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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA  
VOLUME 51, EDITION 5

# THE PENDULUM

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE NUMBERS SHIFT AS PANDEMIC LEARNING CHANGES



While the medical leave of absence has been available for years now for students, the pandemic leave of absence was offered beginning fall 2020 for students who felt uncomfortable returning to school because of COVID-19. Going into the 2021-22 academic years, LOA numbers have changed.

Both the Registrar and office to the Dean of Students found that pandemic leave of absence numbers decreased in 2021 and medical leave of absence numbers are still fluctuating because of the pandemic

Nyah Phengsitthy | Managing Editor | @nyahphengsitthy

CAITLIN EGAN MADE THE decision to not return for the fall semester days before the 2021-22 academic year began. After a year of online learning, her mental health was negatively affected, pushing her to fill out the Medical Leave of Absence form.

A Leave of Absence occurs when the university grants an undergraduate student's formal education to be paused due to a medical or personal concern that would prevent a student from completing a full semester or academic year. When COVID-19 became a major concern for some students and their return to campus, Pandemic Leave of Absence also became an option. According to university Registrar Rodney Parks, 57 students in 2020 were granted a Pandemic Leave of Absence, and 25 have been granted so far in 2021. As for Medical Leave of Absences, or MLOA, there were 74 in 2020 and

87 in 2021 so far.

For Egan, pushing through with a MLOA was the result of her freshman year experience and being on a social hiatus in and out of the classroom. Though Elon returned to fully in-person learning this year, the effects from the pandemic are still present for her.

"It was hard because I experienced Zoom fatigue," Egan said. "I felt like I wasn't properly learning from the screen. Last semester I just pushed it off. I just realized my grades weren't where I wanted them to be and I could do a lot better if I took a break and regrouped."

While applying for a MLOA has been an option available to students for years now, the incorporation of a PLOA was introduced to the university immediately before the fall 2020 academic year. According to Parks, for students who looked into withdrawing from school

### BY THE NUMBERS

25

pandemic leaves of absence have been granted so far in the year of 2021, according to university Registrar Rodney Parks.

due to pandemic concerns, the university informed them of the PLOA option.

"It's always good for students to see new resources available to them," Parks said.

Parks also said in-person learning has affected this year's LOA numbers.

"The number of pandemic leave of absence is going down as the campus returns much more to a normal state of processing," Parks said.

See **ABSENCE** | pg. 5

## Office of the Registrar, Office of Academic Advising debuts new technology for registration

A new system called Student Planning will replace the current technology used for students' degree audit, registration and course planning

Kyra O'Connor  
Executive Director | @ko\_reports

In many Elon 101 classes, an entire class is devoted to understanding and making a color-coded Excel spreadsheet called a "four year plan." A staple on most Elon University desktops, a four year plan is changed, shifted and reevaluated as students move throughout their college career. But heading into spring 2021, students will now be able to connect their four-year plan to their degree audit and the course database.

"Let's talk about why you take these classes, let's talk about your career, what you plan to do for your internship. And faculty will be able to have more time to dedicate to better discussions with the students," university Registrar and Assistant Vice President Rodney Parks said.

### What's changing?

The Office of the Registrar partnered with the Office of Academic Advising to launch a new technology system to help with academic planning and registration. The new technology, called Student Planning, replaces what students and faculty currently use for degree audits and registration. Student Planning will be implemented for winter and spring registration.

The new system will allow students to build their academic plans in the student system, request review by their advisors and view a timeline of their academic record. Parks said he hopes this change will benefit students and advisors alike, once they learn the system and become familiar with it.

"You'll be able to drag and drop courses, you'll be able to see [pre-requisites] and [co-requisites], you'll be able to register directly from this system, you'll be able to communicate

more effectively with advisors," Parks said.

Student Planning will also show when a course is being offered, such as if it's only available as one section a semester, or is only offered in the spring semester. It will also allow students to put in placeholders into their four-year plans, indicating when they want to study abroad or take a certain credit. The system will not indicate where the student will study abroad or what specific course they will take.

See **REGISTER** | pg. 4



**NEWS • PAGE 7**  
Public Health Society pushes for COVID-19 conversations



**LIFESTYLE • PAGE 9**  
J&J Tattoo pushes for business expansion



**SPORTS • PAGE 12**  
Assistant Track Coach reflects on 2020 Olympics



# THE PENDULUM

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## CORRECTIONS

There are no corrections from the last edition of The Pendulum.

## 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.

- Students are required to fill out a \_\_\_\_\_ leave of absence form in order to be excused from school for the fall 2021 semester. *See Page 1 for answer.*
- On Sept. 20, the Elon Faculty Forward Union will bargain with the Elon University administration for a \_\_\_\_\_ time. *See Page 4 for answer.*
- Joshua \_\_\_\_\_ owns a tattoo shop in Gibsonville. *See Page 6 for answer.*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dining Hall has reintroduced the Burger Joint. *See Page 7 for answer.*
- During the 2020 Olympic Games, Track and Field assistant coach Laura Igaune represented her native country of \_\_\_\_\_. *See Page 9 for answer.*

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

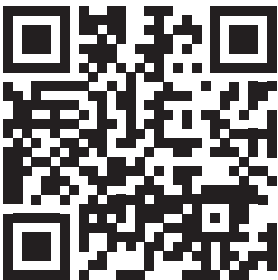
## COMIC

### TATTOO SLEEVE



COMIC SAMS – SAM POROZOK

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1. Open your phone camera
2. Focus on the QR code
3. Click the pop-up link



Senior Leah Daniel, an outside hitter, waits for the ball in front of senior Haylie Clark during their volleyball match against UNC Asheville on Friday, Sept. 10. The Phoenix won 3-0. For more sports coverage, visit page 12.



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



KYRA O'CONNOR | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Elon University President Connie Book speaks to Elon students, faculty and staff during College Coffee on Sept. 7 remembering the anniversary of 9/11.



JOHN LUKE FARAH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redshirt senior Jalen Weatherspoon sprints for the ball on Rudd Field at the men's soccer match against University of Delaware. Weatherspoon plays midfield/forward. Elon men's soccer won 1-0.



BEN MUSE | ANALYTICS DIRECTOR

Sophomore Sydni Brown (left) and freshman Kiara Cronin (right), pet one of the dogs and socialize at the Dog Day Mixer on Sept. 12. The Elon Community Church hosts this annual mixer with the intent to welcome students to the church and offer a friendly environment.



LUCAS CASEL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior quarterback Davis Cheek makes a rushing attempt in the football game against Campbell University on Saturday, Sept. 11. The Phoenix won 24-23.



# ‘Student planning’ will replace the ‘four year plan’ beginning winter and spring term registration

REGISTER | from cover

The degree audit will now be known as ‘my progress’ and will be a more interactive interface, including linked degree course requirements. The update will allow students to find the course they need to graduate all in one place. According to Parks, the changes to the degree audit will “enhance the registration experience.”

Beginning with registration for Winter Term, the university will also expand the use of waitlists to all undergraduate courses, except first-year foundational courses. The waitlist processes will be the same as those already in use in the Love School of Business, the School of Communications and upper-level core seminars.

Because students are notified via email when their waitlist status changes, it is incumbent on a student to check their email regularly to ensure they do not miss the notification. The current waitlist process also does not show students where they are on the waitlist, which has led to frustration, Parks said.

“Having an opportunity to have those discussions with students and waitlisting, it’s just long overdue,” Parks said.

Additionally, there is a new repeat course policy. Excluding winter and summer courses, courses repeated within

students’ four semesters of attendance following the first time a student takes the course will count only once in computing the cumulative GPA. The most recent grade earned will be counted now, rather than any previous grades a student earns. Failed courses repeated due to a violation of the honor code, however, will remain on transcripts.



