

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017  
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

# THE PENDULUM



CAROLINE BREHMAN PHOTO EDITOR

**Alex Roat and Margaret Malone**  
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## GLOSSING OVER Puerto Rico

Students from Puerto Rico wonder what they will be returning home to following Hurricane Maria

For three Elon University students, going home for Fall and Thanksgiving Break will mean facing a new reality on the island of Puerto Rico.

Hurricane Maria struck the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico Sept. 20., two weeks after the island was barraged by Hurricane Irma. The recovery is estimated to take years and cost \$30-60 billion. As of Oct. 2, 16 people have been confirmed dead by Maria, while 30 remain missing. Meanwhile, the majority of the island is still without power and lacking access to basic necessities such as clean water, fuel and food.

"I don't think I'm emotionally prepared to see my island destroyed," said sophomore Ana Ford, who will return to her family in Puerto Rico for Thanksgiving break.

Ford's father sent her a video of her childhood playground,

now covered in downed power lines and palm trees.

Senior Sofia Wensel said she, too, is unsure about the state of the home she will be returning to.

"My dad says it looks like a bomb exploded," Wensel said. "The infrastructure is completely destroyed and there is chaos in the streets. My neighborhood and home are okay, thank God. My house has damage, but nothing that will not be able to get replaced and fixed later."

"I think Puerto Rico is going to be 100 percent different than how I remember it," Wensel said.

The majority of homes in junior Ana Garcia's neighborhood were spared, because of their concrete foundations, but the neighborhood is flooded, and Garcia does not know when she will be home to see how her island has changed.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAMILY OF ANA FORD

**Top: Sofia Wensel, left, Kevin Vergne, center, and Ana Garcia, right, hold the Puerto Rican flag together to show support for their native country after Hurricane Maria. Bottom: A severely damaged McDonald's sign in the capital of Puerto Rico, San Juan, is an example of the destruction from Hurricane Maria.**

See **PUERTO RICO** | pg. 4

## Elon Elementary School closing approved

**Maggie Brown**  
Assistant News Editor | @maggieabrown\_

Elon University finally closed its deal with Elon Elementary School at the Alamance-Burlington School Board Member (ABSS) meeting Sept. 25. The board approved Elon to give the land they owned on 752 Walker Rd. to Elon Elementary School.

The current elementary school will close and Elon will build a new

**MORE SPACE**  
There are about 700 students currently enrolled at Elon Elementary school. The new facility will house 1,000 students.

school about 1.2 miles north of its current location. The construction of this new school is estimated to cost \$18 million.

Elon Elementary school was built in 1953 and is badly in need of renovations. Along with maintenance issues, the school is also experiencing overcrowding.

"ABSS will be getting a brand-new school, and Elon Elementary will have a new facility for their students," said board member Allison Grant. "It is

certainly advantageous for the university because they need that property to continue to expand and build."

The construction of the new school will not cost the school system — or the tax payers — anything. All of the furnishing and technology will be moved to the new location. No new resources will be bought for the school.

See **ELEMENTARY** | pg. 6

## 'I am tired of praying about these things'

Elon reacts to Las Vegas shooting, the deadliest in modern U.S. history

**Emmanuel Morgan and Alex Hager**  
Managing Editor and Web Producer |  
@EmmanuelMorgan and @awhager

Elon University alumna Laura Stump '12 arrived in Las Vegas for a conference earlier this week. She stayed in the MGM Grand Hotel, only an eight minute drive from Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino. But little did she know that she would be

### GUN COUNT

Authorities found 23 guns and thousands of rounds of ammunition in the shooter's hotel room.

merely 1.4 miles away from the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history that happened late Sunday night.

"By about a little after 10 p.m., I started hearing kind of popping noises outside," Stump told Elon News Network. "And so of course you don't want to immediately think that this is ... you know gunshots. You want to think it's fireworks instead."

For about 15 minutes, those noises continued. A stampede of people ducked for cover and amid the carnage, 59 people were shot dead and more than 500 were injured.

Las Vegas Police say Stephen Paddock, 64, of Mesquite, Nevada, fired into a crowd of about 22,000 people during a Jason Aldean country concert. Paddock took his own life before authorities could apprehend him. Hauled in his room on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Resort, authorities found 23 guns and thousands of rounds in ammunition. Ingredients for explosives were found in his car. While a motive hasn't been determined, every detail of the massacre was meticulously planned.

And as the nation grapples with the fallout of yet another tragedy, Elon is doing the same.

### A time for reflection

Members of the Elon community gathered in Numen Lumen Pavilion on Monday afternoon in what was called, "A time of prayer and lament," following the shooting.

The vigil, hosted by the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, allowed people to speak and voice their thoughts and feelings.

See **LAS VEGAS** | pg. 4



### NEWS • PAGE 5

Latest Elon Poll examines President Trump's likeability



### LIFESTYLE • PAGE 13

Elon students pursue musical theater off campus



### SPORTS • PAGE 15

Discussing NFL protests is hard, but we need to do it

**THE PENDULUM**

A PUBLICATION OF  
**ELON NEWS NETWORK**

Established 1974  
Volume 43, Edition 13

Elon News Network is a daily operation that includes a newspaper, website, broadcasts and multimedia. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to [enn@elon.edu](mailto: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. ENN is located on the first floor of the McEwen School of Communications.

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

**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 bottom of each article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page. Contact [enn@elon.edu](mailto:enn@elon.edu) to report a correction or a concern.

