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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

A BUILDING BLOCK FOR THE FUTURE

Elon University freshman and guard Hunter McIntosh defends the net against the Northeastern Huskies offense during the semifinal game of the CAA Tournament where the Phoenix lost to the Huskies 68-60 in the Entertainment and Sports Arena in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, March 10.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Schrage's first season as head coach of men's basketball
ends in historic tournament run

Jon Sarver Jr. | Elon News Network | @sarver_jon

MOMENTUM TENDS TO CARRY, and Elon University's men's basketball team was no exception with its historic performance in the Colonial Athletic Association championship tournament. When graduate guard/forward Marcus Sheffield II sank a jump shot with three seconds left against James Madison University, the Phoenix secured its first victory in the CAA tournament since 2015. The seventh-ranked Phoenix advanced to

the CAA semifinals for the first time ever after another upset victory over the No. 2 ranked The College of William & Mary. On day three of the tournament, Elon's championship run came to an end with a 68-60 loss against Northeastern University in the semifinals. Elon head coach Mike Schrage said the Phoenix showed resilience against the Huskies, but the team wishes it could have pushed deeper into the postseason. "We wanted to keep playing. We wanted

to keep being together, despite the adversity we faced back in November, December, some in January," Schrage said. "A lot of teams get sick of each other. It's a long season, and didn't sense this one bit from these guys. ... They kept believing, kept staying together."

See **Men's Basketball** | pg. 14

Elon community donates more than \$6,000 to presidential campaigns

More than a fourth of all Elon-affiliated donations went to Warren, followed by Buttigieg and Sanders

Anton L. Delgado
Managing Editor | @antonldelgado

On the last Thursday of every month, senior Aileen Bell put a \$3 to \$5 dent in her bank account by donating to her favorite political campaign. She even bought a "Billionaire Tears" mug to support former Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). According to campaign finance data from the Federal Election Commission this March, Bell and more than 100 other students, faculty and staff — who listed Elon University as their

employer — donated over \$6,300 to different political campaigns. Under the Federal Election Campaign Act, individuals can donate up to \$2,800 to a candidate per election. The most an Elon employee gave this cycle was \$588. Warren, who suspended her presidential campaign on March 5, received more than a fourth of all Elon-affiliated donations. Warren's donations totaled \$1,383. This was over \$100 more than Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, who came in second for Elon employee donations and suspended his campaign days before Warren. Forty-four of Warren's dollars came from Bell's monthly residential assistant stipend.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF AILEEN BELL

Senior Aileen Bell poses with Julián Castro and Elizabeth Warren in Des Moines, Iowa, during her time working for Warren's campaign.

See **Donations** | pg. 7

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Fear of coronavirus cancels
Alternative Break trips

LIFESTYLE • PAGE 10

Students launch new magazine to
improve black representation

SPORTS • PAGE 15

Women's basketball team
prepares to defend Schar Center

THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF
ELON NEWS
NETWORK

Established 1974
Volume 45, Edition 21

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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to report a correction or a concern.

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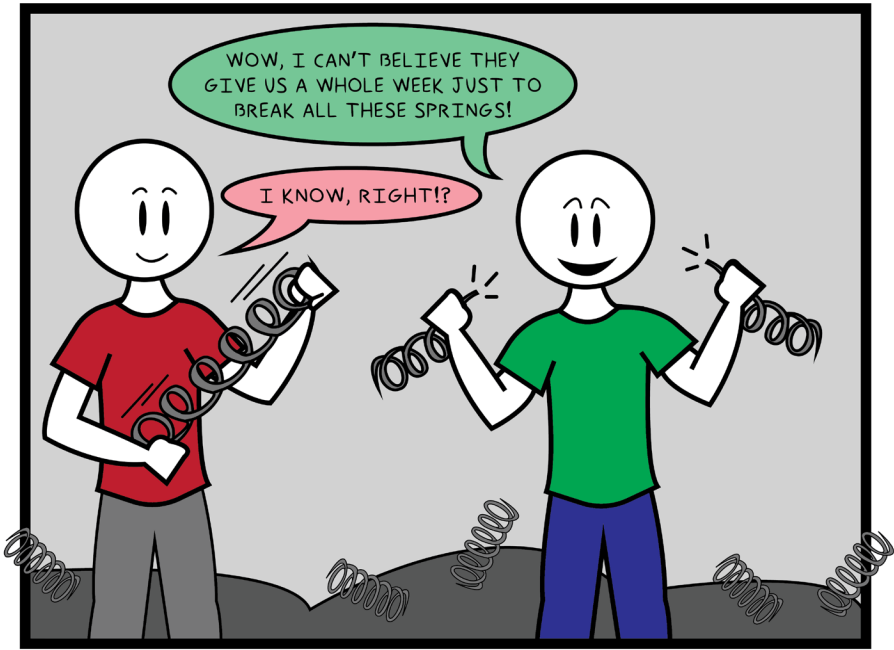
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CORRECTIONS

No corrections were issued for the last edition of The Pendulum.

COMIC

SPRING BREAK



COMIC SAMS - SAM POROZOK

GAMES

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

1. The last name of the vice president for business, finance and technology. *See Page 5 for answer.*
2. The title of the publication that allows minority students to express their opinions. *See Page 5 for answer.*
3. Bethany Harford's home country. *See Page 6 for answer.*
4. Elon's campus transportation service system. *See Page 7 for answer.*
5. The number of sororities that Elon women can choose to join. *See Page 9 for answer.*

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

CALENDAR: MARCH 9 - MARCH 14

PURIM PARTY 5-7 P.M. MCBRIDE GATHERING SPACE NUMEN LUMEN 9	NC AND THE 2020 ELECTIONS 7-9 P.M. CENTER FOR THE ARTS MCCRARY THEATRE 10	LEIGH ANN HALLBERG 9 A.M.-5 P.M. ARTS WEST GALLERY 406 10-11	STUDY ABROAD GENERAL ORIENTATION 5:15-7:15 P.M. KOURY BUSINESS CENTER 101 11	BROADWAY'S NEXT HIT MUSICAL 7:30-9 P.M. CENTER FOR THE ARTS MCCRARY THEATRE 11
ELON TEACHER FAIR 8 A.M.-4 P.M. MCKINNON HALL, MOSELEY CENTER 12	NUMEN LUMEN: THURSDAY INSPIRATION 9:50-10:20 A.M. MCBRIDE GATHERING SPCACE 12	STUDENT ORG TRAVEL TRAINING 3-4 P.M. GLOBALCOMMONS MEDIA ROOM 103 13	SOFTBALL GAME ELON VS. BUCKNELL 4-6 P.M. HUNT SOFTBALL FIELD 13	SOFTBALL GAME ELON VS. MAINE 3-5 P.M. HUNT SOFTBALL FIELD 14



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Elon University's men's basketball team celebrates during the Phoenix's game against James Madison University on Saturday, March 7. The Phoenix beat the Dukes 63-61.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Students play skee-ball during Elon Day Hoopla in Schar Center on Thursday, March 5.



THOMAS DENOME | ASSISTANT COPY CHIEF
A timelapse photo of Elon University's special Elon Day College Coffee in Alumni Gym on Thursday, March 5.



JAKOB REUTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Dozens of students celebrate Elon Day with late night bingo on the second floor of Lakeside Dining Hall on Thursday, March 5.



IAN MYERS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Junior Chung-Han Tsai hits a serve during his match against the College of Charleston at Jimmy Powell Tennis Center on Wednesday, March 4. The Phoenix won 6-1.

Finding community by going greek

Sorority recruitment raises questions about the accessibility of Greek life for Elon women

Madalyn Howard
Elon News Network | @madalynhoward_

As the excitement of 2020 spring recruitment fades, hundreds of Elon women are now weeks into their new member period, counting down the days until their official initiation into the greek community. These new members contribute to the increasing number of enrolled women choosing to join greek life. But with a history of exclusive practices, some remain skeptical that the benefits of sorority life truly extend to the broader community.

According to the Spring 2019 Fraternity and Sorority Community Report, 56.5% of women are affiliated with one of the 13 sorority chapters on Elon’s campus. With such a large on campus presence, sororities have become a facet of the university community.

Elon greek life is governed by three student-run councils: the Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Association and the National Pan-Hellenic Council. The Interfraternity Council currently manages nine male fraternities and one affiliate member, and the Panhellenic Association manages nine female sororities with one affiliate. The National Pan-Hellenic Council governs the historically African-American fraternities and sororities, currently overseeing four fraternities and three sororities.

With 13 chapters to choose from, sororal organizations constitute a majority of on-campus groups dedicated to advocacy of female students. Alexa Rasmussen serves as president of the Panhellenic Association, and she said this system of support is the backbone of greek life.

“Sisterhood, to me at least, can be explained in one word: empowerment,” Rasmussen said. “This community consists of women who challenge each other to realize their potential and empower each other to achieve that.”

Austin Moore serves as vice president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council. Speaking from her own experience, Moore said greek organizations, especially those representing historically underrepresented groups, empower their members and provide a system of accountability that is unique to sororities.

“Sisterhood is honesty,” Moore said. “It’s having a group of girls who can be open and honest with each other and having someone who is willing to go the extra mile for you.”