HAVING AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THOSE DISCUSSIONS WITH STUDENTS AND WAITLISTING, IT’S JUST LONG OVERDUE.

RODNEY PARKS  
UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR

Fall 2019 Courses	Requirement 1	Requirement 2	Hours	Winter 2020 Course	Requirement	Hours
ELA 101			4	1 Unit Hon		4
POI 141	Society		4			
ANT 112	Society		4			
COS 110	FYT - Global		4			
COS 100	Minor		4			
COM 100	Expressed in Life		4			
ENG	FYE - English		4			
History	Civilization		4			
			Total Credit Hours			
			25			4
Fall 2020 Courses	Requirement 1	Requirement 2	Hours	Winter 2021 Course	Requirement	Hours
POI 141	Minor		4	1 Unit Hon		4
ACC 201	Minor		4			
ECO 111	Minor		4			
ART 260	Expression - Non		4			
			Total Credit Hours			
			13			4
Fall 2021 Courses	Requirement 1	Requirement 2	Hours	Winter 2022 Course	Requirement	Hours
BAR 211	Minor		4	Study Abroad	BAR 1 Unit	4
ENG 210	Interdisciplinary		4			
COM 101	Minor		4			
COS 100	ELAR 1 Unit		4			
MAN 210			4			
			Total Credit Hours			
			13			4

A standard Elon student's four year plan covering fall and winter courses.

KYRA O'CONNOR | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Debuting the new systems**

Student Planning is being trialed during the fall by some students, and the system will launch for the entire student body during spring semester. While seniors will not be impacted by the new system, Parks said he thinks juniors will have the biggest reaction to the change, as they have

used the previous system throughout their entire academic careers.

“It is a big shift culturally, both for advisers and for students,” Parks said. “Sometimes change is a little hard but students adapt very quickly ... I think that once they get the chance to see what its true capabilities are, they’ll love it.”

CHEAT SHEET

THE CHEAT SHEET IS AN INTERVIEW WITH A RELEVANT EXPERT TO EXPLAIN COMPLEX TOPICS

## Climate Change plays role with hurricanes in North Carolina

Climate change plays a large role on extreme weather in North Carolina

Graysen Shirley  
Politics Editor | @graysenshirley

Recent hurricanes and tropical storms, such as Hurricane Ida and Tropical Storm Nicholas, are continuing to impact coastal communities along the East Coast, including North Carolina.

Walter Robinson, co-director of the Climate Change Society Program at North Carolina State University, discusses the effects climate change has on influencing extreme weather events encountering the coastlines of North Carolina.



Walter Robinson

**Q: How has climate change played a role in producing more extreme weather events, like hurricanes, in recent years?**

“There’s two aspects to this. There’s a lot of other factors, but in general the warmer the ocean is, the more energy there is to make a hurricane form or hurricane stronger. So, it’s not clear we’re getting more hurricanes, but the strongest hurricanes can get stronger and we’re seeing signs of these storms — what we call rapid intensification, they grow very quickly. So, this is more energy they can take out of the ocean, the ocean is warmer. That’s

one effect. The other effect is even if the storm has the same strength, in other words the winds are about the same size, a warmer atmosphere holds more water vapor that can condense into rain....The same size storm in a warmer climate, you’ll get more rain. These storms produce more rain and we saw that. Now, we’re seeing even in Ida, forgetting about New Orleans which you mentioned earlier... the Central Park rain gauge in New York City recorded three inches of rain in an hour, which is amazing for New York City and that caused all that flooding in New York City and unfortunately people were killed.”

**Q: What financial impacts have oceanside communities experienced due to hurricanes?**

“We’re seeing more and more of these billion dollar disasters associated with weather associated with weather, particularly tropical storms and hurricanes. And, a lot of it comes from three effects — there’s damage from the winds, there’s damage from flooding from the rains, and right on the coast, there’s damage from what we call storm surge, which is why the ocean washes on shore. And, all of those are becoming more severe, stronger storms. The other thing that’s happening to the coastal communities is the sea level is rising... Today if you went down to Wilmington, North Carolina, I’m guessing there’s flooding on the waterfront and there’s not a hurricane over Wilmington. There’s a hurricane far out in the Atlantic, but because of sea level rise coastal communities are getting flooding, even on what they call clear sky or blue sky, fair day flooding, and then that’s made worse if there’s a storm surge of a hurricane... There’s a lot of wrinkles, but there’s a couple of things. One is a lot of people, and this is still in New Orleans, don’t have insurance at all for their homes. People, typically less affluent people, may not have their homes insured. So, then when their house is damaged or destroyed, they have no recourse. There’s a federal flood insurance program. It’s very complicated, and there’s a trend towards charging more for that flood insurance or not insuring people at all because the risk of floods becomes so high. This has all kinds of effects in coastal communities, beach communities and so on. If you can’t get insurance, then you can’t get a mortgage for a property and that drives the value of the

properties down. That’s an economic impact that lasts longer than just an individual storm. As the risk of storms gets greater, it makes people less interested [in] investing in coastal communities or any places vulnerable to hurricanes.”

**Q: Will hurricanes continue to become more frequent and extreme in the coming years?**

“We actually don’t know if there will be more hurricanes. That’s not so clear because there’s some competing effects. What does seem to be happening is that the hurricanes are getting stronger. Further north in the northern hemisphere, so further away from the equator, they’re reaching their greatest strength further into the temperate latitudes, where we live and that’s bad news for us. There is some indication that there are more what we call major hurricanes, which are category three, four and five. More of the hurricanes that form are stronger and that’s going to continue because the oceans are continuing to heat up. The other thing that is almost certain to happen is the heaviest rains from hurricanes will continue to get heavier because that’s a direct effect of the warming climate. As I said earlier, a warmer atmosphere holds more water vapor and there’s more water to rain out than any storms.”

**Q: Is North Carolina expected to experience any major weather events or hurricanes this year?**

“The basic answer is we don’t know. We can predict... Every year they predict how severe hurricane season is going to be. They make forecasts in the summer before hurricane season starts. That’s for the entire — what we call the Atlantic basin. Because storms are rare events, it doesn’t tell you how many storms you are going to get in a particular location. Obviously if there are more storms overall, there’s a higher probability of one striking North Carolina.”

**Q: What should students know about climate change, hurricanes and other extreme weather events?**

“[The] number one message is climate change is real and it’s happening and we can see the impacts. We can see the impacts and things like heavier rains from hurricanes. Lots of other impacts — higher temperatures,

impacts on human health — these things are all happening and we know why it’s happening. It’s because we’re putting heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere when we burn coal, oil and natural gas. We know we’re causing climate change. We know it has these impacts and we can see them. We can see it happening now. It’s going to continue even if we take drastic action now. We sort of baked a lot of warming into the Earth system, so we can’t stop global warming now. There’s some additional global warming we have to live with and, therefore, we have to be prepared for that. That’s a question of infrastructure, physical infrastructure, better stormwater systems, better protection for coastal communities, more resilient power systems communication, engineering highways so they don’t flood — all that stuff. We call that adaptation, so we’re going to have to adapt and be prepared for the impacts of climate change...That’s maybe message two and message three is in the long term the thing we have to do is to slow down and eventually stop climate change and we do that by things you probably know about, switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy, that’s the most important one. Changing our agricultural systems so they don’t produce so much carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, that’s another one. Stopping deforestation where it’s happening, which is mostly in the global south in the tropics. We have to do those things because if we don’t, if we just keep what they say business as usual and keep putting more and more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, the climate change will get worse and worse and worse.”