**CALENDAR**

**OCT. 4**  
**Credit Suisse Networking Mixer**  
5:30 P.M.  
Student Professional Development Center

**The American Pavilion Student Program Info Session**  
5:30 P.M.  
McEwen 013

**OCT. 5**  
**Playwright Steven Dietz Visiting Campus**  
All day  
Roberts Studio Theatre

**Fall Convocation with David Cameron**  
3:30 P.M.  
Alumni Gym

**OCT. 6**  
**Family Weekend begins**  
All day

**Music Department Faculty Concert**  
7:30 P.M.  
Whitely Auditorium

**OCT. 7**  
**Dancing in the Landscape**  
12 P.M.  
406 West Haggard Ave.

**OCT. 10**  
**Study Abroad and Your Career Workshop**  
3 P.M.  
Global Commons Media Room 103

**Tectonic Plates**  
7 P.M.  
Fat Frogg

**CONTACT**

**WHEN WE PUBLISH:**

**The Pendulum** publishes weekly on Wednesdays.

**Elon Local News** broadcasts Mondays at 6 p.m.

**ELN Morning** broadcasts Thursdays at 9:50 a.m.

**ELN Online Exclusive** broadcasts Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.

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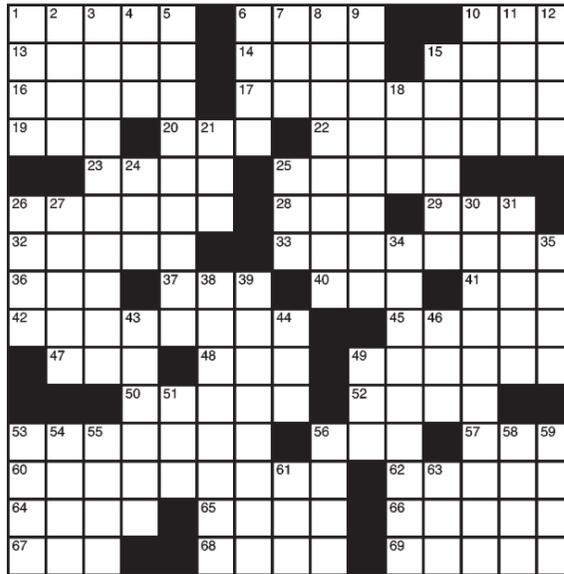
**GAMES**

FOR RELEASE OCTOBER 4, 2017

**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fancy parties
  - 6 [This is gonna be really bad!]
  - 10 OutKast rapper Big \_\_\_
  - 13 Hi in Hawaii
  - 14 Senior golfer Aoki
  - 15 Lends support to
  - 16 Likely to speak out
  - 17 \*Vodka cocktail often served with a sugared rim
  - 19 Text update from an Uber driver: Abbr.
  - 20 Trippy '60s drug
  - 22 Milked for all it's worth
  - 23 Mai \_\_\_: rum drinks
  - 25 Post-CrossFit woes
  - 26 With 49-Across, it keeps repeating itself ... and, based on the first and last letters, an apt description of each answer to a starred clue
  - 28 "\_\_\_ching!"
  - 29 Down with the flu
  - 32 NFLer again in 2016
  - 33 Early American furniture style
  - 36 Casino cash source
  - 37 Oft-injured knee part, for short
  - 40 Bit of texting tact
  - 41 Sine \_\_\_ non
  - 42 Interest-arousing promo
  - 45 More accurate
  - 47 Mud bath offerer
  - 48 Night before
  - 49 See 26-Across
  - 50 Burton of "Star Trek: TNG"
  - 52 Wild swine
  - 53 Win out
  - 56 Tiny drink
  - 57 Go wrong
  - 60 \*Largely bygone penal colony
  - 62 "Paper Moon" girl
  - 64 Notable times
  - 65 Mideast dignitary
  - 66 Brownish gray
  - 67 Susan of "L.A. Law"
  - 68 Fix, as a feline
  - 69 Promoted heavily



By C.C. Burnikel

10/4/17

- DOWN**
- 1 Conceded, with "up"
  - 2 Tons
  - 3 \*Store website feature
  - 4 "I thought so!"
  - 5 Education financing company, familiarly
  - 6 Coat, as jewelry
  - 7 Put in the game
  - 8 \*Shari Lewis puppet
  - 9 Place for a break?
  - 10 Dove or robin
  - 11 Campfire attraction
  - 12 Kids' game for car trips
  - 15 Includes
  - 18 Maiden name intro
  - 21 Nine-digit ID
  - 24 Wanted poster letters
  - 25 Duke's conf.
  - 26 Cry from a sheep
  - 27 Motel postings
  - 30 \*Totally drunk
  - 31 "Today" co-host

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**



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9/28/17

- 34 Manipulative health care practitioner
- 35 Pie crust fat
- 38 Mountain climber's piton spots
- 39 \*Light source with hypnotic bubbles
- 43 Artillery bursts
- 44 Essen article
- 46 Electronics giant
- 49 Hitter's stat
- 51 Sound-detecting organ
- 53 Claimed in court
- 54 Hard to find
- 55 "Buy It Now" site
- 56 Agile
- 58 Like orange or red persimmons
- 59 Marsh plant
- 61 Athletes for Hope co-founder Hamm
- 63 Calendar square

**THIS WEEK IN HISTORY - LAMBERT VISITS AS CANDIDATE**



President Leo Lambert visited campus as a finalist for Elon University's ninth presidential race 19 years ago this week.

Before working at Elon, President Lambert was the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse.

Lambert met with the Board of Trustees and SGA.

While on campus, Lambert spoke to students and faculty about the importance of interactive learning and the role student organizations play in education.

At the time, Lambert was competing against Thomas

Flynn, the acting president at Millikin University in Decatur.

Lambert told the Pendulum he was excited to make positive changes to the school.

Before becoming president, Lambert was passionate about increasing Elon's national reputation and visibility.

"Elon is truly a great college and people need to know more about it," Lambert said in 1998.

A year after visiting the campus that year, Lambert officially won the role of president.

While Lambert is on his last year here, Elon is looking for the ninth presidential candidate and is currently in the midst of the selection process.