A POPULAR PROCESS

Out of all women on Elon’s campus, 56.5% are affiliated with one of the 13 Greek organizations that students have the ability to join.

Rasmussen, a junior, is an active member of the Theta Nu chapter of Alpha Xi Delta, while Moore, a sophomore, is an active member of the Omicron Epsilon chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha. Both women said the sense of community within and between sororities is their favorite aspect of greek life.

“Immediately after joining my organization, I could feel the incredibly

strong support system that surrounded me and the genuine friendships that were forming,” Rasmussen said. “And this doesn’t only apply to sisterhood within chapters but to the entire Panhellenic community at large.”

In both the Panhellenic Association and the National Pan-Hellenic Council, this sense of community extends beyond Elon’s campus and its undergraduate members.

In a recent Panhellenic Town Hall, chapter representatives shared stories of bonding with employers after learning of shared affiliations. Moore echoed this sentiment of professional support.

Through the National Pan-Hellenic Council, she said she has gained a network of support that will persist long after she graduates.

“Sisterhood, for our organization, is a life-long commitment,” Moore said. “We have a smaller presence with numbers, but we also have a lot of affiliated faculty members.”

Greek systems are not without their critics, though, as sororities are frequently accused of being superficial organizations. Rasmussen finds the sorority stereotype inaccurate, and she hopes to change people’s perceptions by highlighting the ways sororities benefit Elon and the surrounding community.

“I feel that the biggest misconception held by people who are not involved in greek life is that it is only a social outlet,” Rasmussen said. “It’s so much more than that. Each organization works extremely hard toward their respective philanthropy work, and it often goes unrecognized by those uninvolved in greek life.”

Every sorority chapter at Elon represents at least one national or local philanthropy, and throughout the year, the chapter hosts events to raise money. In just the past year, Alpha Xi Delta raised over \$31,000 for Autism Speaks, and Delta Delta Delta raised over \$67,000 for St. Jude Children’s Hospital and Phi Mu had 100% participation in Elonthon, according to Rasmussen.

“THIS COMMUNITY CONSISTS OF WOMEN WHO CHALLENGE EACH OTHER TO REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL AND EMPOWER EACH OTHER TO ACHIEVE THAT.”

ALEXA RASMUSSEN
JUNIOR IN ALPHA XI DELTA

At the Panhellenic Town Hall, greek life representatives eagerly expressed that sorority membership is, for many Elon women, an overwhelmingly positive experience rooted in community and philanthropy. However, Rasmussen recognizes greek life may not be for everyone, and with over 200 other organizations on campus, a student can find her place outside of a sorority.

“Greek life is an amazing opportunity and outlet for service, leadership and friendship,” Rasmussen said. “With that being said, so are a lot of other non-greek organizations on campus.”

However even if a woman desires sorority membership specifically, she may be inhibited by factors outside of her control. Before she can become affiliated, a potential new member must face several social and financial obstacles that make greek life less accessible for some Elon women.

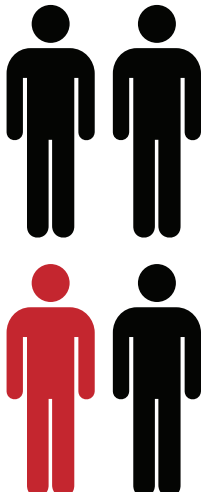
Both the NPHC and the PA have explicitly stated they do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex or sexual orientation. However, due to a lack of such representation within chapters, underrepresented individuals may be discouraged from participating in greek life.

Affiliated sorority members must make a financial commitment to their chapter and agree to pay dues and fees every semester. These costs vary between chapters, but members can pay up to several thousand dollars over the course of four years, according to Elon’s website. These external costs could be a deciding factor in whether a student joins greek life.

The final obstacle is the most



GRAPHIC BY OLIVIA PARKS
A graphic representation of the percentage of women at Elon who participate in a Greek organization. Each figure symbolizes ~500 women, and every red figure represents a woman who is affiliated with a Greek organization.



GRAPHIC BY OLIVIA PARKS
A graphic representation of the percentage of men at Elon who participate in a Greek organization. Each figure symbolizes ~500 men, and every red figure represents a man who is affiliated with a Greek organization.

unpredictable: getting involuntarily released from the recruitment process. For Panhellenic sororities, potential new members must participate in four days of recruitment, commonly referred to as “rush.” On the first day, a potential new member visits all nine chapters and ranks her preferences. Then, she must be invited back to at least one chapter to move on in the process. If, at any point, a potential new member is not invited back, she is released, or “dropped,” from the process.

Sophomore Sarah Malone participated in the 2019 recruitment process but was unexpectedly dropped before she could receive a bid. Shortly after, Elon Local News ran a story covering her experience.

Malone has now been unaffiliated for a year, and she looks back on recruitment with a level of discomfort. She said this is due in part to her recruitment counselors, called Pi Chi’s, emphasizing the rarity of getting dropped in the lead-up to recruitment.

“I was told, ‘If you keep your options open and stay true to yourself, you’ll find where you belong,’” Malone said. “So going into it, I was worried about getting in the wrong sorority — not being dropped. When I realized that does happen, it became a whole different playing field.”

The Panhellenic Association reports that less than 1% of women were released from this year’s process. According to Rasmussen, this number is impressive compared to other schools of similar size. It does not include women who did not receive a bid, voluntarily withdrew from the process or were barred from recruitment due to academic standing.

While being released from the process may be rare, Malone said this aspect of recruitment is consistently swept under the rug. She said after she went public with her experience on Elon News Network, people looked at her differently.

“It is definitely taboo,” she said. “There were definitely people in greek life that were not happy that I was talking about it.”

But despite potential backlash, Malone said she was motivated to speak out after a conversation with her Pi Chi’s. According to Malone, her Pi Chi’s offered their support and implied that girls often struggle with their mental health after getting dropped.

“They’re making sure you’ll be OK,” Malone said, “and I just couldn’t get that out of my head, thinking someone could hurt themselves because of this.”

The National Pan-Hellenic Council takes a different approach to recruitment. Rather than having a structured “rush” week, potential new members do their own research and pursue the organization they are interested in alone. Women get to know sorority members, attend information sessions and ultimately apply to their chosen chapter. This process is called membership intake, and it closes with a public presentation of the new members.

While the NPHC’s membership intake is also grounded in mutual selection, it is a far more intimate process than PA recruitment. In Moore’s opinion, NPHC’s smaller presence at Elon contributes to this level of intimacy. On campus, there are a third as many historically black sororities than historically white sororities; the average size of a Panhellenic chapter is 220 members, while the average size of an NPHC chapter is only 13 members, according to the 2019 scorecards.

At Elon, greek life can offer women community, leadership, mentorship, service and much more. But with the possibility of being released from the process, greek life is not entirely accessible to any woman who wants to join. Malone said she does not advocate for a radical transformation but hopes to soften the taboo around getting dropped or being otherwise unable to participate.

“After being told constantly to trust the process, it’s hard to see all of your friends be a part of something and know that they didn’t want you,” Malone said. “They didn’t choose you. And I know there’s a lot that goes into it. But being on that end... It still isn’t a good feeling.”

“AFTER BEING TOLD CONSTANTLY TO TRUST THE PROCESS, IT’S HARD TO SEE ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS BE A PART OF SOMETHING AND KNOW THAT THEY DIDN’T WANT YOU, THEY DIDN’T CHOOSE YOU.”

SARAH MALONE
SOPHOMORE

MENTORS FOR NEW MEMBERS

During the recruitment process, each potential new member is supported by 2-3 Pi Chi’s, who temporarily disaffiliate from their sororities to provide advice and emotional support for women going through rush.

Elon Feminist for Equality Change and Transformation, A SPACE FOR ALL FEMINISTS



Members of EFFECT posing prior to their performance in The Vagina Monologues.

TRINITY BATTLE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The longest running feminist orgaization on campus creates community for intersectional feminism

Trinity Battle

Elon News Network | @thetrinitytheory

Elon Feminists For Equality Change and Transformation is the longest running feminist organization on this campus. It has been around since 2007 and has lived throughout the different women to men ratios, which co-meeting chair Megan Whalen said she thinks “speaks to the evolution of Elon’s campus.”

Whalen joined EFFECT “pretty late” in her Elon career. Because of the gender based classes Whalen had to take for her political science major and criminal justice minor, classes such as Women in American Politics, Feminism in Coalition, and Violence Against Women, Whalen said she really came to understand the importance of feminism.

Whalen said each meeting starts with members discussing what it means to be an intersectional feminist and how to practice intersectional feminism.

“We want everyone to realize the ways in which every identity overlaps and plays a role in how we are treated in society. You are not welcome if you do not practice intersectional feminism,” Whalen said.

The term intersectional feminism was coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989, a Black lawyer who saw that race and gender were often seen as separate issues.

When she first joined, Whalen said it struck her how intentional EFFECT is about not marginalizing anyone. Beyond intersectionality, Whalen said the group also wants to include men in their efforts. EFFECT is open to men and non binary individuals.

Whalen’s role is to organize meetings and events, which is important to the organization as it transitions into becoming more event and resource based. EFFECT collaborates with organizations such as the Gender and LGBTQIA Center, which is centered around supporting and uplifting members of the LGBTQIA+ community, Students Promoting Awareness Change and

Empowerment, which is dedicated to discussion regarding rape, domestic violence, and sexual assault on college campuses, and Students Promoting Awareness Responsibility Knowledge and Success, which is dedicated to health, wellness and sexual safety.