**Q: Is there anything else people should know about climate change, extreme weather and hurricanes impacts on oceanside communities?**

“This is a huge problem that my generation handed off to you guys, we haven’t really done much about it... But, it’s not hopeless. There’s a lot of things that can be done. It’s still soluble, but it’s going to take a lot of action. Addressing these climate change issues is going to be the issue of your generation as you start your careers and go out into the world and become decision makers. This is going to be the challenge, the number one challenge you all face.”



# UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF MEDICAL, PANDEMIC LEAVE OF ABSENCE

ABSENCE | from cover

## Results of a leave of absence

Students who are approved for a LOA still remain affiliated as an Elon student, allowing them access to course and housing registration, Elon resources such as their email and OnTrack and connection with some organizations on campus. According to the university’s LOA policy, a principal advantage of this academic pause allows students to take a break and later resume their studies efficiently.

According to Assistant Dean of Students Whitney Gregory, some students who feel reluctant to take the LOA forget that they will still be enrolled as an Elon student. Gregory works closely with students who apply for a MLOA and said the university strives to help students reach their goals, even when they are physically not on campus.

“I talk with so many students who are scared of taking a leave for a variety of reasons,” Gregory said. “The majority of the time we are able to find solutions and options where students can reach their goals while taking leave.”

Gregory said she’s also worked with students who tried to push past their medical and physical issues, which resulted in them doing poorly in classes and around campus. She recommends that students who feel they need a pause should take it.

“I always want students to know that stepping back and focusing on their mental health is the most important thing they can do for themselves and for the long term of their academic success,” Gregory said. “If you feel like you’re struggling with your physical or mental health to the point where it’s not getting better and you can’t go on or it’s impeding your academics, talk with somebody because so much of the time we can find solutions.”

“

I TALK WITH SO MANY STUDENTS WHO ARE SCARED OF TAKING A LEAVE FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS. THE MAJORITY OF THE TIME WE ARE ABLE TO FIND SOLUTIONS AND OPTIONS WHERE STUDENTS CAN REACH THEIR GOALS WHILE TAKING LEAVE.

WHITNEY GREGORY  
ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS

While she is on her leave, Egan said she is in the midst of completing Elon core credit requirements at her local community college and receiving work experience at a retail job. She also said this pause from the university will allow her to build a strong foundation in her physical and mental health when she returns for winter and spring semesters.

“You should really keep your mental health in check,” Egan said. “I would encourage anybody to because it’s sorting through your thoughts. It’s so easy to get lost inside your head.”

According to university Bursar Jay Harper, when a LOA is approved, tuition will be charged and refunded by the week.

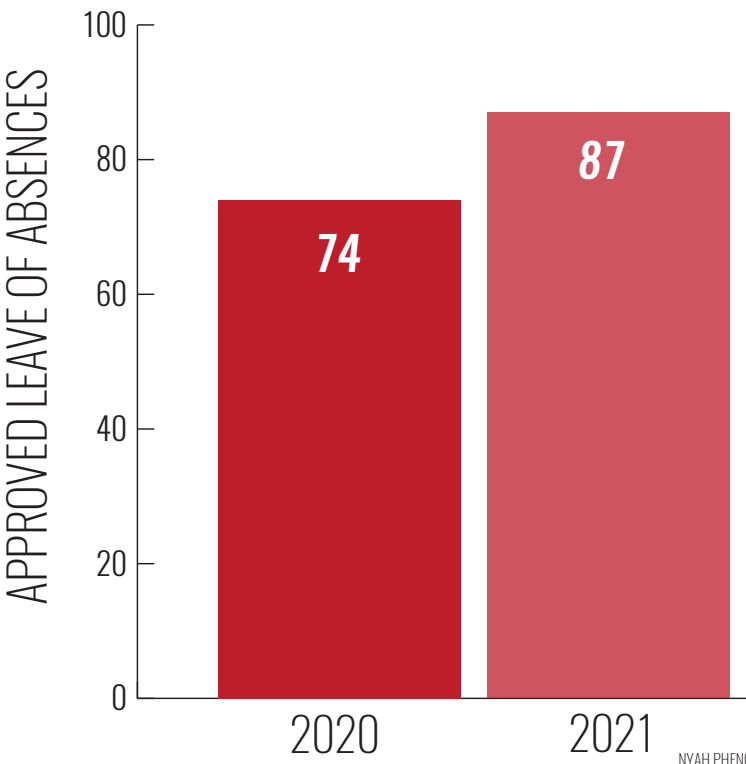
## Other university leave of absences

Compared to other universities, Gregory

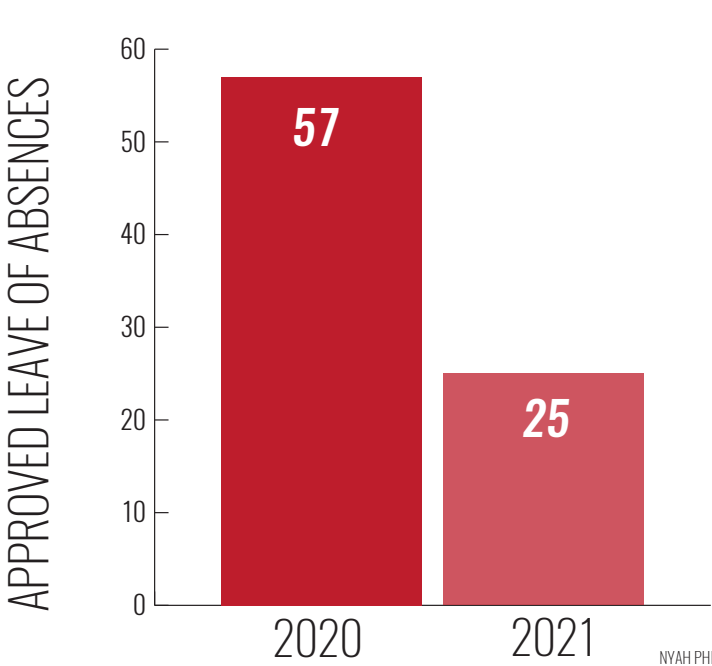


Whitney Gregory, assistant dean of students, said that Elon looks at LOA applicants on a case-by-case basis. Students who are approved for a LOA are still affiliated as an Elon student, but not included in the academic year enrollment numbers. In order to return from a LOA, students must also go through another application process.

## ELON’S NUMBER OF MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCES



## ELON’S NUMBER OF PANDEMIC LEAVE OF ABSENCES





# UNDERSTANDING ELON UNIVERSITY’S ENDOWMENT

Vice President for University Advancement Jim Piatt explains the importance of the endowment

Kyra O’Connor  
Executive Director | @ko\_reports

Jim Piatt is often traveling, meeting with Elon University parents, alumni and donors. But no matter where he travels to or who he is talking with, his message is the same: the importance of an Elon education.

Piatt, who serves as the vice president for university advancement, came to Elon University in 2008. While Piatt has over 30 years in higher education, his work the past 13 years has focused on the Elon University endowment.

A university or college’s endowment is funds donated to support the institution’s mission. At Elon, endowment funds are often used for scholarships, faculty research support, and funding for Elon experiences, such as study abroad. Currently, the Elon University endowment is about \$335 million.

“I’ve really grown accustomed to just deeply understanding the impact that donors can make on a university,” Piatt said. “It’s a powerful thing.”

*This interview has been edited for clarity*

**Q: Tell me just a little bit about your role and what an endowment is to begin with?**

“My role at the university essentially is the chief development officer, and what that essentially means is I come to work every day thinking about fundraising, about how to finance building projects, grow the endowment, and also work with parents and alumni out in the world, in terms of engagement activities, to share our message about the importance of support.”

“The endowment is something that is pretty complicated, but in its simplest form, an endowment is a series of funds that the university holds in perpetuity — that means they’re there forever. Those funds have a purpose, and most of those funds at Elon have a purpose of supporting student scholarships.”

