh hey, I could do that too,’ maybe they'll look at changing their property to be something bigger, better, or just be able to activate their own property,” Patterson said.

BY THE NUMBERS

22

businesses and organizations are located in downtown Elon.

The Academic Planner creates new process for registration, graduation plans

Students have found the new registration and planning processes to be simpler and more user-friendly

Samantha Sussman
Elon News Network | @Samanthasussma

The Academic Planner will be rolled out in the spring of 2022 to be used for creating four-year plans and better preparing for registration, instead of using the OnTrack class catalog and Excel spreadsheets. Senior Annica Gaebel works in the registrar's office and was able to test out the new program for registration this year.

“It's a way for students to easily register for classes, plan their future semesters and see the Academic Catalog all in one,” Gaebel said. “Getting used to it definitely will be a process but it's definitely going to be an improvement from OnTrack.”

Some students worry about getting into classes required for their major or being able to graduate on time, but registrar Rodney Parks said there are enough available sections for all students. However, he said they may be at an undesired time or not with their preferred professor. Parks also said the university will make exceptions for students who are missing a graduation requirement.

“I do know of one case this semester, where a student had planned to take two courses the spring of their senior year, and neither of those courses were offered because a faculty member was on sabbatical,” Parks said. “Elon will always make an exception to a graduating senior to count other courses in those areas. And as an institution, we process about 1000 exceptions every year.”

Parks said the university is trying to make four-year plans easier for students with the new technology and increased information.

“What we plan to do is post in the catalog when the courses are last offered. So you would know ‘oh, this particular course that I really want to take is only going to be offered in the spring of my senior year,’” Parks said. “So you'd be able to move that to your planner at that point, and then plan backwards.”

Both the new planning system and staff should be utilized when planning and registering for courses, according to senior Bella DeLaGarza who works in the office of the registrar and used the new system.

“I would stress there's definitely ways to either find it in a future semester, or to even talk with your department chairs. They're usually more than willing to help you out with finding a way to make sure you get what you need out of your experience here,” DeLaGarza said. “So I ... would definitely take advantage of the planning system, but also be open to flexibility.”

Freshman Rece Raju is in an Elon 101 class that tested the Academic Planner for winter and spring registration. Raju said she thought it was much easier to navigate and create a graduation plan in the program than an Excel spreadsheet.

“

IT'S A WAY FOR STUDENTS TO EASILY REGISTER FOR CLASSES, PLAN THEIR FUTURE SEMESTERS AND SEE THE ACADEMIC CATALOG ALL IN ONE. GETTING USED TO IT DEFINITELY WILL BE A PROCESS, BUT IT'S DEFINITELY GOING TO BE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER ONTRACK.

ANNICA GAEBEL
ELON '21

“OnTrack popped something up and was like this course has a prerequisite. And so it told me, and I fixed that immediately and moved it which obviously the Excel sheet doesn't do so you don't have to be nearly as careful with it,” Raju said.

According to Raju, the system does have a few problems, like the degree audit saying a class counted for a different required credit than it did. She said students also have to get their adviser to reapprove registration anytime you change a class, like she had to when her preferred spring classes filled up.

“Since that changed, those classes weren't approved and so I did have to get my adviser to reapprove it,” Raju said. “It wouldn't have let me register for those classes.”

Gaebel said it is not only beneficial for students, but also employees of the registrar's office. With OnTrack they can't easily understand problems students are having and may ask for evidence of the issue, but with the new system they can identify problems more easily.

DeLaGarza's favorite aspect of the new system is the ability to prepare for future registration with an interactive planning function.

“Within the different sections of either the Elon core, your majors, your minors — it'll have everything that you're required to do,” DeLaGarza said. “But there's also a button that says ‘plan’ which will take you to all the classes that are going to be offered in the future, which I thought was incredible and definitely helped a lot with the planning.”

TOWN OF ELON FIRE CHIEF SIZEMORE RETIRES AFTER 45-YEAR CAREER



Elon Fire Chief Alva Sizemore reflects on his time working in his fire career. Sizemore will retire at the end of November after serving as the chief since 2015.