**THE OAK SEEDLING**

President Leo Lambert speaking at the Class of 2016's Commencement holding an Oak sapling

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Elon prepares for Family Weekend 2017**

From Oct. 6-8, Elon University will be welcoming student families to campus for Family Weekend 2017.

Elon has planned multiple events for the weekend, highlights being a home football game against William & Mary, a beam-signing ceremony for the new Sankey Hall and a university update from President Lambert.

Families' schedules will be tightly packed with multiple opportunities to meet with Elon faculty and staff. These experiences will give parents and family members the experience of seeing Elon from a unique perspective.

Online registration for Family Weekend closed on Oct. 1. For more information visit the Office for Parent Engagement website.

**Housing market boom in Alamance County**

Alamance County has been experiencing a dramatic housing market boom. Properly priced homes in good condition are selling with ease.

The average asking price of a single-family home has increased in the past year, causing a decrease in housing inventory throughout Alamance. These two aspects combined led to the county's market boom.

The average asking price from September 2016 to September 2017 stands at \$229,127, a 30 percent increase from the year before. There are 620 less houses on active listing when comparing September 2015 to September 2016 and September 2016 to September 2017.

Low inventory and high demand often create bidding wars and the perfect conditions for brokers.

**Vandalized bathroom floods Smith**

First-floor Smith Hall residents woke up to soggy floors Sept. 30 after a urinal was ripped from the floor's communal bathroom.

This caused up to three inches of water to flood from the bathroom and potentially caused thousands of dollars in damage to the residence hall.

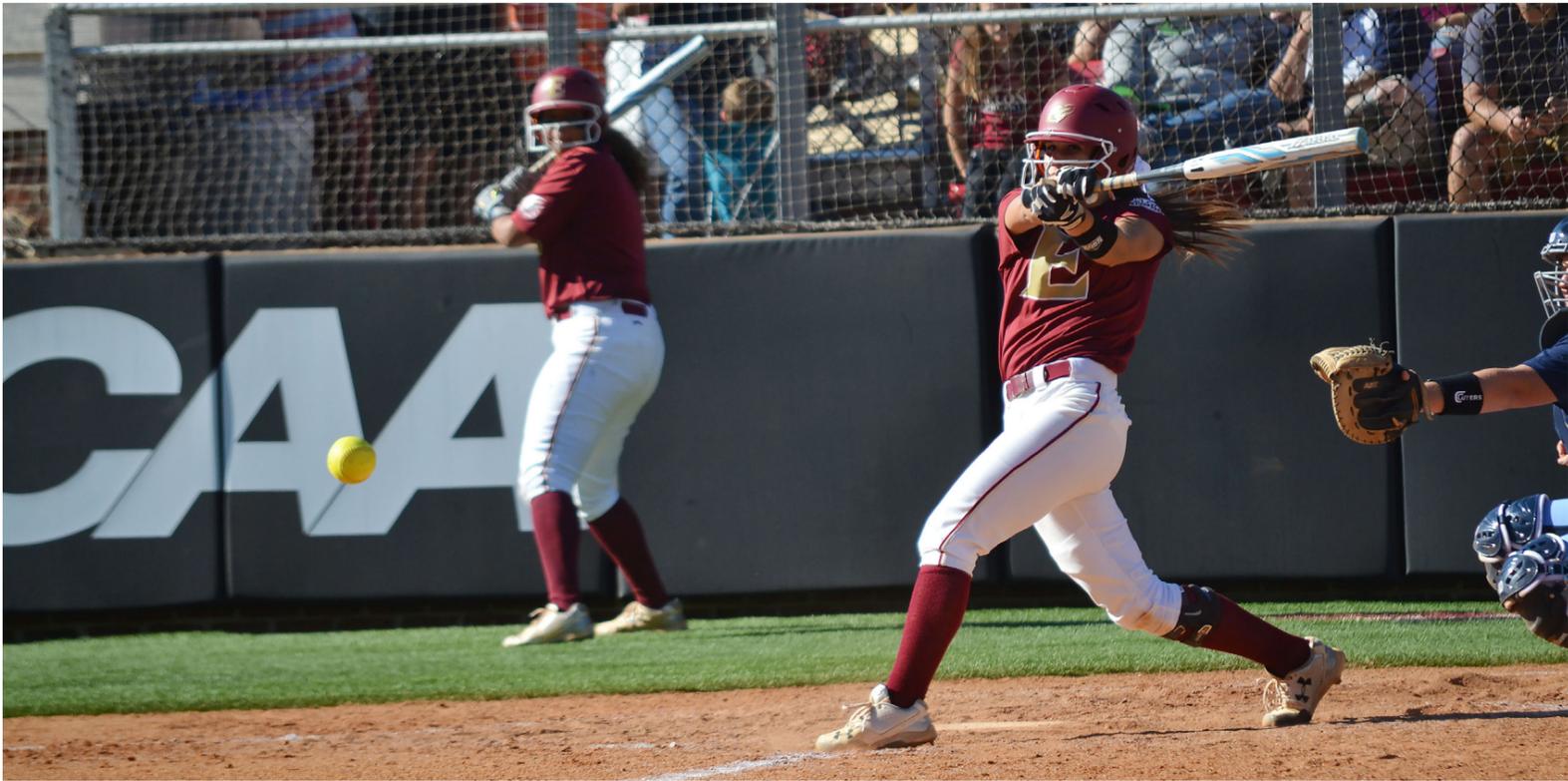
All of Historic Neighborhood's water service was temporarily cut off the morning after. Jared Henderson, Smith's first-floor Resident Assistant, is confident this incident will not affect the tight-knit community on the first floor.

Henderson admits the hall is, "frustrated with the fact that all of this damage has to be paid for somehow." According to Henderson, this incident marks the third weekend in a row that Smith has experienced vandalism.