**Q: A lot of schools in higher education have had to really dip into that endowment with the whole last year and a half that we’ve had the coronavirus. Has Elon University’s endowment been impacted similarly?**

“Not really. At Elon ... that is most of the funds that make up the endowment at Elon are

for scholarships. Legally, those are what’s called restricted funds, and the only way we can utilize those funds is to support scholarships; we don’t have the authority to change that. So, when a donor sets up an endowed fund and says, ‘I want it to be for a student who studies English, or a student who’s in the Communications School, or a softball player or something,’ That’s what we use the scholarship for, and we can’t use it for anything else.”

**Q: How did you get involved with the endowment?**

“Well, it’s a long trail, but I’ve been in higher education in administrative staff roles for over 30 years, and I came to Elon in 2008 during a recruitment process for this particular job, so I’ve been in it for 13 years now.”

“My own personal story is that I enjoy working at the university, particularly on the finance side, and I’ve really grown accustomed to just deeply understanding the impact that donors can make on a university. It’s a powerful thing, whether it’s scholarships for students in need, whether it’s funds that support study abroad — we have many of those at Elon — whether it’s new building funds that help us build things like a building to support the engineering program, or the business school or Schar Center. It’s a pleasure to be able to work with donors to help them realize their goals about making a difference in the lives of our students. “

**Q: Where is our endowment number, and how does that compare to other schools?**

“Our endowment right now is about \$335 million, and I say about because it’s an investment fund, so it changes frequently, but as of this summer, it’s hit about \$335 million.”

“It depends on who the competitive set is that you’re looking at is. For many years, Elon has been a little bit out of a disadvantage in terms of the overall size of our endowment, and a lot of that had to do when we got started raising money a little bit later than many other universities. So for instance, a school like the University of Richmond, which we compete with for students, their endowment is well over \$2 billion. And that means they probably have some more scholarship support to offer their students versus Elon. And, by the way, I’m not telling any secrets there. You can find out Richmond’s endowment just by searching for it, but we are making great progress in our endowment gains, but we continue to work on it, and it will be a priority for many, many years.”

## BY THE NUMBERS

\$259M

is the total endowment for the 2020–21 academic year, according to the University Factbook. Vice President for University Advancement Jim Piatt said 2021’s endowment is about to hit \$335M.

**Q: How are you making the pitch for donating to Elon and higher education in general during this time where, financially speaking, people are struggling?**

“We focus a lot on how the Elon education is worth it in our messaging, and there’s no better way to tell that story than through the lens of students. So, to be very open about this, we will utilize some video resources where students and [alumni] will tell their story about how a scholarship to attend Elon made all the difference. We also do things [where] scholarship students will write to the donors who created the scholarship that student has received and thank them and send photos of their Elon experience and tell their story back to folks. As that message circulates out there among [alumni], parents and friends of the university, people understand that there’s a lot of impact. That’s the thing, you can sell as hard as you want, but there’s almost no way to replicate how important it is when a student receives support at the university. And when they share the gratitude they have for that support? It’s a powerful thing.”

**Q: How was that possible? And, you know what, how has the pandemic impacted the endowment at all?**

“Yeah, well, again, I would say that because the endowment is largely restricted for certain purposes, that’s what it’s restricted for, and we can’t use it for other reasons. Probably where that pandemic had the impact the most is simply that in the donor community, people who are considering making a gift to the university or any charitable organization, for that matter, they may have had their confidence shaken a little bit during the pandemic, or at least early in the pandemic. And when donors don’t have a lot of confidence in the financial markets, they can be a little more hesitant. We saw just a little bit of that early on in the pandemic. But then it wasn’t too long after that, that many of the donors who we had been

talking with for quite a while, they came back and said, ‘Yeah, we’re interested in continuing these conversations.’”

**Q: Why should students care about an endowment?**

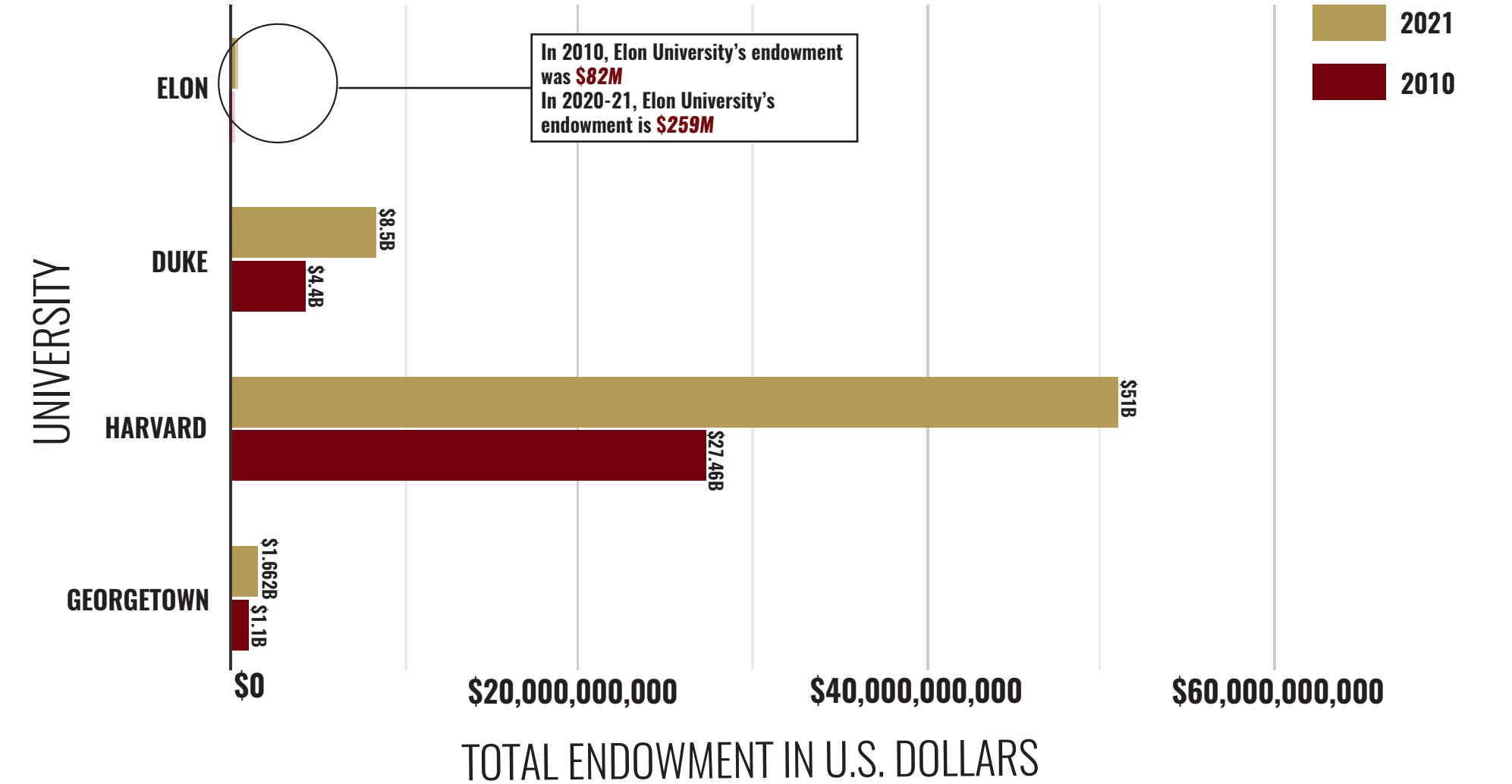
“I’ll tell you, when I was an undergraduate for sure, I didn’t know what it was, I never even thought about it. For me, and for a lot of students, school is about your classes, right? And your residence hall experience, and where I’m going to park my car if I have a car and those kinds of things. I think the main thing I would say to students today is to think about the impact of philanthropy that surrounds you.”