NYAH PHENGSIITHY | MANAGING EDITOR

Alva Sizemore, the first full-time paid fire chief for the town of Elon, will retire at the end of November

Nyah Phengsitthy
Managing Editor | @nyahphengsitthy

Alva Sizemore walked through the town of Elon Fire Department Station No. 8 in 1976 when he was a senior in high school. Little did he know that he would become the first full-time paid fire chief for the town of Elon in 2015.

Now, after putting out fires for 45 years, Sizemore will retire at the end of November.

“It’s always been said that firefighting gets in your blood. It’s a calling, it really is,” Sizemore said. “I know that was God’s calling on my life to be a fireman.”

While he first joined the town of Elon’s fire department as a volunteer firefighter, Sizemore stayed in the firefighting career. He was hired by the city of Burlington in 1990 to be a firefighter and later returned to serve in the town of Elon in 1996 as the assistant chief of operations. Between 2011 and 2015, Sizemore served as the deputy fire marshal for Alamance County until he became the Elon fire chief.

Throughout his journey with fire departments around the area, Sizemore said he watched Elon grow — from the town itself to the university renovating almost every building on campus. He watched the fire department go from four to 13 firetrucks, and before the pandemic hit, the Elon fire department was working with around 2,000 calls per year.

Serving as the current Burlington fire chief, Jay Mebane said his journey with Sizemore started early in his career—Mebane served as a volunteer firefighter for the town of Elon when Sizemore was just stepping into the new role of chief.

Over the years, Mebane said he enjoyed working with him because of his collaborative work ethic, and most

importantly to him, the kindness he shared with others.

“He’s willing to give you the shirt off his back,” Mebane said. “He’s that type of guy. It’s just been a pleasure. It’s been a pleasure working with him over the last couple of years now in this profession.”

Mebane said that the adversities Sizemore overcame throughout his career are some of the biggest memories he will leave behind.

“

IT’S ALWAYS BEEN SAID THAT FIREFIGHTING GETS IN YOUR BLOOD. IT’S A CALLING, IT REALLY IS. I KNOW THAT WAS GOD’S CALLING ON MY LIFE TO BE A FIREMAN.

ALVA SIZEMORE
TOWN OF ELON FIRE CHIEF

“The biggest impact is his heart of forgiveness and his willingness to treat everyone fairly,” Mebane said. “He’s got a great perspective on that and he leads with a soft heart, but he leads like a giant as well.”

Though he has only been working with Sizemore for about two years, town of Elon manager Richard Roedner said the town has benefited from the experiences and expertise Sizemore brought to Elon.

“Alva has shown a real talent for managing those two different types of models,” Roedner said. “Working a full time staff every day, working with the call force when they come in, or the

volunteers.”

Working in the law enforcement realm with Sizemore, Elon Police Chief Kelly Blackwelder said her first impression of Sizemore was his passion and drive for fire safety — one thing that will definitely be missed when he’s no longer chief.

“My first impression of him was this guy’s intenseness. He’s serious,” Blackwelder said. “He’s very knowledgeable and he can sit there and quote, firewall and codes and the county’s fire marshal handbook and occupancy.”

Blackwelder said she watched Sizemore go from volunteering for the Elon fire department to deputy fire marshal, and then finally returning to Elon to be chief. Though she said she will remember his work ethic, Sizemore’s role in bringing the Elon police and fire department together will be what she remembers most.

“Fire departments and police departments have this brother-sister love-hate relationship,” Blackwelder said. “They really are like brothers and sisters to us. It’s a really good working relationship and I don’t think it’d be that way without him being there.”

Sizemore said though he is retiring, he will still continue volunteering with other departments in the Alamance County area. Sizemore also currently serves as the deputy chief of North Central Fire Department and will continue to even after he retires from chief.

According to Roedner, there were 50 applications submitted for the new town of Elon fire chief. Roedner said he is in the process of creating an interview team to narrow down the applicants and choose a fire chief soon.

Sizemore said that although he is proud of the role he has held for years now, it’s time for a new person to take the Elon Fire Department to the next level.

“Being the chief has been a blessing, but the people make the chief,” Sizemore said. “You’re only as good as your department, your organization is only as good as the people, and I’m gonna miss the people.”