**Professor published in International Trumpet Guild Journal**

Thomas Erdmann, professor of Music and interim chair of the Department of Music, had a 6,000-word article published in the October 2017 issue of The International Trumpet Guild Journal.

Erdmann's article is on John Daversa a Grammy nominee, trumpeter, composer, producer and educator. Daversa's musical skills have led him to perform on CBS, NBC, The Late Show with David Letterman and The Oprah Winfrey show.



An Elon softball player hits a ball up the third base line as the Phoenix played a fall scrimmage against the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Oct. 1.

MARITZA GONZALEZ | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

James Brewer, right, and other members of the Burlington community gather alongside South Church Street for the annual Life Chain anti-abortion demonstration held nationwide Oct. 1.



ALEC MANDELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior outside hitter Sydney Busa spikes a ball over the net past two blockers during Elon's game against William & Mary Sept. 28.

Freshman Kathryn Roessler receives a henna tattoo at the Eid Al-Adha celebration in the Numen Lumen Pavillion Wednesday Sept. 28.



MALLORY SIEGENTHALER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



COREY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wide receiver Tre Marsh (88) attempts to catch a long pass into the Albany end zone Sept. 30.

**PUERTO RICO |**  
from cover

Her parents plan to visit her for the holidays, as flying home is too expensive because of the mass exodus of high priced flights leaving the island.

Junior Kevin Vergne said he knows even less. He has been kept almost completely in the dark as the power outages around the island have limited his conversation with his family.

“My house had minor damages,” Vergne said. “Most of the vegetation and trees in my neighborhood are either disappeared or laying on the streets. My neighborhood is still without power or running water.”

Though supplies have been arriving to the island

from regular distributors and emergency aid organizations, the damage to roads and bridges has made transportation difficult, cutting off those who live toward the center of the island.

“People are dying of hunger, thirst, and the economy has come to a complete halt ... lack of proper distribution of necessary products on the island is detrimental,” Wensel said.

Ford, who lives closer to the coast, said her family has one of the only generators in their neighborhood, and her parents are welcoming people into their home to take showers, but access to fuel for generators is coveted.

Ford’s father went to buy gas at 6 a.m. and waited over an hour for access to the pumps.

Mayor of San Juan Carmen Yulin Cruz criticized President Donald Trump’s response to the situation in Puerto Rico during a press conference Sept. 29.

Cruz asked the United States for help. “We’re dying here — mayday,” she said.

Her statements were countered by a barrage series of tweets from the president, challenging Cruz’s leadership skills in the crisis.

“The Mayor of San Juan, who was very complimentary only a few days ago, has now been told

by the Democrats that you must be nasty to Trump,” Trump wrote. “Such poor leadership ability by the Mayor of San Juan, and others in Puerto Rico, who are not able to get their workers to help. They want everything to be done for them when it should be a

community effort. 10,000 Federal workers now on Island doing a fantastic job.”

His response angered many Puerto Ricans, including Vergne who questioned Trump’s leadership skills.

“His comments about Puerto Rico denote that he is unfit for the office of the President and has a total disregard to the lives of the 3.4 million U.S. citizens that live there,” Vergne said. “You can call it ignorance, racism or incompetence, but no doubt he doesn’t have an idea of what a humanitarian crisis is and the meaning of solidarity and compassion.”

Wensel said the majority of the island does not plan on welcoming Trump to the island this week.

“**WE ARE U.S. CITIZENS, AND THE PEOPLE IN THE STATES NEED TO HELP US ... LIKE THEY WOULD HELP ANYONE ELSE ON THE MAINLAND.**”

**ANA FORD**  
SOPHOMORE



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANA FORD'S FAMILY

“He has no interest in helping the people of Puerto Rico,” Wensel said. “I believe he is only going to the island to make a political statement because Congress has been pressuring him into doing what is ‘right.’”

Garcia feels the same way “I don’t want Trump’s idiotic tweets to outshine our humanitarian crisis,” Garcia said. “Trump is doing what he does best: he’s putting up a smoke screen and neglecting to talk about the real issues going on in Puerto Rico.”

Ford said she hopes that help arrives to the island, regardless of Trump’s actions.

“My hope is that Trump starts doing his job properly instead of trash talking Puerto Rico on Twitter because we

really do need help,” Ford said. “People are dying ... We need food ... We need clean water.”

The territory’s debt currently exceeds \$70 billion. Now facing extensive repairs, citizens are hoping the U.S. government will provide assistance.

“We are U.S. citizens, and the people in the states need to help us ... like they would help anyone else on the mainland,” Ford said.

“We pay the same federal taxes as those residents who live on the mainland and it’s imperative that we receive equal attention and service from FEMA.”

On Monday, Jon Doolley, vice president for student life and dean of students, addressed the aftermath of Hur-

ricane Maria in an email to the student body.

Citing damage in both Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, Doolley encouraged students to donate money to relief organizations, especially student groups on campus.

Student groups are collecting donations in the Moseley Student Center starting Wednesday morning. Cash, credit and Phoenix Cash are accepted. Donations, including diapers, sleeping bags and bug spray will also be collected.

Dooley also listed multiple groups supporting Hurricane aid, especially Unidos por Puerto Rico, and a national student organization, Students with Puerto Rico, on GoFundMe.

**Downed power lines cover the streets near San Juan, Puerto Rico, sophomore Ana Ford’s hometown.**

**LAS VEGAS |**  
from cover

Among those that spoke were Jan Fuller, university chaplain.

Fuller said she was, “Tired of praying about these things,” acknowledging the numerous vigils that the Truitt Center has recently hosted in response to tragedies. Fuller added that she hopes the many prayers shared will lead to improvements.

“It almost seems like the new norm, to have occurrences like these,” said senior Sydney Nelson as she left the vigil. “So, it’s almost bringing to light that it’s not normal and there is a way around it.”