EFFECT also takes on women’s history initiatives, such as when the group went to see the movie Harriet, a film about Harriet Tubman. In addition to women’s initiatives the group planned to see Just Mercy, a movie about a Black Harvard Law graduate who dedicates his career to providing legal counsel to men on death row and frees an innocent Black man.

“IT’S NOT JUST ABOUT WOMEN AND WOMEN’S ISSUES, IT’S ABOUT SOCIAL ISSUES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

MEGAN WHALEN

CO-MEETING CHAIR OF ELON FEMINISTS FOR EQUALITY CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION

“It’s not just about women and women’s issues, it’s about social issues and social justice I think,” Whalen said.

Part of Whalen’s duties as co-events chair include setting up group activities like seeing movies, but also reserving space for one of the group’s larger initiatives, the Vagina Monologues.

“They look at me, just for a second, and there’s that, almost like, ‘Wait, what did she say? Did she just say vagina to me? And I’m like ‘Yeah. I did.’”

EFFECT produces the show The Vagina Monologues, a play by Eve Ensler consisting of some 200 interviews highlighting femininity and womanhood with different kinds of women represented spanning race, age, and sexuality. All proceeds from the show go to Crossroads, an organization that supports victims of sexual assault, abuse, and human trafficking. Whalen said that the tradition at Elon is at least a decade old and takes place on campus every

Valentine’s day.

“A lot of time we base our values on having a partner, so it’s good to show value in who one is as a single entity,” Whalen said. “The entire production is about female empowerment. It’s about what it means to be a woman and all of its complexities.”

For a show that is showcased every year on the same day, Whalen said it has the special talent of not getting old.

“It adapts every year to focus on what we’re experiencing now and how those moments change. [It] speaks to how applicable all of these individuals are to every woman and every person,” Whalen said “So it doesn’t matter that somebody saw it two years ago. I’ve seen it, like, three times but you see something different every time. And I think every actress brings something new to it.”

Whalen said her favorite monologue is “My Vagina is Angry,” and praised Lake Sims’ rendition of the piece. Whalen said that every actress brings something different to the table and that it’s always wonderful.

A student chose to be in the Vagina Monologues after seeing the show, Whalen said, and actively changed the way she saw, valued, and showed herself in today’s society.

In addition to the Vagina Monologues, another major event EFFECT works with is Take Back the Night, a “speak-out” dedicated to supporting and empowering victims of gender based violence. Julia Metz, coordinator for violence response, said Take Back the Night is “a movement created by women who were protesting and speaking out about sex, sexual violence and experiences with sexual violence.”

“Originally it was a way of reclaiming nighttime, when we think of most sexual assault happening,” Metz said.

Elon’s Take Back the night includes a survivor speak out as well as a resource fair following the event.

Whalen said though Elon has been very supportive of the organization, sometimes when they want to have events, Elon –in an effort to practice equity– pushes back on anything that might make a person feel excluded.

“There are lots of organizations that cater to many minute groups and interests, whereas feminism is applicable to every person on this campus,” Whalen said.

Multiple Alternative Spring Break trips CANCELLED in fear of CORONAVIRUS

Some students to be reimbursed and allowed to stay on campus during the 10-day break

Kyra O’Connor

Enterprise Story Coordinator | @ko_reports

The Interfaith with the Lakota Alternative Break program has been canceled, according to the Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement, following the Oglala Sioux Nation’s decision to close borders to outsiders as a precaution related to COVID-19.

Fourteen students and two faculty were scheduled to travel to the Cheyenne River Reservation in Eagle Butte, South Dakota, during spring break to volunteer with Re-Member, an independent nonprofit organization on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Students were alerted of the change Monday morning by Kyle Anderson, assistant director of student community engagement programs, and Allison Pelyhes, multifaith coordinator, both of whom were coordinating the trip.

In an email to students, Anderson said, because the decision to cancel the trip came from the partner, Re-Member, and not the university, students will be offered a full refund. The price of the trip was \$650, but some students received scholarships for the trip through the Kernodle Center.

According to freshman Megan Curling, who was planning to go to South Dakota, those who had scholarships will only get back the amount they had paid themselves. The remaining scholarship funds will be returned to the Kernodle Center.

Curling said she hoped to use her scholarship for another volunteer opportunity.

“I asked if the scholarship could be carried over if I did an individual service thing and got it approved,” Curling said. “But [scholarships] can only be used on this year’s alternative break and [are] non-transferable.”

Students unable to return home on short notice are allowed to stay at Elon over break. After the trip was canceled, co-leader Ashley Billie said Pelyhes has “begun working on some activities for participants to enjoy if they are unable to go home due to the last-minute changes.”

Billie participated in the alternative break program her freshman year and said she was looking forward to being immersed in a community she loved again.

“As disappointed as I am to hear the news of the cancellation, I respect the nation’s right to protect themselves in a midst of something as unnerving and worrying as the coronavirus,” Billie said.

Re-Member has extended an invitation to Elon students to reschedule the trip during their 2020-21 season, and Billie said there is an interest from both participants and student and staff leaders.

“The most unfortunate thing out of all of it is that clearly the people who are going on trips like this want to be doing something beneficial with their break,” Curling said. “But it’s one of those things—no one can be mad because that’s a very fair thing to do, and we would be very much so endangering their population to come in.”

Following the cancellation of the South Dakota trip was the trip to Costa Rica. On March 10, the alternative break trip trip to Costa Rica was canceled. Freshman Chandler McKelvey planned on going on the trip, but she received an email this morning alerting her it was canceled.

“They were having some concerns about it,” McKelvey said. “Costa Rica released some things this morning, canceling big events and large crowd events.”

Jamaica, another destination for Elon student trips, has one confirmed case of COVID-19. Catholic Campus Ministry plans to travel to Jamaica for spring break and as of March 10, the trip will go on as scheduled.

Freshman Macy Mills was headed to Belize for spring break, another Elon trip canceled due to COVID-19. The Elon Outdoors trip was canceled March 10.

“There are a few cases of coronavirus in Central America,” Mills said. She received an email this morning confirming the trip cancellation.

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GONE, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

Friends of freshman John Varney remember him and the lessons they learned from the life he lived

Liam Collins

Elon News Network | @liam_collins7

The words remembering the life of freshman John Varney filled the otherwise radio-silent room even more than the people inside of it.

“He was always ready to have fun. Always having a good time,” said freshman Joseph O’Keefe, who lived on the same floor as Varney in Smith residence hall.

Varney, 19, died Friday after a two-and-a-half-year battle with osteosarcoma, a rare type of bone cancer. He was a native of Washington, D.C. and a Boston sports fan. O’Keefe also said Varney was a passionate friend.

“He FaceTimed me and told me he wasn’t coming back,” O’Keefe said. “He still had a smile on his face. He still said that we should play some PS4 sometime.”

Friends, classmates and others who knew Varney gathered in the sacred space in Numen Lumen Pavilion to share stories about him and traits of his they admired. Above all else, one common theme emerged: his ability to overcome the worst affliction any person could imagine.

“Varney was the kind of kid that always had a smile on his face,” one noted. “There was not much that meant more to him than the people in this room right now.”

Varney was first diagnosed with osteosarcoma in 2017 after a whitewater rafting trip. He felt pain in his left knee afterwards, which he originally thought was just a sprain but turned out to be a growing tumor. After two years of treatment, his doctor said he was

well enough to come to Elon.

“I said, ‘Well, yeah, why wouldn’t I,’” Varney told Elon News Network in September. “It never even occurred to me that it might not be an option.”

Varney quickly became accustomed to college life. As his dorm-mates revealed in the gathering of friends Sunday night, the bond Varney had with his fellow “Smith boys” manifested itself into nightly poker games and golf matches down the hall.

“He came out of his room with his putter and his Patriot golf balls, and on his first shot, he sunk it,” O’Keefe said. “We all tried 100 times, but none of us could do it. But he sunk it on his first try.”

Despite his illness, O’Keefe said Varney never let it affect his desire to live a normal life at college. For O’Keefe, Varney’s death is something he never could have imagined when they met just six months earlier.

“He’s family to all of us,” O’Keefe said. “This is going to be a hard loss for all of us.”

“

PAIN IS JUST
TEMPORARY.
NOTHING’S GOING
TO LAST LONG. SO, I
KNOW IT ALWAYS GETS
BETTER.

JOHN VARNEY
FRESHMAN



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN VARNEY’S FAMILY

Freshman John Varney poses with the Tom Brady, the starting quarterback for the New England Patriots.

Remembering Julie Justice for love, friendship and storytelling

Anton L. Delgado

Managing Editor | @antonldelgado

Surrounded by family, Liam Justice walked to his seat hand-in-hand with his dad. Wrinkles formed around his black suit and tie as he sat down and rested his head on his father’s shoulder.

Liam didn’t say much during the service, but he didn’t have to. Stories about his mom’s life — from her childhood to her final weeks in and out of the hospital — flooded the room.

The dozens of people attending the funeral mass for Julie Justice, former assistant professor of education, made it clear they all had a “Julie-sized hole in their heart.”