“And so whether those donors gave to endowment or whether they made gifts to support some of the technology, or the building space itself, the impact of giving back to the university or giving to the university is felt every single day. For most students, it feels somewhat invisible, but I can guarantee you if you go through a year at Elon, you are going to be in buildings that were supported by donors, you are going to be taking advantage of opportunities that were supported by donors. And as students get to sort of understand that as part of their Elon activity, and then when they become [alumni], and they can maybe get a call from our phone center about, ‘Would you consider a gift back to the School of [Communications] or a gift to the Phoenix Club to support athletics,’ they may be a little more inclined to do so.”

**Q: What are some things we can expect to see the endowment being used for?**

“Most of the dollars that we’ve raised in the endowment in the last several years during a campaign, ... the Elon LEADS campaign, has been for scholarships. And one of the things that we recently announced is that we reached a benchmark that we had really been shooting for, which is 200 funded, endowed Odyssey scholarships. So support for students in our nationally recognized Odyssey program, you’re going to see continued growth there. We continue to raise money for what’s called engagement scholarships, which our admissions and financial aid offices use to help students fund college expenses. We continue to grow support in study abroad scholarships, so for students who may have financial need that would need and just aren’t able to support that, that trip to New Zealand or that trip to South America, wherever their interest may take them, there are funds available for those students to apply and receive. I think you’ll see more of those sorts of things.”

## UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENTS: 11 YEAR COMPARISON





# Fall Concert experience returns to Schar Center

Bryce Vine was one of several artists considered for the concert, but some students are disappointed

Chloe Franklin  
Elon News Network

Elon University’s Student Union Board announced American rapper and singer Bryce Vine will headline this year’s fall concert.

Vine made his breakthrough when “Drew Barrymore” became a viral hit in 2019. Currently touring, Vine has several upcoming concerts, including one at Elon.

Though the fall concert normally takes place during homecoming weekend in November, this year’s event will be changed to a new time. SUB president Emily Sanderson said the concert’s change to early October is an attempt to space out the fall calendar with large events for students to engage with throughout the entire semester.

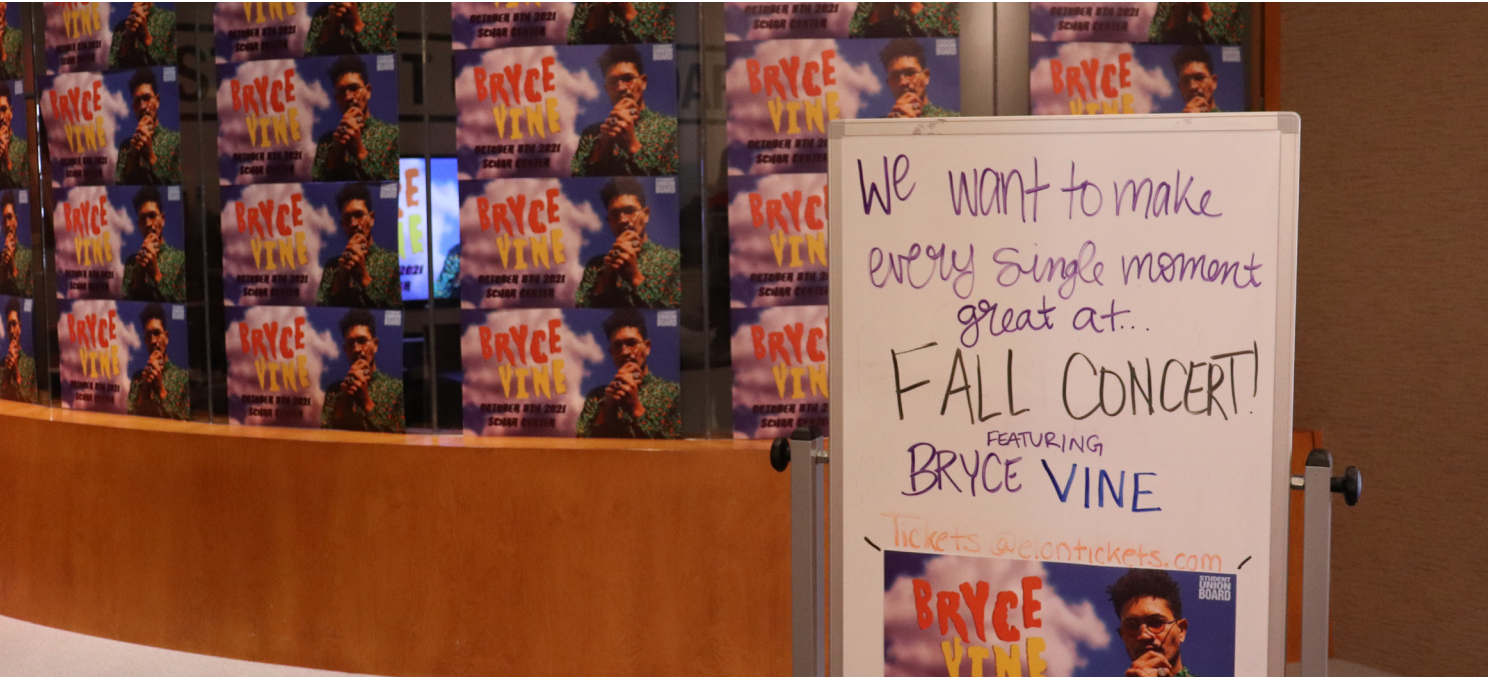
“We hope that removing the fall concert from the Homecoming agenda will decrease the strain on university resource providers,” Sanderson said.

The shift also allows SUB access to a wider talent pool of performers due to increased date flexibility. Several artists, whom SUB did not release the names of, were said to be considered during the planning of this year’s fall concert. After reviewing student surveys following rapper T-Pain’s performance in 2019, a middle agent was used to look at other artists. Vine was the result of that data.

“We really thought that Bryce Vine was the best option for Elon,” Sanderson said. “We did look at some other artists, but based on his music and what students wanted, we really did think he would be the best.”

In spite of SUB’s intentions, junior Danny Broussard said he has never heard of Vine and doesn’t plan to purchase a ticket.

“I have never heard of this guy, I have never listened to his music. I’m not really excited for it because I don’t feel like this is



Students can purchase tickets to see Bryce Vine at the Student Union Board office in Moseley Center or online at [elontickets.com](https://elontickets.com) through Oct. 3. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$20 for faculty and staff.

“

WE REALLY THOUGHT THAT BRYCE VINE WAS THE BEST OPTION FOR ELON. WE DID LOOK AT SOME OTHER ARTISTS, BUT BASED ON HIS MUSIC AND WHAT STUDENTS WANTED, WE REALLY DID THINK HE WOULD BE THE BEST.”

EMILY SANDERSON  
SUB PRESIDENT

going to be the type of artist I’m going to listen to,” Broussard said.

Sanderson said it’s hard to tell what the turnout will be for the fall concert.

“We’ve gotten a lot of good feedback, but obviously students have to go in and purchase the tickets,” Sanderson said. “Students usually purchase them closer to the concert.”

SUB is working with the Healthy Elon committee to set COVID-19 precautions for the concert. As of now, masks will be required as they are with all other SUB events on campus.

Even though 2020 Commencement and New Student Convocation were moved outdoors due to COVID-19, there are no plans to move the concert outdoors at this time. This is because of feedback Sanderson said came from the Elon community about students wanting the concert to remain in Schar Center. In 2018, SUB received a one-time special allocation from SGA to fund a large concert experience in Schar Center.