**Deciphering what’s real and fake**

Shortly after news of the shooting began to surface online, articles and information from fake news sites designed to disseminate falsehoods joined the flurry of headlines.

Adam Constantine, Elon’s social media manager, warns that user discretion is the first line of defense when it comes to stopping the spread of false or misleading information.

“When you come across a piece of content, research,” Constantine said. “See if you

can find out how credible this information is. If you cannot do that, refrain from posting. And that’s the most difficult piece, just because you can post something on social [media] doesn’t mean you should.”

According to Joan Ruelle, an Elon librarian, these stories are designed with shareability in mind. She noted that many fake news stories are spread by automated social media accounts.

“I think what we’ve seen is that there are a number of robot Twitter feeds out there, and so they as robots have a broader audience. They can amplify something beyond what one person with a Twitter feed could.”

**What if this happened here?**

Across campus, students reacted to the tragedy as new information came to light.

Junior Jennifer Holmes was among those to reflect on the shooting. Her sister was in Paris during the 2015 terrorist attacks which killed 130 people, and she recalled the panic of being unable to get in touch with her sister during those events.

“I think I’m always a person who wants to believe in



COREY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Monique Swirsky addresses the Las Vegas shooting at a vigil in Numen Lumen Pavilion Oct. 2, 2017.

the best in people,” Holmes said. “But also nowadays can you really trust anyone, I just don’t understand people that want to bring harm to others, no matter what your outlook on life. Everyone’s human, but there’s a lot of screwed up people.”

Senior Alex Gruber attended a Jason Aldean concert at Walnut Creek Amphitheater

in Raleigh earlier this year.

“It’s weird to think, what if this happened in Walnut Creek Amphitheatre in North Carolina where I was at the time,” Gruber said. “This applies to all of us, this is something that transcends age and background. It’s something that we all can be affected by. I just hope that everyone can heal properly.”

Concerts and public gathering places have quickly become a prime target for terrorism attacks. Suicide bombers killed 23 people and injured 250 at an Ariana Grande concert May 22 in Manchester, England.

On Nov. 4, pop singer Jon Bellion will headline Elon’s homecoming concert in the Colonnades parking lot. With

“**IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE THE NEW NORM, TO HAVE OCCURRENCES LIKE THESE. SO, IT’S ALMOST BRINGING TO LIGHT THAT IT’S NOT NORMAL AND THERE IS A WAY AROUND IT.**”

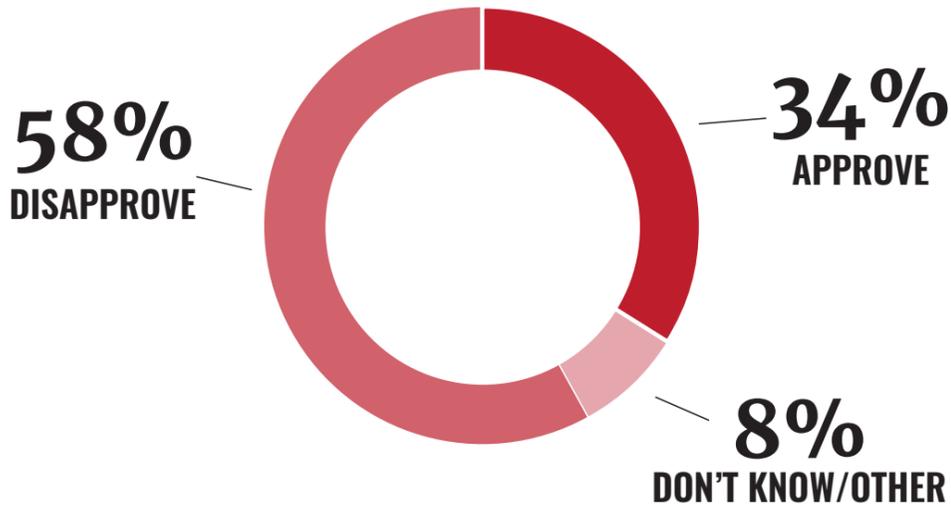
**SYDNEY NELSON**  
SENIOR

such a large amount of people planned to attend, the Student Union Board, the group organizing the event, said it is taking precautions to protect those in attendance.

“The Student Union Board is working in partnership with the university and Campus Safety and Police, taking steps to ensure a safe environment at the Homecoming concert.”

# Latest Elon Poll addresses Trump, DACA, NFL

How is Donald Trump handling the job of president?



**Sonya Walker**

Contributor | @Sonya\_A\_Walker

Elon University Polls released its most recent survey's results Oct. 3 addressing everything from President Donald Trump to DACA, the Affordable Care Act, NFL protests, Confederate monument removal and climate change on the North Carolina coast.

These polls were conducted via a live-caller landline and cellular survey of 931 registered North Carolina voters and took place from Sept. 25-28.

The poll's results showcase some striking new political statistics. The report showed a 58 percent disapproval rating of Trump's job in office and a 63 percent approval to letting children of undocumented immigrants gain legal status.

Jason Husser, director of Elon

Poll and assistant professor of political science and policy studies, said in a email announcing the poll results that he sees ties between the results of the North Carolina polling results and national opinion.

"Like many Americans frustrated with gridlock in Washington, North Carolina voters as a whole want to see President Trump lead bipartisan deal-making in Washington," Husser said. "Democratic voters are more likely than Republicans to want bargains across the aisle, but our data suggest the president will have the support of most North Carolinians within his own party if he closes more negotiations like the recent debt ceiling extension."