On Feb. 26, Julie died after complications with an autoimmune liver disease. Her ashes will be taken to Hawaii, where she spent several years of her youth, and spread on Mt. Haleakala.

Hundreds of people supported her fight against the disease by donating more than \$35,700 to Julie’s GoFundMe page, organized by Shannon Lundeen, director of academic-residential partnerships.

“Everyone was fighting over who was Julie’s closest friend because she made everyone feel so important and so loved,” Lundeen said. “She just had this way of making everybody feel so special like they were her own personal rockstar.”

A legacy at Elon and abroad

Julie joined Elon University’s faculty in 2014, after spending six years teaching at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She taught classes in literacy development, children’s literature, gifted education and teaching practice.

At Elon, Julie served as the community director for The Oaks Neighborhood until 2018. She is credited with beginning the neighborhood dinner tradition, which carries on today, with dinners hosted several times a semester.

Outside of Oaks Neighborhood, Julie led study abroad programs to Malawi which focused on peer-assisted literacy training and helping develop underserved educational programs. Her passion for the children in

Malawi continues today.

“While most people I have worked with usually pay attention and focus on what obligations they have, Dr. Justice always took an extra step. She was someone who wanted to know more about each and every person she met here,” said Macdonald Nkhutabasa, a program coordinator at the school. “The school committee, children and everyone will never forget her warm and caring heart. We’ll always remember her and how she made the partnership with Elon to grow stronger each year.”

Donations to Julie’s GoFundMe page made after her death will go directly to the Chimwewe Children’s Center in Blantyre, Malawi. The School of Education has also established the “Julie Justice Malawi Book Project.” Donations to the project will go toward buying books for the children at the center.

Julie’s family and friends planned for her service to mirror the things she loved most: books, storytelling, family, music and food.

“Her passion was stories and storytelling. That’s how she connected with middle schoolers. It’s actually how she connected with her teacher educators. ... That’s how she connected to everyone, whether she was in the classroom teaching or not,” Lundeen said. “Stories for her weren’t just about teaching kids or people a lesson about life — they were about connecting people.”

Those attending the funeral mass were asked to participate in a book exchange by bringing books that connected them to or reminded them of Julie.

William Moner, assistant professor of communication design, met Julie through their children’s school. He brought the picture book “I need a New Butt!” for the exchange.

“It made her laugh uncontrollably,” Moner said. “Her specialty was children’s literature, so she always wanted to find new ways to engage with kids.”

Amid the abundance of books and friends at the service, Liam untucked his shirt, left his father’s side and went outside to spend time with some friends. Before leaving, Liam said he would miss his mom’s “homemade mac and cheese” the most. According to his father William, living with Julie meant your life was surrounded by amazing music, delicious food and unrelenting love.

“We are all going to miss her,” William said. “In our own special ways.”

Jack Norcross and Maeve Ashbrook contributed to this reporting.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE JUSTICE’S FAMILY

A several year old photo of Julie Justice, former assistant professor of education, and her son Liam.

FOLLOWING THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

DONATIONS | from cover

“I believed so strongly in her campaign and what she stood for. I’m so sad to see her out of the race, but at no point do I regret the money that I gave her,” Bell said. “At the end of the day, anything I could have done to push forward her message and what she wanted to do for our country is the best feeling in the world.”

Bell’s passion for Warren’s platform went beyond the political science major’s financial contributions. She interned with the campaign over Winter Term as part of Elon’s Study USA class “Iowa: The Trail Starts Here.”

Even though Warren is out of the running, Bell said she is planning to drink out of her “Billionaire Tears” mug “for the rest of [her] life.”

Warren’s withdrawal left Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-VT) and former Vice President Joe Biden as the Democratic front-runners.

Sanders received the third largest amount of financial support from Elon employees, approximately \$960. While Biden leads in the delegate count, he trails Sanders by

\$500 in Elon-affiliated donations. With her preferred candidate out of the race, Bell is left to decide between Biden, Sanders and Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI).

While Bell said she plans to support whoever the Democratic nominee is, her donating days are over for now.

“I like to be involved in the political process, but I do not feel super passionate about either candidate,” Bell said. “I don’t know how much I’ll put forward to either campaign until they’re in the general. Then I’ll go back to donating.”

This election season, Sanders has raised the most in individual donations nationally.

More than 90% of his \$134 million campaign was composed of individual contributions. Nearly \$40,000 behind Sanders in individual contributions are Buttigieg and Warren.

So far in 2020, 98% of political donations from Elon employees have gone to Democratic candidates. President Donald Trump has received approximately \$300 this election cycle from two Elon faculty members.

Despite having watched one or more of

their preferred candidates drop out of the initial 28-person Democratic primary race, some Elon employees continue to donate.

Susan Anderson, professor of accounting, has donated to two different Democratic campaigns — Biden and Buttigieg — this season.

“It is important, especially this year because I feel that we need a change. I am fortunate that I have the means to make small donations ... because I care deeply about what happens to the country,” Anderson said. “I don’t think it is necessarily important that people give, ... but it is important to be part of the process.”

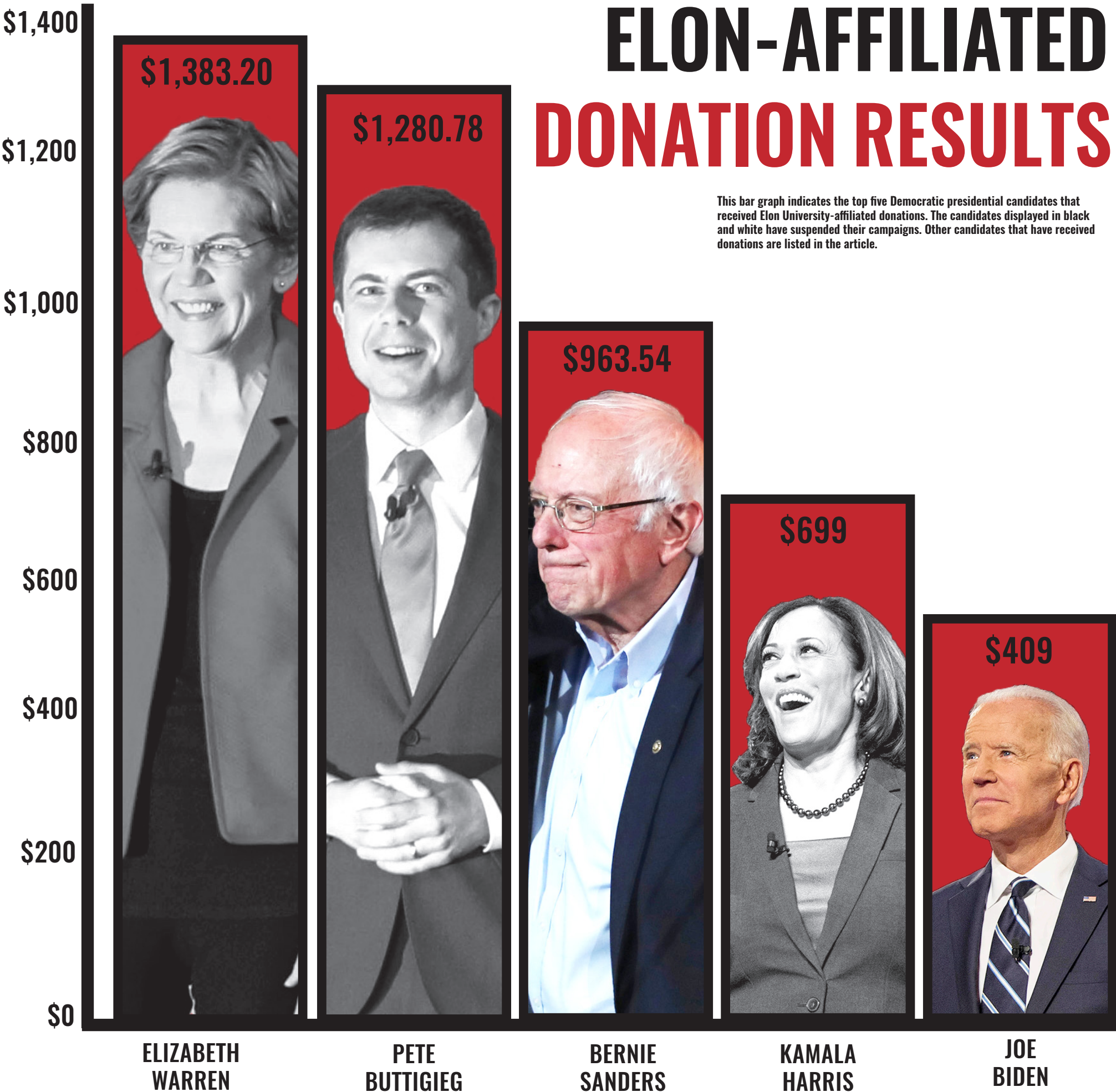
This is the second time Anderson has sent a monthly donation to a Democratic nominee. In 2016, she donated consistently to Hilary Clinton’s campaign. During that election season, 98.8% of Elon-affiliated donations went to Democrats.

Despite Clinton losing in 2016, Anderson said she doesn’t regret a single cent of her donations and doesn’t plan to this year.

“If it can make one person think a little more about voting Democratic, then it is worth it,” Anderson said.