“We received positive feedback from the Elon community about the experience and that students wanted the concert to remain in Schar,” Sanderson said. “To provide the best experience possible we need to bring in a higher caliber artist that appeals to the entire Elon community. This requires additional funds, which is why there is a cost for all tickets. We used this model in 2019 and we received such wonderful feedback that we are doing it again.”

Tickets for the event are \$10 for students and \$20 for faculty and staff. Tickets will be available for purchase online at [elontickets.com](https://elontickets.com) through Oct. 3 and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.

## IF YOU GO

**SUB Bryce Vine Fall Concert**  
**Where:** Schar Center  
**When:** Friday, Oct. 8, 8:00 p.m.

# COVID–19 leads Elon’s Public Health Society discussions

EUPHS plans on tackling mask mandates, ethics in medical practice and social justice in health

Nyah Phengsitthy  
Managing Editor | @nyahphengsitthy

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a conversation starter for many people around the world. But for Elon’s Public Health Society, it’s a discussion that will continue to be studied and talked about, especially this year with the topic so current and present.

Elon’s Public Health Society was created to provide a community for students interested in public health. Discussing everyday issues, current events, programs and initiatives surround public health, the organization has the goals of bringing the community together. Since the return of in-person meetings, President Victoria Colbeck said the society is planning to take conversations to the next level on handling and understanding COVID-19 in today’s society.

“It creates an environment where you cannot only talk about the issues in today’s society, but you can start to think about solutions too,” Colbeck said. “Being around public health people, they inspire me.”

While there will be many discussions of COVID-19 and digging into the university’s policy and protocols of the pandemic, other topics such as ethics behind medical practices like stem-cell research and physician assisted suicide are also talked about. Colbeck said the society plans on collaborating with Elon’s Pre-Health Society and H.E.R Lab to expand their discussions on medical ethics and justice.

“It feels like you are connected to a group of people that understand where you’re coming from,” Colbeck said. “Once you take your first public health class, anything that



Executive board members of Elon University Public Health Society have been meeting the past couple of weeks for the upcoming society introductory meeting on Monday, Sept. 20. From left to right: Julia Herman, Renata Pratt, Victoria Colbeck and Skye Ziegler.

## BY THE NUMBERS

131

undergraduate students are public health majors this year, only 2% of the undergraduate population.

“

IT CREATES AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE YOU CANNOT ONLY TALK ABOUT THE ISSUES IN TODAY’S SOCIETY, BUT YOU CAN START TO THINK ABOUT SOLUTIONS TOO.

VICTORIA COLBECK  
PRESIDENT OF ELON’S PUBLIC HEALTH SOCIETY

you are remotely interested in can become a career that works to better the lives of people in society.”

The Elon Public Health Society also serves as a way for students majoring in public health to create connections and meet professors in the field. According to the fall 2021 registrar report, there are 131 students majoring in public health this year. This number has slowly decreased since 2019, where there were 173 public health majors that year. Through joining the organization, sophomore Treasurer Julia Herman said that those who are majoring in public health studies should consider this a space to connect with other majors.

“If you’re a public health major, it definitely helps you learn to see if this is the career you want to do,” Herman said. “I joined because of connections and meet professors and just to learn more, meet others in the field.”

Serving as the secretary of the society, junior Skye Ziegler said that while the organization is still growing and planning meetings for this semester, the executive board highlights that the organization is open to everyone, especially to those who are curious about the pandemic.

“It’s a great spot to get everyone together and it’s not exclusive to just public health majors,” Ziegler said. “It’s a great way to get to know other students and have conversations about different hot topics.”

## IF YOU GO

**Elon University Public Health Society Introductory Meeting**  
**Where:** Global Commons 103  
**When:** Monday, Sept. 20, 6:00 p.m.



# LIFESTYLE

## Executive-in-residence to refine meaning of business

Kevin Trapani challenges students to think about business and its social implications

**Miranda Ferrante**  
Lifestyle Editor | @ferrantemiranda

Kevin Trapani, the new executive-in-residence in the Love School of Business and a CEO in his own right, hopes to bring his expertise not only to business majors but to any student in the Elon Community.

Trapani, co-founder of The Redwoods Group, a Certified B Corporation that works to “create safe communities for all,” joined Elon University for the 2021-22 academic year.

According to dean of the Love School of Business Raghu Tadepalli, an executive-in-residence is an individual who can be flexible and demonstrate a desire to be more involved with students, faculty and staff.

“They don’t work for us,” Tadepalli said. “It’s just out of the goodness of the heart that they’re giving us the time. The only thing we give Kevin is an office, which he shares, a computer and a phone.”

While at the university, Trapani said he hopes to share career advice and business insight with students and faculty while helping them collaborate to solve problems, regardless of major or field of expertise.

“Right now, there’s somebody in the School of Education with a tremendous idea about how to solve a problem, maybe how to remedy the summer learning loss problem or the equity gap in education,” Trapani said.

When it comes to ideas for business, Trapani said there is no exclusivity. He believes anyone can be passionate about a topic that can contribute to society.

“I’m hopeful that while I’m here on campus, and in the future, we can find ways to collaborate and help people understand



Kevin Trapani stands in the Colonnades Neighborhood behind the Koury Business Center, where he will serve as the executive-in-residence for the Love School of Business.

how to meet people where they are, how to solve big problems, regardless of what academic path they take,” Trapani said.

As a parent of an Elon alum and two current students, Trapani said he feels connected to the university and its mission.

“As we began to learn and understand the leadership and the principles and values of this business school, we really embraced it,” Trapani said. “I think in some ways they’ve embraced me, which I’m grateful for.”

Tadepalli said he and Trapani demonstrate a shared vision for what business should be. Tadepalli hopes Trapani will challenge faculty and students to think about how the business school can contribute to society.

Tadepalli said the success and functionality of a company have nothing to do with what someone majored in during college — he believes anyone has the ability to run a company.

“You’re not studying business but are very responsible for making sure that the business is contributing to society,” Tadepalli said. “I think this message really resonates with all of Elon and what Elon actually stands for.”

Tadepalli said he hopes Trapani will help students remember not just the logistics of business but also the benefits to society. Trapani has already spoken with a number of classes and faculty members and will continue to do so for the remainder of the

academic year.

“I’m hoping to speak to an awful lot of students and help either introduce them to the idea or help them refine the idea that business can and must be a powerful force for positive social change in the world,” Trapani said. “We can teach accounting pretty well, that’s pretty proven, but teaching social impact is different.”

“AS WE BEGAN TO LEARN AND UNDERSTAND THE LEADERSHIP AND THE PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF THIS BUSINESS SCHOOL, WE REALLY EMBRACED IT.”

**KEVIN TRAPANI**  
CEO AND CO-FOUNDER OF THE REDWOODS GROUP

Trapani said the business school has made the social impact of business part of its strategic plan and he hopes he can get students and faculty thinking about business in a new way.

“As a legacy, I hope some years from now, everybody’s leading and teaching business in a different way, and they have no idea where that idea came from,” Trapani said. “It’s not about me in any way, shape, or form. Five minutes after students walk out of class, they probably won’t have any idea who talked about that idea, but they’ll remember the idea.”

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

## 3T’s Fried Chicken & Shakes earns 3/3 stars



**Eddie Keefe**  
Freshman

**IF YOU GO**  
**3T’s Chicken & Shakes**  
**Where:** 3519 S Church St, Burlington, NC 27215  
**When:** Sunday: Closed  
Monday – Saturday: 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

3T’s Fried Chicken & Shakes has become a trending topic on Elon University’s campus due to its new reputation from many students as “the best chicken sandwich in Elon.” The restaurant is just a seven minute drive from campus and has affordable, tasty fried food and delicious shakes. 3T’s doesn’t offer outdoor seating, however they do have indoor dining and online ordering that takes about 30 minutes for a four person meal. Their customer service was great, and even had a warm environment for kids, since they passed out chicken coloring papers to anyone waiting for food.