CHIEF SIZEMORE CAREER TIMELINE

1976

Joined the town of Elon Fire Department as a volunteer

1990

Sizemore was hired as a firefighter by the city of Burlington

1996

Returned to Elon to be the assistant chief of operations at Elon Fire Department

2006

Became the chemical planner fire marshal of Alamance County

2015

Chosen as the first full-time fire chief of Elon Fire Department

2021

Retiring at the end of November

SPORTS



Former Elon University men's basketball player Ikenna Ndugba playing offense against Drexel University in the CAA championship game on March 9, 2021.

CLARE GRANT | VIDEO PRODUCTION MANAGER

Q&A WITH IKENNA NDUGBA

Former Elon basketball player was drafted by the Greensboro Swarm of the NBA G-League

Jacob Kisamore
Sports Director | @jacobkisamore

Former Elon University men's basketball player Ikenna Ndugba '21 recently became a member of the Greensboro Swarm of the NBA Gatorade League. The Swarm is the G-League affiliate of the Charlotte Hornets.

The G-League is the NBA's official minor league, with 28 NBA teams having affiliate organizations competing in it. The G-League Draft consists of three rounds and 84 total selections, and allows teams to add players from a pool of 150 that sign contracts with the league each season.

The Swarm selected Ndugba with the 54th overall pick in the 2021 NBA G-League Draft. Ndugba was not selected in this summer's NBA Draft but signed a contract with the G-League on Oct. 13 to make him eligible for the G-League Draft.

Ndugba spent his first four seasons at Bryant University before transferring to Elon as a graduate student prior to the 2020-2021 season. He started all 19 games for the Phoenix last season, averaging 10 points, 4.8 rebounds. Additionally, he received the team's Defensive Most Valuable Player award last season.

Interview has been edited for clarity.

Q: What does it mean to you to be a professional basketball player and to be in the NBA's premier developmental league?

"I think the biggest thing is that it's just a goal of mine that I've wanted to earn a living playing the game that I love. And that's been since I've been a little kid and it means a lot. It is a great opportunity and, you know, this is one of the best leagues in the world, and that being said, I just try to really take advantage of every opportunity. So, I just keep that in mind and know that I'm blessed to be in this position and just to take advantage of it."

Q: Has playing in Greensboro made the transition to the G-League easier for you?

"Being in the G-League obviously presents its own challenges and adjustments that have to happen, but it's definitely helped just the fact that I'm so close and being able to like reach out to any of the players and coaches that are there. They've reached out and came to games. So like that definitely helped me transition a little bit better off the court."

Q: What has it been like early in the season to play for the Swarm?

"It's definitely been cool. It's different because it is a professional organization. There's fans here that go hard for the Swarm. And so just to see even when we have open practices and see some of the fans has been really, really cool more than anything. During the games, I try to be as focused as possible, but I just remind myself when we run out the tunnel that

this is something I've always wanted. There's another layer, another level of focus, attention to detail, development that goes into it and you have to really put your best foot forward every day."

Q: What does you getting drafted into the G-League say about the current state and future potential of Elon University's men's basketball program?

"It's definitely a step in the right direction. It's a good sign. When I first got to Elon, one of the things I spoke to Coach Schrage about was that I came there to be a pro. I wanted them to treat me as such and coach me as such and prepare me that way. And that's how they prepare us, first as young men, but obviously as hoopers as well. They put that much time and detail into their practices, the team events that we have, how they coach you. I think it definitely does a great job of getting you ready for the next level, if that's where guys wanna go. Our coaching staff is amazing. Some of the things they taught me, I still apply every time I step on the floor. I think recruits will start seeing that, because it's not gonna be just me, you're going to see more in the next few years."

Q: What are you most excited about for this season?

"Being a rookie, you realize how much you don't know in a way, and that's kind of exciting in a way because you have a lot to learn. And so like whether it be offensive things, little tricks or details here to learn, to improve, I think those are the things that really interest me. Having coaches that will explain certain things, especially being at the point guard position, there's

a lot of things that you're in charge of on the floor like how to talk to certain guys and play calls. Those are the things that I'm excited about to continue to grow and get better at."

BY THE NUMBERS

10

points averaged per game by Ndugba during Elon's 2020-21 season.

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