OTHER CANDIDATE DONATIONS

- Julián Castro - \$354
- Donald Trump - \$301
- Cory Booker - \$299
- Beto O’Rourke - \$193
- Amy Klobuchar - \$165
- Jay Inslee - \$160
- Andrew Yang - \$160
- Marianne Williamson - \$53
- Michael Bennet - \$28
- Seth Moulton - \$20
- Tulsi Gabbard - \$20
- Tom Steyer- \$11
- Kirsten Gillibrand - \$1





Process to find next director of Campus Safety and Police coming to a close

Bob Shea and Connie Book to make the final decision on next direct of Campus Safety and Police

Kyra O'Connor
Enterprise Story Coordinator | @ko_reports

The police chief search committee is deciding among its final four candidates for the position of director of Campus Safety and Police.

Fifty three applications were reviewed by a group consisting of police professionals, faculty, staff and one student, which was led by Kelli Shuman, associate vice president for human resources. She said the search was made national in order to attract a broad range of applicants.

“You want to look at diversity of thought,” Shuman said. “Different people bring different experiences to the table.”

This position became available in January, when Dennis Franks stepped down to become the police chief of Stallings, North Carolina. In the interim, his role as director has been filled by police Maj. Doug Dotson. After conducting nine telephone interviews, four candidates were invited to campus: Jack Moorman, Dawn Tevepaugh, Yvonne Meyer

and Wayne Scott, all of whom are current or former police chiefs at North Carolina State University, Durham Technical Community College, Aurora University and the Greensboro Police Department, respectively.

The four visited campus in February and March to meet with students, faculty, staff, Campus Police, the search committee and President Connie Book.

“When they’re coming to campus, they’re interviewing us as much as we’re interviewing them,” Shuman said. “Obviously, they’re very interested to get to this point. But they’re also saying, ‘Hey, is this going to be a good fit for me?’”

The candidates also held a public presentation about community policing on college campuses. The announcement for these presentations was sent out to all faculty and staff.

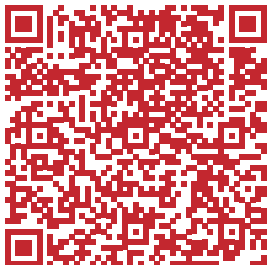
Police Capt. Joshua Tillotson said he hopes the presentations helped people in attendance better understand the role of both the police chief and Campus Safety and Police as a whole.

“It’s a big education piece. . . . Unfortunately, a lot of people don’t really understand the difference between police and our [community service officers]. They still think that our police officers are security officers,” Tillotson said. “It’s all about education and informing people of what we do and what we can do to provide those services.”

“
WHEN THEY’RE COMING
TO CAMPUS, THEY’RE
INTERVIEWING US AS MUCH
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THEM.

KELLI SHUMAN
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR
HUMAN RESOURCES

**TO FOLLOW COVERAGE ON THE
FINAL DECISION**
visit the online version of this
article at elonnewsnetwork.com
or scan the QR Code below.



The ideal candidate

One requirement the committee prioritizes for candidates is a background in police department accreditation. In 2018, under Franks’ leadership, Campus Police became accredited by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

“Community policing and building that relationship but also understanding the difference of what does it mean to be a police department on campus versus a police department out in the community,” Shuman said.

Bob Shea, vice president for business, finance and technology, said he is looking for a candidate who believes chief of police is “an educational job.”

“We want our students to graduate from here with their futures intact. So, even when they make a mistake, we want it to be a learning experience,” Shea said. “You have to have a police department and a police chief that believe in that.”

Following the last presentation on Wednesday, March 1, the committee gave its feedback to Shea, who will be collaborating with Book to make the final decision.

No date has been announced for when the position will be filled.

PASSION PROJECTS

This feature is a part of a series on students across campus turning their interests into a profit



Sophomore Lucy Callicott puts the finishing touches on a few of her clay pieces before starting the earring-assembly process.

ANNA TERRY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Turning an online interest into a tangible business

Anna Terry
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Sophomore Lucy Callicott lays down on the carpet of her dorm room amidst an array of craft supplies, almost as if in a world of her own.

She focuses attentively on her work, polishing small pieces of brightly colored clay on a gridded mat. Some marbled, some painted, these individual clay shapes come together to make up a stunning pair of earrings.

A jeweler specializing in polymer clay earrings, Callicott is one of over 40 students involved in Elon University's Student-Made Store.

After finishing up her summer job in August 2019, Callicott began searching for an activity to fill her free time before the start of the fall semester.

STUDENT STORE

Elon's Student-Made Store is a creative outlet for over 40 students of all grade levels.

like, "Those are so cute — I bet I can make them." So, I did," Callicott said.

Callicott is a self-taught artist, having learned jewelry techniques through social media platforms such as Instagram and YouTube. Callicott looks at techniques other artists use and implements them in her own work. As her own teacher, she said

the creation process has been full of trial and error.

"I've changed the way that I've made them so many times now just because I find new things that work. I found certain clays that I really like to work with and clays that I don't like to work with," Callicott said.

When brainstorming, Instagram serves as a huge source of inspiration for Callicott. Oftentimes, she goes on the app to look at clay earring trends and to get ideas about color patterns she can use. Callicott said she also frequently looks to nature and fashion when creating her designs.

"I look to nature a lot. And then also fashion design and just little things," Callicott said. "You know, pieces of art, pieces of fashion that have already been made to kind of get inspiration about different color patterns that I can use together."

Art has always been an important part of Callicott's life, she said. Coming from an artistic family, she said she grew up constantly creating and designing.

"I remember I used to act like I had a fashion company. I would draw out designs and make clothes for my American Girl dolls or my stuffed animals. I was always painting and journaling, and it's always been a really big part of my life. I think my family definitely cultivates art," Callicott said. "All of my siblings are pretty artistic. So it's a good way for us to connect too."

Besides serving as a creative outlet, Callicott said, making jewelry also gives her time to relax.

"If I'm coming back from class or want time to myself, I'll find myself making earrings because it's what I like to do. Manipulating the clay is really therapeutic and coming

up with new designs, so I think I definitely get in a zen zone when I'm creating," Callicott said. "I think it helps my mental health when I get to prioritize making art. It's kind of my 'me time.' And now that I've been selling them, it's been a really fun way to connect with other people."

At the beginning of her sophomore year, Callicott saw a Facebook post from Lindsay Reeth '19, creator of the Student-Made Store, attempting

“ I THINK IT HELPS MY MENTAL HEALTH WHEN I GET TO PRIORITIZE MAKING ART. IT'S KIND OF MY ME TIME.

LUCY CALLICOTT
SOPHOMORE

to recruit artists to get involved. As a new jeweler, Callicott was excited by the opportunity to join, and Reeth welcomed her with open arms.

With minimal experience making jewelry, Callicott had little expectations regarding her sales.

But, to her surprise, her earrings sold well at the first event, and her brand Lucy Light Designs began to take off.

"It really kick-started my whole business. It gave me my first outlet to sell my earrings, and then I could, from there, gauge interest in people. It helped me get my first sales — I wouldn't have been able to start selling my earrings without it."

Callicott said. "My favorite part is the events, just being able to get my name out there and show my art. Those were super helpful, and I got to meet so many cool new people through that."

Now, Callicott mainly sells her work on Instagram but still offers a few pieces on the Student-Made Store website; she will continue to sell her earrings at the store's events.

Throughout her journey as a jeweler, Callicott said her friends have been a tremendous support system. Sophomore Sophia Gerth is both a friend and customer of Callicott.

Gerth said she loves "Lucy Light Designs," as the price and quality of the earrings are fantastic and buying Callicott's earrings allows Gerth to support one of Elon's local artists.

"The Elon community can be an incredibly powerful thing, and rallying behind the projects and creative outlets of our peers is so meaningful," Gerth said.

Every Callicott creates a batch of earrings to ensure her online orders are filled in a reasonable time. Customers can purchase earrings designed and pre-made by Callicott, but they can also place custom orders.

Some customers, like Gerth, ask for custom orders in honor of traditions such as Christmas and sorority recruitment.

"My largest order was one that I custom designed with Lucy's help for Christmas; I ended up getting a unique pair of earrings for my mom, sister and aunt. Each one was different and specifically crafted for their personality," Gerth said. "I have also purchased a couple of pairs for myself. One of them Lucy designed

for my sorority recruitment outfit. That one was made with white clay and blue sparkly stars to match the colors of my sorority."

Callicott said the name of her jewelry brand originated from a Latin translation of her name.

"My brand is called Lucy Light Designs because my name means light. And I always say I think it's my purpose in life to be a light to others, so that's why I named it that," Callicott said. "I want my earrings to do the same thing and be a light in people's day and be able to encourage other people to be confident."

To those who know Callicott, her business is just one of many things that make her special.

"This business is just a fraction of all the things that Lucy can do, and she puts her heart into everything," Gerth said.



ANNA TERRY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Four examples of Lucy Callicott's earring designs from her brand "Lucy Light Designs."

Magazine launches in effort to represent black students

Sophomore created Elon University's first magazine tailored toward black students

Quinn Corrigan

Elon News Network | @quinn_corrigan

In November 2019, sophomore Anaya Jones said she came up with the idea for BlackbELONG Magazine, a publication she said she hoped would open doors for the black community on campus.