I ordered two sandwiches to taste a variety of their menu options. The first sandwich I got was the club signature sandwich which included cheddar cheese, mayo, tomato, lettuce and bacon. The brioche bun was twisted and fluffy. This sandwich had no sauce, but it was still filled with a great deal of flavor. It was perfectly cooked and every bite had a crunch from the chicken’s breading. My sides of fries with both sandwiches which went perfect with their honey mustard and 3T sauce. The 3T sauce tasted like a mixture of barbecue sauce and mayo — sweet with a tangy twist.

The BBQ signature sandwich consisted of cheddar cheese, sautéed onions, bacon, lettuce and tomato. This sandwich had honey barbecue sauce which had a fantastic flavor. It was a very dense sandwich, but every ingredient was needed and benefited the dish’s

amazing taste, especially the bacon.

My friends ordered the grilled chicken and fried chicken meals with a side of onion rings and cornbread. I tasted the grilled chicken, and it was just as good as the fried chicken, if not better. The onion rings were crispy and the cornbread was like no other I’ve tasted before.

If you go to 3T’s for a meal, a milkshake must be part of your purchase. My friends and I tried the vanilla and chocolate oreo milkshakes. They were both thick, tasty and rich in flavor.

I would rate 3T’s Fried Chicken & Shakes a 9/10 for their crispy, amazing meals and great service. The convenience of their food along with their menu variety was also a plus.

This place by far has one of the best chicken sandwiches I’ve ever had, and I would order everything all over again if I could.

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

**EDDIE’S SCORE**  
**9 of 10**

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



EDDIE KEEFE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

For this week’s food column, Eddie ordered the club signature sandwich from 3T’s.



# BUILDING CONNECTIONS WITH J&J TATTOO



Owner of J&J Tattoo Joshua Hall prepares his tattoo pen before an appointment. The tattoo shop has been open for 24 years, and Hall hopes to expand his business in other locations in the future.

DELANEY DANIELS | PHOTO EDITOR

Tattoo artist Joshua Hall stays close to home with shop in Gibsonville

Grace Kepperling  
Elon News Network

Joshua Hall was selling his art to his friend’s dad before he realized where his career was headed. His friend’s dad was a tattoo artist, which soon influenced his future path. Now, Hall’s tattoo studio in Gibsonville has clientele across the East Coast.

Hall’s journey as an artist began in a small part of Burlington, North Carolina. Drawing inspiration from his older brother, Hall was fascinated by the ability to bring pictures to life through color and blending, and he wanted to learn this skill for himself.

Open for 24 years now, Hall owns J&J Tattoo in Gibsonville, named after himself and his wife Jessica, one of his first apprentices. Hall said his favorite part about the tattoo business is developing personal connections with clients. He has worked with clients who have struggled

with mental illnesses, beat cancer and those who wanted scars covered in the past.

“Sitting down and actually being able to help people is my favorite part about this job,” Hall said. “Being able to cover up scars ... there are so many things you might not think about that I can do to help people mentally. I’m a bit of a therapist for my clients because they can come in and tell me anything so that when they walk out of here, they’re walking out a new person.”

Hall said he knew he wanted to be an artist full time when he finished his apprenticeship. As he finished learning alongside his friend’s dad, he began traveling for a construction company that took him along the East Coast.

“I built a huge clientele in Savannah, Georgia, and I had a decent sized clientele in New York as well, but when the travel became too much I ended up in Gibsonville,” Hall said.

Hall is currently training two apprentices and said he hopes to expand to more locations in the coming years. One of his apprentices, Lynn Overman, said the family atmosphere of the studio is

“  
JOSH IS THE BEST  
BOSS I COULD HAVE  
ASKED FOR AND HAS  
TAUGHT ME SO MUCH,  
WHETHER IT IS ABOUT  
TATTOOING OR LIFE.

LYNN OVERMAN  
TATTOO ARTIST APPRENTICE

something she appreciates.

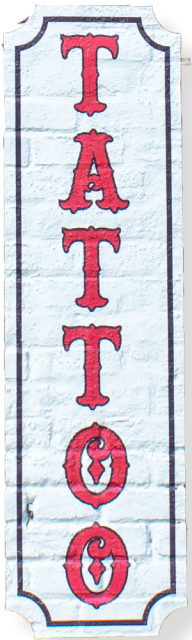
“Working with Josh has really opened my eyes to the possibilities of tattooing,” Overman said. “Whether it is about tattooing or life, he is a great role model and mentor. I think of him as my tattoo dad along with his amazing wife Jessica as my tattoo mom.”

Kris Freeman, Hall’s newest apprentice, said the studio is a place to learn and grow professionally.

“He truly wants us to have a full understanding of what it is to be a tattoo artist which includes lots of drawing and practice,” Freeman said.

Hall said he is confident that his support system will help him make his dreams of expanding J&J a reality.

“I’m planning on renting the upstairs apartment here to expand that way and we’ve been looking for a couple other locations so we can open up some more J&J’s,” Hall said. “I’d like to have a couple more shops so that everyone who comes in and learns from me can be placed in those locations and I plan to let it snowball from there.”



J&J Tattoo, based in Gibsonville, is named after Joshua Hall and his wife, Jessica.

DELANEY DANIELS | PHOTO EDITOR



**IF YOU GO**  
**J&J Tattoo**  
**Where:** 10 Piedmont Ave,  
Gibsonville, NC 27249  
**When:**  
Monday and Sunday: Closed  
Tuesday – Saturday: 12 p.m. – 9 p.m.



# FROM SKI RENTALS TO YEAR-ROUND APPAREL

The sports apparel shop started small but worked its way up to become a successful business

**Graceanne Gaudiello**  
Elon News Network | @gggaudiello

What started as a bus tour company is now a four-season sports apparel shop. C&R Ski, nestled between Elon's Simply Thai and The Fat Frogg, represents North Carolina native and founder of C&R Ski, Richard Forrest's passion.

The bus tours, originally based out of Hillsborough, were for residents and tourists looking for a getaway to the mountains. Forrest said guests could fill the buses with skis and snowboard rentals provided by the company.

"One thing led to another and we got into the business," Forrest said.

Towards the end of 1985, Forrest said the tours were getting attention from visitors and he decided to open a small shop selling skis, snowboards and other equipment that guests may need for their winter sports.

"It was pretty much a one-man show," Forrest said.

Though there were many successful moments during its startup, C&R Ski Hillsborough was in jeopardy of losing the lease after a few years of running. Forrest said he had to find a solution to keep business afloat — he extended the lease and debated options for a second location.

Fortunately, Forrest owned property where the Elon C&R Ski store is now located on W. Haggard Ave.

"There were a couple of houses where the shop is now, but my business partner and I decided to knock down the house and build the strip mall so we would have a spot for the ski shop," Forrest said.

Once Forrest opened the second location, he said the idea of incorporating more four-seasons apparel was introduced.

With the location in such proximity to

“

I LIKE TO TELL PEOPLE I USED TO SELL MONEY FOR A LIVING, AND NOW I SELL FUN.

**MARVIN “BULLET” FRANKLIN**  
C&R ELON LOCATION MANAGER



GRAYSEN SHIRLEY | POLITICS EDITOR

C&R Ski sells Elon merchandise including tumblers, t-shirts and sweatshirts.

Elon's campus, Forrest decided to sell Elon merchandise as a part of their inventory. Since its opening in 2008, the C&R Ski is financially stable enough to keep both locations open and running.