The poll also revealed a 60 percent disapproval of Trump's advocacy for the firing of NFL players who kneel during the National Anthem, a 59 percent vote in support of the

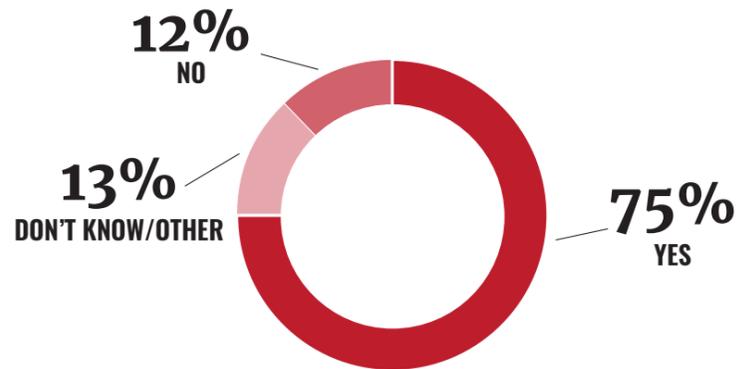
controversial Confederate monuments staying in place.

These results have ignited conversations among students. Sophomore Elena Elliot said she believes the President's focus should be shifted toward other modern issues, such as disaster relief, rather than political sports' demonstrations.

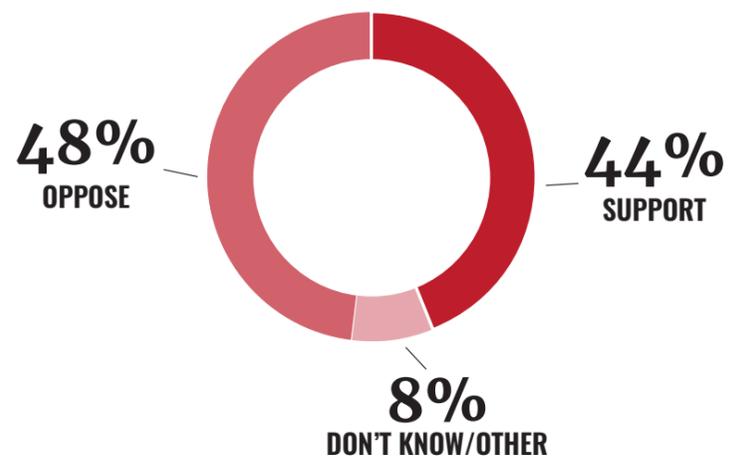
"I think Trump's efforts should be more focused on the relief efforts in Puerto Rico than on attacking a peaceful — albeit controversial, —demonstration of free speech," Elliot said. "His comments are inappropriately timed and it's no wonder that 60 percent of people polled disapprove of his conduct towards the matter."

Regardless of political affiliation, these polls serve as a snapshot of the views of the larger North Carolina area as a whole to Elon's student body, faculty and staff.

Do you support Republican efforts to repeal and replace Obamacare?



Should President Trump work with Democrats to pass legislation?



SOURCE: ELON POLL  
ALEX TOMA | DESIGNER

## Former UK prime minister, a stranger to students

David Cameron, former UK prime minister, speaking at Elon's fall convocation

**Ariana Reyes**

Contributor | @elonnewsnetwork

A survey was conducted at Elon University in which 25 random students were asked if they knew who U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron is. Fourteen out of 25 students did not recognize Cameron's name.

### CAMERON WHO?

David Cameron is the former prime minister of the United Kingdom. He led the country from 2010-2016 and is the 12th prime minister under the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

Owen expressed how though he has little knowledge of him, "It is important to understand what is going on in the world."

David Cameron, former prime minister of the United Kingdom during 2010-2016, is the 12th prime minister to have led under the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. He was also responsible for leading the conservative party from 2005-2016. Cameron is credited

"I don't know who he is," said freshman Mary Callahan. "I think it is very important we learn about David Cameron because Elon chose him to come here for a reason and I think we should all become aware of who he is and what he's done."

Similarly, freshman Nikolas



David Cameron leaves 10 Downing St. in London for the last time as prime minister on Wednesday, July 13, 2016.

with modernizing the Conservative party, and held the referendum concerning the isolation of the United Kingdom from the European Union, which resulted in Brexit.

The amount of political awareness students possess on global current events lies in their willingness to expand their horizons and their desire to learn about such topics. But that awareness is shockingly low among Elon students.

All 25 students were asked the question, "Do you think it's important to know who David Cameron is?" Charlotte Duck-



IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE AWARE OF GLOBAL EVENTS IN GENERAL AND POLITICAL FIGURES, ESPECIALLY IN THE U.K. AS THEY ARE SUCH A STRONG CONNECTION TO THE UNITED STATES.

**LARA STRUCKMAN**  
FRESHMAN

worth, a freshman from Westchester, New York, explains her rationale for why knowledge about David Cameron is not important. "I don't know him, so no," she said.

Conversely, freshman Lara Struckman from Nazareth, Pennsylvania, claims to know more about David Cameron than some of her classmates, and emphasized the importance of staying aware of current events.

"It's important to be aware of global events in general and political figures," she said. "Especially in the U.K. as they are such a strong connection to the United States.

"A lot of people don't even know who he is or what the purpose of a prime minister is."

Many students, and even faculty around campus, argue that Americans possess little-to-no knowledge on important subjects such as foreign affairs.

Joshua Miller, assistant professor of international relations said, "Americans tend to focus on American politics." He claimed it is "hard to say" why students are unaware of David Cameron, but that education may be a factor. "It might be that students are just now starting to look at politics as they get into college campuses — especially for first-year students," Miller said. "Without understanding who he is, it's really difficult for students to appreciate what the new kind of order is going to look like."

British students who attend Elon have been surprised when they hear about students' lack of knowledge regarding British politics.

Abby Wheeler, a junior student from Brighton, United Kingdom, said it's "very naive" to think there is not a significance in international current affairs.

She said she thinks it's important for American students to learn about such events so as to, "take an active role in world politics." Wheeler described this lack of knowledge as a representation of "the floor in the education of politics." She suggested that there should be an, "Improvement of the international media shown within America and a better education system regarding international politics and world leaders."