"I created BlackbELONG as a space for black-identifying students to have a place that they felt like they were being heard and also a place they felt like they could demonstrate their own talents," Jones said.

After months of preparation, the magazine officially launched its online publication in February. The team of seven women worked together to create "a space where black students on this campus can feel heard, can feel special and that they are needed and necessary on this campus," Jones said.

Though they are an all female team now, they welcome anyone who wants to get involved, Jones said.

Sophomore Lindsay Gray, a member of the team, said during the creation process she and Jones emphasized the idea of the website satisfying different readers' wants and needs to "give

a safe environment where people can read articles for motivation, inspiration, their own personal enjoyment or just for additional information."

Jones said the team plans to highlight a wide variety of stories from feature pieces on students and organizations to news that affects the black community on campus. BlackbELONG Magazine's stories will also expand beyond Elon University's campus.

Only 5.4% of the student body identifies as African American, according to the 2019-20 Elon FactBook, which is why Jones said she hopes readers are empowered by each piece.

Jones and her team also said they want readers to be intrigued and want to start conversations or ask questions about what they are reading.

"We want people to feel the excellence. We want people to know that this is what you are getting on Elon's campus from the black community. Yes, we are small in numbers. But no, we are not small in strength," Jones said.

A special section on the website is an "experiences" section, which Jones said was an important aspect to include. All pieces written in this section are anonymous and allow students to share their experiences on campus.

"All of our experiences are not the same whether people want to



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANAYA JONES

Left to right: Eukela Little and Alicia Clanton are in charge of launching the BlackbELONG Magazine work together on the publication.

talk about it or see it. Depending on your skin color, you do have a different experience on this campus," Jones said.

Jones and Gray said they are both happy with where BlackbELONG Magazine is at right now. The team has talked about creating physical copies but wants to expand its website first to make a lasting effect on campus.

"I don't want it to leave when I graduate. I want it to be

something that students know about when they get here and they want to join," Jones said.

They also hope to expand and add more visual elements to the website. One way that Gray plans to do this is to create videos for different events on campus.

"Videos will include interviews or stories that shine light on different aspects of the black community and public events hosted by the Black Student Union," Gray said.

There is a section on the BlackbELONG Magazine website that allows anyone to add a story idea they believe should be featured. Although they are not yet recognized as a student media organization by the university, it is something that Jones believes will "come when it's meant to happen".

So far the website has featured stories such as "Celebrating Black Beauty" and "Being Black at Elon University: T-Pain."

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A LACK OF FOCUS ON THE ARTS



Kali Clougherty
Contributor

Kali Clougherty is a sophomore BFA music theatre major.

Boldly Elon, the university's 10-year strategic plan, was released on Feb. 11 and outlined plans for major changes and additions to be made at Elon by 2030. This includes building more residence halls, expanding STEM programs, extending alumni outreach in various cities in the U.S. and adding more funding for athletics programs.

At first glance, this is exciting news that will only make Elon a better learning and working environment for students, faculty and staff. However, it is clear the performing and visual arts departments are left hanging in funding and recognition by the university as a whole.

The performing and visual arts programs at Elon University serve a vital purpose in the university and local community. The lack of performing arts funding aid is very unfortunate because since Elon's performing arts programs are among the top 30 in the country for training and education, including BFA musical theatre, acting and dance. According to the Elon Performing Arts website, there are approximately 390 students who audition in person every year. This does not include the students who were rejected. That not only enlarges Elon's applicant pool but also increases the school's revenue from application fees.

With programs growing and developing over the years through academic and extracurricular changes, the facilities would benefit from being updated as well. As a student who has class in the Center for the Arts, I have witnessed pieces of the ceiling fall during a normal class day. I have seen my friends get sick from spending all of their time rehearsing on the McCrary Theatre Stage, which has problems with mold and dust from its old age. I watch all of the dance and musical theatre majors sitting on the floor of the CFA because there aren't enough seats for everyone, let alone a common space for everyone to congregate in.

The performing arts faculty also face a lack of space for offices. There are many professors who share their office with other staff members due to overcrowding. There is also a lack of both performing space and adequate-sized dressing rooms backstage in addition to a low ratio of practice rooms to students. As of now, we only have three dance classrooms in the Center for the Arts and one large one in Scott Studios. Many of the dance classes cap out at 12 to 15 people because the dance rooms are small and cannot hold more than that without becoming overcrowded.

It is very upsetting to me that all of these issues were overlooked by the university. There are many changes happening in each program that the university should be supporting in the 2030 Strategic Plan. The musical theatre program is getting three3 to -4four new faculty members for the next academic year. Our curriculum is being updated every year, adding new



THE LACK OF PERFORMING ARTS FUNDING AID IS VERY UNFORTUNATE BECAUSE ELON'S PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS ARE AMONG THE TOP 30 IN THE COUNTRY FOR TRAINING AND EDUCATION, INCLUDING BFA MUSICAL THEATRE, ACTING AND DANCE.

KALI CLOUGHERTY
SOPHOMORE BFA MUSIC THEATRE MAJOR

extracurricular classes. The musicals chosen are catered to what is being showcased on Broadway in 2020. However, we cannot further these changes without the inclusion of the arts in the plan for the next 10, 20 or 30 years.

The Department of Performing Arts puts on three plays, three musicals and three dance concerts every academic year, which attract locals and university students. Not only are the BFA programs recognized by Burlington and the town of Elon, but prestigious magazines and websites, such as Playbill.com and Backstage.com, praise them as well., along with websites that cater to high school seniors applying to college.

Some improvements that would be amazing to see would be more funding to put on Broadway-level productions, a new facility that includes a larger quantity of dance rooms, more offices for our professors who don't have a space for themselves, a common room for students to congregate in and not interrupt classes, more practice rooms for students and larger classrooms and work rooms for students and faculty. There is a lot that goes into putting on a production, and with the right resources, we can succeed in training and educating. However, this cannot be done if the university fails to recognize these needed improvements in their strategic planning process.

Although I know there won't be much change or improvement to the performing arts facilities in this new strategic plan, I hope to see the Center for the Arts expand in the future beyond 2030 so music, musical theatre, acting, dance and all performing arts majors have the resources they need to succeed.

Improving awareness for Women's History Month

Meagan Whalen
Contributor

Whalen is a senior and the current co-president of Elon Feminists For Equality Change and Transformation, the university's longest standing feminist organization.

As feminists and engaged Elon University students, we often tend to question the status quo. In many settings and circumstances, I, and I'm sure many of my peers, are grateful to Elon academia and our activist generation for instilling in us this helpful skill of not simply accepting but rather questioning.

However, we must be careful not to seek out fault in the organizations that oversee and direct us with an expectation of

finding wrongdoing.

Some may argue that universities can always do more to honor the accomplishments and sacrifices of women during International Women's Day and Women's History Month. But, we must also acknowledge that an effort is being made on this campus to do just that. On March 9, Spence Pavillion hosted guest speaker Kristina Gupta, who spoke on the topic of feminist debates in health care.

The GLC hosted an International Women's Day Drop-In celebration featuring food, music and card-making on March 10. The Center for Leadership is to host a Women's HERstory event on March 11 with the intention of analyzing lyrics and music of female artists who implored leadership and empowerment through their works. Elon's radio station, WSOE, is soon to release a blog post series featuring female artists.

These are just a few events taking place on Elon's campus to honor Women's History Month. Students, faculty and organizations should be recognized for making a concerted effort to engage in a conversation around gender and pay homage to women.

Further, I believe it is important not to equate Women's History Month with Black

History Month. They carry different connotations of oppression and affect the Elon community in distinct ways, warranting differing forms of recognition and celebration.

We cannot simply rely on a Google search for awareness of campus events, but rather

must engage ourselves in these communities, which advocate equality throughout the year and have in fact stepped forward this month in particular to connect with our peers through thoughtful conversation.

TO SEE THE STORY THAT THIS OPINION IS IN RESPONSE TO

visit elonnewsnetwork.com or scan the QR Code below.





Elon lacks promotion for transportation services



Annemarie Bonner
Opinions Editor

Bonner is a freshman and the editor for Elon News Network's Opinion section.

Elon lacks advertisement for one of its most important resources: shuttle services. I take airport shuttle after airport shuttle, however each time there are only five or six students, which is surprising. Not only that, but not a single soul informed me of the Elon University Ellington Center Shuttle Service, a resource I could have used when I was in one of my worst physical states.

As I was aching and feeling like I was on my deathbed with the flu, I walked 15 minutes to the health center only to find out after my appointment that there is a shuttle service. My orientation leader failed to inform me of this, my resident assistant failed to inform me of this and the health center failed to inform me of this. This is a problem that needs to be solved in order to ensure students do not make the same mistake I did, which resulted in me unintentionally throwing up on my walk home.

Elon provides transportation via the BioBus system, sick rides and airport shuttles, but very few students know about these resources. Additionally, there is a program called E-Rides, which is a late-night one-way transportation service for students. Again, I did not know about this service. That is a problem.

There is a lack of advertisement for the airport shuttle, which should be mentioned more than just on a tour of campus. No student should struggle to find a ride to the airport, especially not when there is a service at their fingertips.