Currently, Forrest's friend Marvin "Bullet" Franklin manages the shop while Forrest is in Hillsborough. Franklin started managing the Elon location in 2008 with the idea of keeping the store open year-round.

Franklin was not always involved in the ski industry like Forrest though. Prior to 2008, Franklin had a full-time job at Duke University Medical Center and later moved into the banking industry — until the recession hit.

Franklin said he knew he needed to keep himself and his family afloat, pushing him to find a solution.

## IF YOU GO

**C&R Ski**  
**Where:** 512 W. Haggard Ave, Elon, NC 27244  
**When:** Sunday and Monday: Closed  
Tuesday - Friday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

"When it went south and everything turned sideways, I didn't want to be a part of that anymore," Franklin said.

Franklin had been helping Forrest out part-time. When the recession occurred, Forrest opened a full-time spot for him to manage the Elon location.

"I like to tell people I used to sell money for a living, and now I sell fun," Franklin said.

Franklin said no matter where someone is working, they should be the best possible version of themselves. As he gets older, he said he believes he is still continuing to learn, especially at his job.

"When you kick back and say 'I know it' right there, I know you're not the smartest man in the room. The smartest man says 'I don't know as much as I can,'" Franklin said.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE  
ABOUT C&R SKI  
OR VISIT  
CANDRSKI.COM



1. Open your phone camera
2. Focus on the QR code
3. Click the pop-up link



GRAYSEN SHIRLEY | POLITICS EDITOR

Marvin "Bullet" Franklin manages the C&R Elon shop while original owner Richard Forrest runs the Hillsborough store location.



# Clohan Dining revives **Burger Joint**, other stations remain vegan

Elon Dining has reintroduced the burger joint in Clohan Dining Hall while keeping some plant-based options as a result of overcrowded facilities

**Brent Chandler**  
Elon News Network

Elon Dining has reintroduced the Burger Joint in Clohan Dining Hall while keeping some plant-based options as a result of overcrowded facilities and a need for protein options. Some Elon University students say they're concerned about wait times at McEwen and Lakeside dining halls, while others enjoy having a dining hall where their dietary needs are met.

Casey Claflin, guest experience manager at Elon Dining wrote in an email to Elon News Network that he had received feedback from students living near Clohan that the dining hall needed protein options. Since then, the Burger Joint was reinstated in early September to support the needs of both vegan and meat eaters.

The Clohan Dining Hall menu went fully vegan at the start of the 2021-22 academic year, but feedback from students on the new dining style changed the menu quickly.

"Our dining team prides itself in being flexible and quick to address guest feedback," Claflin wrote.

Though some are worried about wait times, other students are glad Clohan is sticking with a mostly vegan palette. Sophomore Ayesh Awad is vegan and said he believes that other students will be less likely to try Clohan's plant-based options now that the Burger Joint is back.

"I think people will be stuck at that station and not try any other food from the vegan

stations. Any food there is amazing," Awad said.

Claflin said Elon Dining tries to highlight other food options in Clohan beyond the Burger Joint that students can try, such as grain bowls, the salad bar and mezze bar. Claflin also announced that there are plans to introduce a deli station at McEwen.

“

WE ARE ALWAYS FLEXIBLE AND ALWAYS BASE CHANGES ON CONSTANT GUEST FEEDBACK. BASED ON THIS APPROACH, WE'RE CERTAIN THAT NEW MENUS WILL BE ADDED TO ALL OUR RESTAURANTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

**CASEY CLAFLIN**  
GUEST EXPERIENCE MANAGER AT  
ELON DINING

"We are always flexible and always base changes on constant guest feedback," Claflin said. "Based on this approach, we're certain that new menus will be added to all our restaurants throughout the year."



SOPHIE ROSENTHAL | CHIEF COPY EDITOR

After student reactions of wanting more dining protein options, the Burger Joint was installed in Clohan Dining again, with other vegan options still available.

# THE OPEN-AIR RENAISSANCE FAIRE IS BACK!

JOUSTING KNIGHTS!

FALCONRY!

MERMAIDS!

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# SPORTS



COURTESY OF LAURA IGAUNE

## FROM ELON TO TOKYO: ELON TRACK & FIELD ASSISTANT COACH COMPETES IN OLYMPICS

Track and field assistant coach Laura Igaune takes in the track arena at the 2020 Olympic games.

The track and field assistant coach competed in the 2020 Olympic Games in the hammer throw

**Caleigh Lawlor**  
Elon News Network | @caleighlawlor

Elon University track and field assistant coach Laura Igaune represented her native country of Latvia in the 2020 Olympic Games this summer. She competed in the hammer throw portion of the track and field competition.

Igaune's Olympic journey started in 2019, when she threw an Olympic-qualifying mark of 71.61 meters at the Duke Invitational.

"I started track and field [when] I was 17 years old. I'm gonna actually narrow from many events into one of them ... I knew people that have gone to Olympics" Igaune said.

Igaune's Olympic training process looks no different than the one for any competition and her career as a professional athlete. She said she trains to get better, not for anything specific.

"I usually don't specify training for Olympics, I'm just training. If I happen to make it there, I make it there. And you just continue the process," Igaune said. "It's not the event or magnitude of [the] event, but training day to day. It's literally training your body, it's training to get better."

Igaune's preparation period was longer than she had wanted. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, she had expected the games would still take place that summer. By June of that year, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and former Japan Prime Minister, Shinzō Abe, had announced that the games were to be postponed until it was safe to travel internationally.

"In the preparation period, I guess it was longer than I actually needed or intended because of pandemic and stuff like that. So we figured out how we can start competition a little earlier on, you know, me catching COVID also didn't help me," Igaune said. "You've worked through it and I think, overall, it gave me a huge experience, not

just Olympics itself, but also the preparation period of what to do and what not to do. Because you can learn from both situations and I think I did for this year."

Igaune's peers and students admire her as someone who remains disciplined, focused and intelligent as she maneuvers life as a professional athlete and coach.

Cross-country head coach Kevin Jermyn said he has been able to learn from Igaune and her work ethic.

"I enjoy learning from her. Her nutrition is better than any human being I've ever been around. So she opens my doors in terms of the effects of excellent nutrition on taking someone to much higher levels of athletic performance," he said. "And so I

“

YOU'VE WORKED THROUGH IT AND I THINK, OVERALL, IT GAVE ME A HUGE EXPERIENCE, NOT JUST OLYMPICS ITSELF, BUT ALSO THE PREPARATION PERIOD OF WHAT TO DO AND WHAT NOT TO DO. BECAUSE YOU CAN LEARN FROM BOTH SITUATIONS AND I THINK I DID FOR THIS YEAR.

**LAURA IGAUNE**  
ELON TRACK AND FIELD  
ASSISTANT COACH



JACOB KISAMORE | SPORTS DIRECTOR

Igaune's preparation period for the 2020 Olympic Games was longer than she expected because the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the start of the games by one year.

### BY THE NUMBERS

# 71.61

meters was the distance thrown by Laura Igaune at the Duke Invitational.

enjoy not just being around her work ethic, but certainly just learning from all the things she's learned over the years."

Kristine Strazdite, a Latvian senior hammer thrower recruited by Igaune, said Igaune motivates her to work harder and dream big.

"At this point, she's honestly just my role model like, I'm obsessed with her. She's awesome. She literally is Olympian, and she has a normal life. She's a coach, she has a full time job," Strazdite said. "That's insane, because most of the Olympians, they're literally just professional athletes. They don't do anything besides just practicing that."

Igaune emphasizes the importance of being patient to anyone who wants to hit a higher caliber of competitive play.

"I guess my two things that I could give any single athlete or even little youth athletes, just be patient and trust the process. And those are two things. And I stick to them daily, weekly, yearly, you just got to be patient, you got to trust the process, and everything else is gonna come."