# Elon's pedestrian safety comes into question

Rachel Ellis

Lead Assignment Manager | @rachel\_ellisTV

Over the past three years, there have been three Elon University students struck by moving vehicles, two of them facing life-threatening injuries.

In March 2015, Gaby Rosales was struck by a Toyota Camry on her way to attend her first meeting of the Eta Zeta chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha. Almost two years later, in March 2017, Elon sophomore and cross-country runner Molly Offstein, was hit by a car while on an early-morning run.

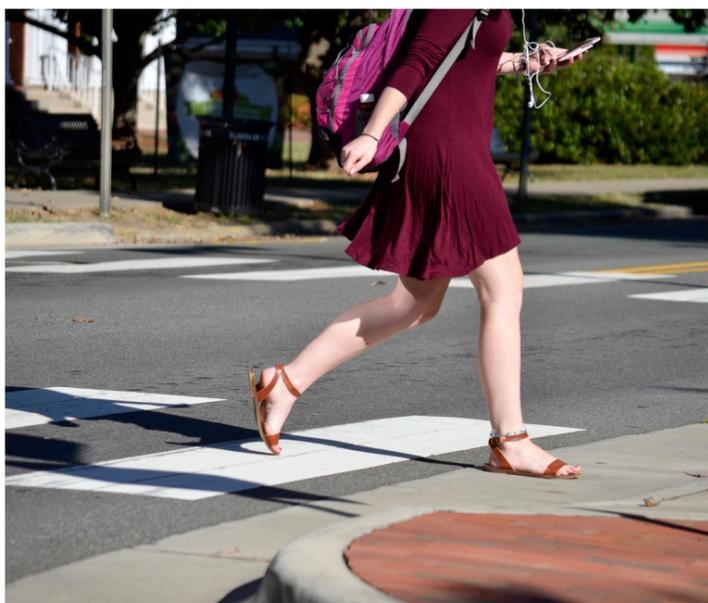
The most recent accident involving a car hitting a student occurred Sept. 21, and has continued to spark conversation across campus.

Elon senior Olivia Hobbs was hit by a van on her way to campus while crossing at the intersection of East Trolling Avenue and North Williamson Avenue.

The driver, Amitkumar Shah, is a Gibsonville resident and is not an Elon Student. He told Elon News Network (ENN) it was too late to stop and that he's sorry.

Lieutenant Jim Giannotti of the Elon Police Department spoke with ENN about the importance of pedestrian safety and that Elon definitely has room for improvement.

"I've seen numerous people just go on the crosswalks without hit-



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

ting the buttons. I've seen people hitting the button at the crosswalks, and the one thing I've noticed that's been a trend is that when people are crossing the crosswalks, they are preoccupied," Giannotti said.

He said people are distracted on their cell phones, listening to music or talking to their friends.

"They have other things to worry about than what's coming at them across the road," Giannotti said.

Senior Jake Hollis crosses the intersection of East Trolling Avenue and North Williamson Avenue

every day on his commute to and from campus. This is the same intersection where Hobbs was hit a few weeks ago.

"There's no sidewalk. I mean there is some space, but I guess not enough," Hollis said.

Hollis said while people on foot do have the right of way, at the end of the day, pedestrians should be the ones to take the initiative and be cautious on the streets. He explained the importance of thinking twice before crossing the street without a pedestrian crosswalk light.

## PREVIOUS ACCIDENTS

**March 2015:** Senior Gaby Rosales gets hit by a Toyota Camry on her way to an Eta Zeta chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha.

**March 2017:** Sophomore and cross-country runner Molly Offstein was hit while on an early morning run.

**Sept. 21, 2017:** Senior Olivia Hobbs was hit by a van on her way to campus at the intersection of East Trolling Avenue and North Williamson Avenue.

**An Elon student crosses the street just outside of the School of Communications Oct. 3, 2017.**

According to Giannotti, intersection cross-walk lights on campus are monitored by traffic studies tracking the number of cars that drive across. The traffic flow determines the time for the cross-walk lights to change. During high traffic times, pedestrians could wait for the light to change for several minutes.

"Just because you're in an area and it has a cross walk doesn't mean the vehicle will not go into the crosswalk. What about a distracted driver? What about a parent yelling at their kid?" Giannotti said.



OLIVER FISCHER | CONTRIBUTOR

**McEwen Dining Hall is closed for renovations during the 2017-2018 academic year. It's scheduled to reopen on Aug. 1, 2018.**

## McEwen dining hall renovations on schedule

Oliver Fischer

Contributor | @fischerwithaC

Construction fences surround McEwen Dining Hall, but renovations have not yet begun. Brad

### NEW SPACES

The all-you-can-eat dining hall will be located on the first floor and three new food vendors will be upstairs.

Moore, the university architect and director of planning, design and construction management, said constructions are still on schedule.

McEwen is expected to open again Aug. 1, 2018.

"They should start mobilizing in the next couple of weeks," Moore said.

The renovation of the dining hall was originally scheduled to take place during the 2016-2017 academic year, but weather delays forced a change of plans.

No visible changes have been made to the exterior of McEwen Dining Hall yet, but the interior has been demolished.

"We've taken it back down to the structure," Moore said. "The slabs are still there, the columns are still there, the walls are still there, but all the insides have been cleared out."

The existing building will be renovated and extended. According to Moore, the renovated dining hall will seat up to 600 visitors doubling the capacity.

Moore said the all-you-can-eat dining hall will be relocated from the second floor to the first floor and three new food vendors will move in upstairs.

The choice of vendors has not yet been finalized according to Resident District Manager Pulkit Vigg, but dining services has been in contact with Pei Wei Asian Diner and Village Juice Co., making them likely choices.