The Center for Writing Excellence is something that is advertised heavily within the Elon community. In almost every class, students are able to earn bonus points for going. This may seem like a stretch to tie into this matter, but many professors, or at least the ones I have had, include this in their syllabus and mention it in class.

The same method must apply when it comes to making students aware of both sick rides and airport shuttles. I have encountered too many students who do not understand

ELON TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

1. Elon University BioBus
2. Airport Shuttles
3. Health Services Shuttle
4. Burlington Link Transit Bus System
5. Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation
6. Emergency Ride Home
7. Alamance County Transportation Authority



STUDENTS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO DIG THROUGH THE ELON WEBSITE TO KNOW THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM WHEN THEY NEED THEM THE MOST.

ANNEMARIE BONNER
OPINIONS EDITOR

the value of the price of the shuttle ride. Just like with the Writing Center, there is great value in advertising this service to students.

Had my Elon 101 class discussed sick rides or had my RA made me aware of it, I would have never had to walk when I was weak and sick with the flu nor would other students have to do the same.

Elon must do more to ensure students are accommodated. No student, at least in my experience, would think, "Wait, let me check the website to see if Elon has a transportation service to get me to the health center." That is not a college freshman's first thought when they are sick and need to see a doctor. Finding out this was available after my tumultuous experience the morning of my appointment, I was extremely disappointed.

Students should not have to dig through the Elon website to know there are many opportunities for them to use when they need them most. Many other schools do not have provided airport shuttles. However, Elon does for only \$45.

It is vital that freshmen students are made aware of this during orientation, as no student should have to be overwhelmed with having to pay an immense amount of money for an Uber.

Elon should post the deadlines for registering for the shuttle on social media and provide reminders as deadlines approach. The health center should also notify patients of the sick rides service if the patient chooses to make an appointment by phone. This would ensure students can make it to their appointment in a successful manner.

Had I not remembered the airport shuttle service because of my tour, I would have struggled to figure out how to get myself to the airport.

Elon must ensure through social media, orientation and residence life that all students have the resources they need if they are struggling with any method of transportation.

SPORTS



EQUALITY ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Elon middle blocker Natalie Cummins tips a pass over the net in a game against Delaware State on Oct. 12, 2019, in Schar Center. The Phoenix won 3-2.

THOMAS DENOME | ASSISTANT COPY CHIEF

Female athletes share their experiences and reflect on the female sports community

Lauren Singles

Elon News Network | @lauren_singles

When her dad took her to her first professional soccer game to watch the England nation under-19 team, Elon University freshman Bethany Harford knew she wanted to be just like the players she saw on the pitch. After expressing interest in playing, her dad signed her up for a boys' soccer team.

"If I joined the girls' team, that level wouldn't have been the same as if I was in a boys' team," Harford said. "He just started me straight in the deep end with the guys."

Harford said her experience as the only girl on the boys' team prepared her for dealing with others with diverse backgrounds coming into women's athletics at Elon. Despite women's sports not being popular where she grew up in Essex, England, she said she feels supported at Elon.

"Everything here is very equal in the fact that we support women's and men's just as much," Harford said. "We get a lot of attendance — not necessarily soccer — but women's basketball and that sort of stuff get a lot of attendance, which is really important."

Though Harford said she feels as though female athletes get equal treatment, there are things she said could be drastically improved — especially regarding travel. According to Harford, the men's soccer team receives "sleeper busses" with seats that fully recline.

For the women's team's drive to Baltimore, however, she said they got a normal and more cramped coach bus.

"We need support in making sure that we can get to a game efficiently," Harford said. "It does play a massive part on how we play."

Increasing social media presence would also help with attendance, according to Harford. She said she remembers seeing a

men's basketball game and being stunned by the pre-game videos and media.

For Harford, promoting attendance is one of the most important things the Elon community can do when it comes to fan turnout.

"We work so hard. We get in here, we get absolutely buzzing, we're ready and we walk onto the pitch and we stand up in front of our fans, and it's an empty stand," Harford said. "It's heartbreaking."

Like Harford, junior Natalie Cummins, who plays on the volleyball team, said she does see a discrepancy in attendance but still feels Elon strives to support women's athletics equally.

"Our school is really focused on

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WE'RE ALL LIKE SISTERS, WHERE WE SPEND SO MUCH TIME TOGETHER AND WE GO THROUGH ALL THE SAME HARDSHIPS. ULTIMATELY, WE ALL SHARE THAT BOND OF GETTING THROUGH THE HARD TIMES AND CELEBRATING EACH OTHER.

NATALIE CUMMINS
JUNIOR

creating that equality," Cummins said. "They definitely understand that there's a discrepancy worldwide, and I think that they're taking that understanding and applying it and trying to give us that equality."

Encouraging community members and students to come to the games is vital, according to Cummins. Seeing people in

the audience helps to drive up team morale.

"It makes a difference when people show up," Cummins said. "It really does create a sense of community, and it's nice for the athletes to see that support."

Cummins said the community of female athletes at Elon is like a family to her; their similar schedules and experiences help bring them together.

"We're all like sisters, where we spend so much time together and we go through all the same hardships," Cummins said. "Ultimately, we all share that bond of getting through the hard times and celebrating each other."

Cummins said she also remembers playing sports from a young age.

"I would just play for the fun of it," Cummins said. "I never really thought about, 'Oh, I'm a girl; I'm not supposed to be doing that.'"

As a female athlete, Cummins said she has always looked up to U.S. Olympic gymnast Simone Biles. Even though she does not participate in gymnastics, she sees Biles as one of the best athletes in the world.

On the other side of the plate is Kathy Bocock, Elon's softball coach. Bocock started playing sports with her three brothers and two sisters. Elementary school was the first time she was introduced to a women's sports team.

"That was the first time we had somebody in our community decide to have a girls' basketball team," Bocock said.

At Elon, Bocock said the athletics department adequately provides equal resources to both the men and women's teams.

"They're always trying to make sure that whatever teams need — male or female — they're trying to make it happen," Bocock said.

As a coach, Bocock said she emphasizes community and teamwork to her players. She said supporting each other is a very important value for women's athletics.

"As a female, I always show them to be strong and support one another," Bocock said. "For females and female athletes, I think that's one of the things that we need to do a little bit better."

Bocock shares a similar view to Harford and Cummins about how to improve female



ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR

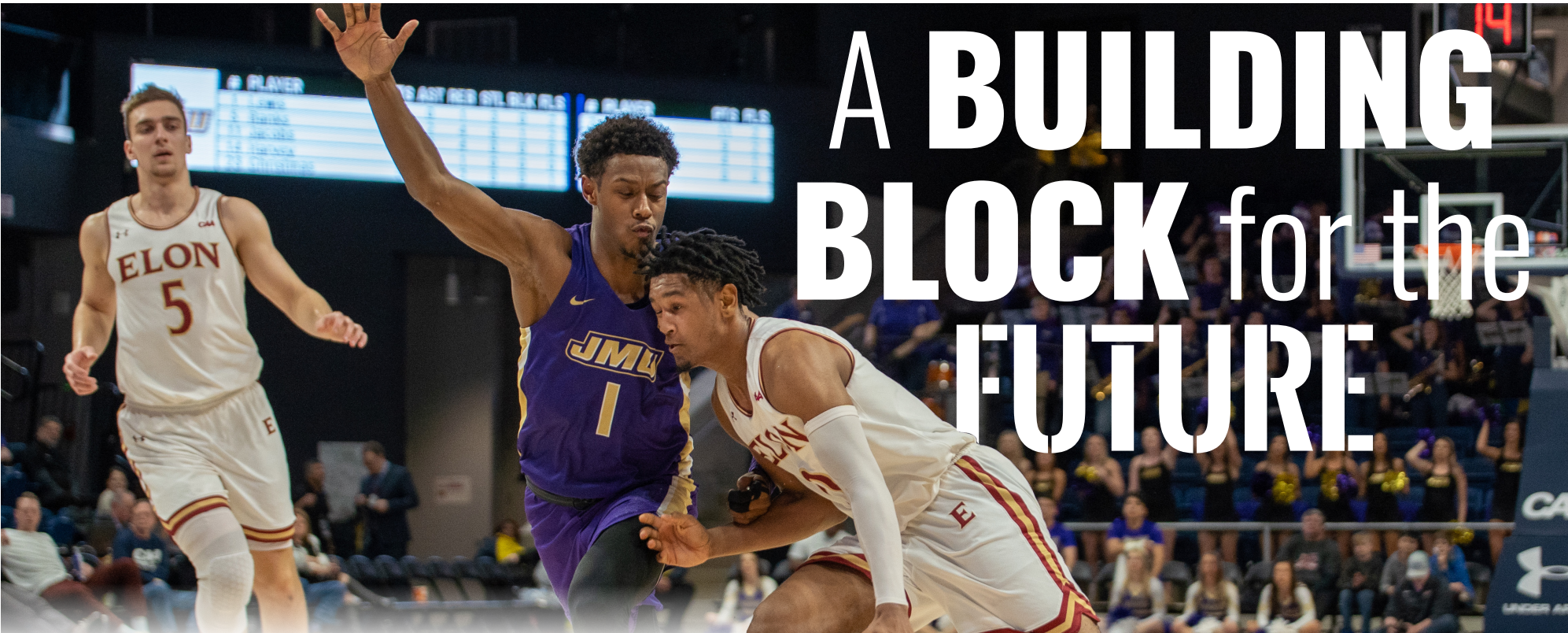
Freshman forward, Bethany Harford, takes the ball down the field in an August 25 game against High point University, where the Phoenix won 1-0.

sports; Bocock said she also wants to see more people showing up to the games. According to her, one of the best ways to support female athletes is to draw people to games and matches.

"To come and see it and actually witness it, I think it would really make people have a little bit more appreciation for it," Bocock said. "People are missing things when they don't go watch the female athletes compete because it's pretty amazing."

According to Bocock, Elon athletes show each other a lot of respect, but those uninvolved in athletics may not see the hard work put in by these women.

"They're not just young ladies or females just out there playing a sport," Bocock said. "They are true athletes. Remove the female."



A BUILDING BLOCK for the FUTURE

MEN'S BASKETBALL | from cover

Elon did not get off to the best start in the 2019-20 season. Following a loss to Towson University at home halfway through conference play, the Phoenix fell to a dismal 5-16 record on the season.

However, Elon started to find its footing in the final 10 games of the regular season, going 6-4 during that stretch. After the team's victory against William & Mary, freshman guard Hunter McIntosh said the team has worked through growing pains, but a positive mindset led to the team's success early in the tournament.

"We took a lot of bumps and lumps early on in the season, but we just had the right attitude," McIntosh said. "We have a belief in ourselves, belief in our work, so I think some of it is starting to come to fruition."

Moving forward from Schrage's first season as head coach, strong performances from young players in the 2020 tournament may bode well for the future of the men's basketball program.

By the time Elon's journey in the tournament came to a close, sophomore forward Federico Poser racked up 35 points, hauled in nine rebounds and shot an impressive 70% from the field.

Freshman forward Hunter Woods showed his stamina and defensive prowess in the CAA championship. Woods subbed out of the game once in the tournament, exiting the game for just 97 seconds in the loss against Northeastern. In the upset victory against William & Mary, Woods collected 15 of his 34 total rebounds in the tournament.

Finally, CAA Rookie of the Year Hunter McIntosh was a major contributor for the Phoenix on day three of the tournament. Against Northeastern, McIntosh scored 20 points and drained four 3-pointers.

Following Elon's loss to Northeastern, Schrage sat down

for the postgame press conference with two departing members of the Phoenix at his side: redshirt junior guard Seth Fuller and Sheffield II.

Schrage talked about the relationship he formed with the duo and the example that Fuller and Sheffield have set for Elon athletes in the future.

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HUNTER MCINTOSH
FRSHMAN GUARD

"Seth, to have the fortune to coach him and be a part of our program this year. He's the perfect example of what I want an Elon student athlete to be going forward," Schrage said. "And then

Marcus Sheffield, ... a man that I've known now for seven years. And just really lucky that he decided to be a part of this journey and both these guys will be forever remembered."

Fuller believes the future of the men's basketball program is bright and in good hands with the current coaching staff.

"It's definitely a step in the right direction for this program, and it's what we wanted to accomplish," Fuller said. "It's something to build on for everyone coming back, ... I have the most faith in everyone coming back and this coaching staff — I think they are going to accomplish a lot of big things in the coming years."

Sheffield II started every game in the 2019-20 season and averaged over 18 points and five rebounds per game.

After the final game of his collegiate career, Sheffield II, a transfer student from Stanford University, reflected on his lone season with Elon.

"Coming in, I didn't really know what to expect being injured," Sheffield II said. "I was able to bond with the team really well. Those guys definitely became like my brothers. I love them for sure."

With the first chapter of the Schrage era coming to a close, the first year head coach said this team will serve as an example for future squads.

"This Team 107 is forever going to be reflected back as building the foundation,

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THIS TEAM 107 IS FOREVER GOING TO BE REFLECTED BACK AS BUILDING THE FOUNDATION, AND IT'S A LAUNCHING PAD.

MIKE SCHRAGE
HEAD COACH

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon University freshman and guard Hunter McIntosh drives to the basket against James Madison junior and guard Matt Lewis in the second game of the CAA tournament, first for the Phoenix, in Washington D.C. at the D.C. Entertainment and Sports Arena on Saturday March 7, 2020. The Phoenix beat the Dukes 63-61.

and it's a launching pad. We believe in elevating this program to amazing heights," Schrage said. "We're an amazing school, amazing new arena, amazing support. So we're looking forward. This was a great, great start."



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon University freshman and guard/forward Hunter Woods boxes out William and Mary player during their game in the quarter finals in the Entertainment and Sports Arena in Washington, D.C. during the CAA Tournament on Sunday March, 8. The Phoenix beat the Griffin 68-63 and advanced to the semifinals for the first time in Elon history.

THE PHOENIX

prepares to defend its

HOUSE



Elon University's women's basketball team bench celebrates during the team's improbable second-half comeback against Appalachian State University on Nov. 13, 2019. The Phoenix won 67-66 in overtime.

THOMAS DENOME | ASSISTANT COPY CHIEF

The Phoenix's women's basketball team plans for its first CAA Tournament in Schar Center this March

Caitlin Rundle
Elon News Network | @caitlinr_21

For the first time in program history, the Colonial Athletic Association's women's basketball tournament will be held in Schar Center at Elon University. This will be head coach Charlotte Smith's sixth CAA tournament appearance.

"You can't take for granted that you have the home court advantage," Smith said. "When you look at the historical finishes of championships over the last couple of years, all the teams that have had home court advantage have not won the championship."

This will be sophomore guard Brie Perpignan's first CAA tournament at home. Perpignan said she feels confident going into the tournament because the Schar Center is "our house."

"We have a feel for the gym. We just know we're gonna go off in our house," Perpignan said. "Once the game starts, once the ref blows the whistle, you're just locked in and you don't really notice a big difference of other team's court, but just knowing we're in our house is really that mentality."

The women's basketball team (13-16, 8-10 CAA) earned the No. 7 seed in the tournament and will face off against the No. 10 seeded Hofstra University Pride (3-26, 0-18 CAA) on March 11 at 4:30 p.m.

**HIGH STAKES
TOURNAMENT**
In the CAA Women's Basketball Tournament, a loss for any team means they are immediately eliminated from the tournament.

The first two matchups this season against the Pride ended with Phoenix victories. Both games had a score deficit of over 10 points.

"It's been a rocky road, but we've stayed the course and tried to stay unified as a team," Smith said.

Under Smith, the Phoenix has already won two CAA tournaments, receiving a bid into the NCAA tournament after both victories.

Before those two victories, Smith said the original transition into the CAA made tournament play that year a little rocky. Although, she said once the team felt comfortable enough in the league, it was a chance for the team to come together and win its first championship.

"The first year we won at James Madison and that was huge for us because that was actually the first time that we had won on their court," Smith said.

Smith said last year, the Phoenix had graduated several offensive players and she wasn't sure if the team was convinced it could win another championship. She said watching Towson University win last year's tournament over favored James Madison University gave her team some confidence that it is anyone's game.

"That opened their eyes to like, 'Maybe this lady knows what she's talking about just a little bit,'" Smith said. "I felt the same way even this year, that it was wide open. You can just look at it. Even though James Madison doesn't have a lot of losses, nor Drexel, they are teams that are beatable."

Drexel University and JMU earned the No. 1 and No. 2 seed respectively and will not play in the first round of games. If Elon were to win against the Pride on Wednesday, it would go on to play the Dukes on March 12 at 5 p.m. The Phoenix have yet to beat the Dukes this season.

In CAA tournament play, it is win-or-go-home style. Unlike the regular season — where if a team loses, it has another game

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CHARLOTTE SMITH
HEAD COACH

CAA STANDINGS

7
Elon University's women's basketball team is the No. 7 seed in the CAA Women's Basketball Tournament.

TOURNAMENT SUCCESS

2
is the number of CAA tournaments won by Elon Women's Basketball under head coach Charlotte Smith's tenure.

in two days — if a team loses in the CAA tournament, their season is over.

Smith and the Phoenix have found an alternative way to prepare for this mentality: by reading and watching a book and video series done by Brett Ledbetter and Becky Burleigh called "What Drives Winning."

"Of course the stakes are higher," Smith said. "What we've done is we've been watching a lot of 'What Drives Winning' videos, and we followed 'What Drives Winning' when they had about three videos on Oregon women's basketball. The one thing that I hope they take away from those videos is that pressure creates abnormal behavior."

Smith said she wanted to teach her team how to defuse pressure and doesn't want the women to play "abnormally." Perpignan said the videos helped the team gain a new perspective on situations that arise on the court.

"Saying our different inputs and what we got out of them made us realize, 'OK, when we do face adversity or any other situation that we've noticed in those videos,' we know how we all feel about it in just being able to talk about it and overcoming it," Perpignan said.

Despite the added pressure of tournament play, Perpignan and the rest of the Phoenix are ready to get started with what its whole season has been leading up to.

"I love the feel of tournament play," Perpignan said. "Everybody brings the best version of themselves. We definitely know we're going to bring our best version of ourselves to just stepping on the court, having fun and being the best team that we know we're able to be."

**WHAT DRIVES
WINNING**
The women's basketball team watched the "What Drives Winning" video series to better grasp how to react in the face of adversity.

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