"As we continue to look at Historic Neighborhood and renovate the residence halls there, the desire was to take the dining hall and meet the needs of our students," Moore said.

Vigg said the Chick-fil-A branch in McEwen saw about 600 visitors per day compared to 300 and 100 per day for the dining hall and Varsity respectively.

Sophomore Trevor Keith agrees McEwen Dining Hall requires some changes to remain relevant.

"It needs something to bring people in other than just the limited options they had," Keith said. "It looks like it needs something to it, and it looks like it was just not in with the rest of the dining halls."

## ELEMENTARY | from cover

The agreement between Elon and Elon Elementary was modeled after an agreement between Kmart and Smith Elementary School in Alamance County.

In 1994, Kmart offered to build Smith Elementary a new school so they could have the land where Smith Elementary school resided.

Special legislation was passed so Elon could have the land. Representative Stephen Ross, class of '73, was instrumental in this legislation's approval. The land came from the government, was given to the private sector and then back to the public sector. Much of the language in the legislation was mirrored after the Kmart and Smith agreement.

"It's a win-win. Elon Elementary isn't spending any money," said Todd Thorpe, who is responsible for Elon Elementary's facilities. "If the public had to build it, it would cost \$24 million to \$25 million. A private contractor is much quicker and cheaper."

The university has been working on this process for about three years. After overwhelming public support, it was decided the most beneficial decision was for the elementary school to be relocated.

Many of the parents at Elon Elementary school had complained about the school being located in a highly congested area. Moving to Walker Road would eliminate traffic issues.

Tony Rose, member of the Elon faculty since 1998 and a member of ABSS, attended Elon Elementary School. Though he has feelings of nostalgia, he is happy to see the board move forward with this decision.

"The time has come where the need for both entities was large enough. For the school system, it was a safety issue," Rose said. "Elon has plans for their campus, and that property sitting in the



MAGGIE BOWEN | ASSISANT NEWS EDITOR

**Elon Elementary School closes its deal with the university on Sept. 25 at the ABSS Board Meeting**



THE UNIVERSITY WINS BECAUSE IT'S GETTING PROPERTY IN THE MIDDLE OF CAMPUS. THE SCHOOL SYSTEM WINS BECAUSE THEY GET A NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. THE COMMUNITY WINS BECAUSE OF THE NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE LOCATION OF THE NEW SCHOOL.

GERRY FRANCIS

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF ELON

middle of campus is not in Elon's long-term geographic plans."

Currently, Elon University surrounds Elon Elementary on all sides. Elon has also started building a new business school behind the elementary school. This could potentially create future safety problems.

Gerry Francis, executive vice president of Elon, is now working as the liaison between the university and the community.

"The university wins because it's getting property in the middle of campus," Francis said. "The school system wins because they get a new elementary school. The

community wins because of the new economic development in the location of the new school."

According to Francis, there are about 700 students currently enrolled at Elon Elementary school. The new facility will adjust to the overcrowding by housing 1,000 students.

Brain Feeley '03, director for alumni engagement and an ABSS Board Member, has a passion for seeing Elon move forward in the community.

"As an ABSS board member this is an exceptional opportunity for a new school to be built free of charge. As someone who works at Elon and is an alumnus at Elon, I see that Elon wants to maintain expansion while also maintaining a walkable residential campus," Feeley said. "It's an incredible opportunity for the school system and the county. We can now focus on the needs of the high schools."

# REGISTRAR REPORT BREAKS DOWN STUDENT ENROLLMENT

MARGARET MALONE | News Editor | @megretjeane

ELON UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE OF the Registrar released its Fall 2017 Registrar Report including data regarding class size, majors and enrollment broken down by state and students' religious affiliations.

The report revealed a number of new trends and the continuation of others.

Maryland was once again not in the top five for the second year in a row since falling below Connecticut and New York in 2016.

Also on the up-and-up was student enrollment from other U.S. territories and foreign countries. For the first time,

the number of students from outside of the 50 states (276) now outnumbers the students from Florida (235) and Georgia (210).

A number of states who were represented at Elon University last year, are not here any longer. They include Arizona, Iowa, Louisiana, Oregon, New Mexico, Arkansas, Alaska, Idaho, Nebraska, Nevada, Wyoming, Hawaii, Mississippi, Montana, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Utah. Students from just 34 states and the District of Columbia and now enrolled.

Some majors saw new enrollment

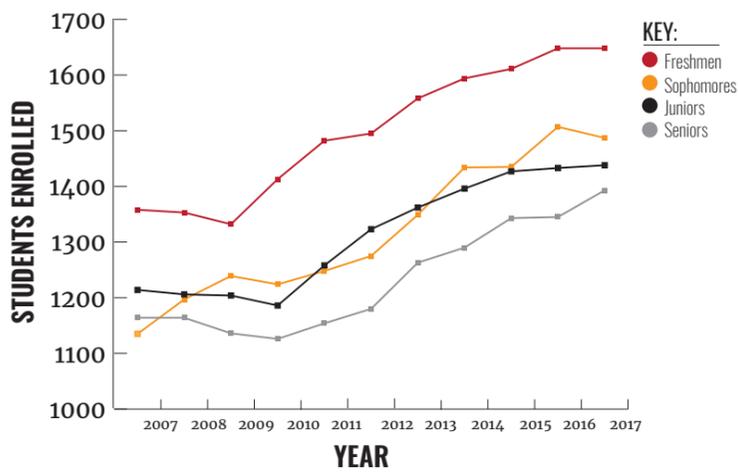
records this year such as computer science (122), statistics (56), public health studies (190), communication design (133) and applied mathematics (37).

Other programs were not so lucky, and some reached their lowest enrollment numbers in the past ten years: music education (5), engineering (22), biology (217), art (16), elementary education (146), mathematics (32) and international studies (79).

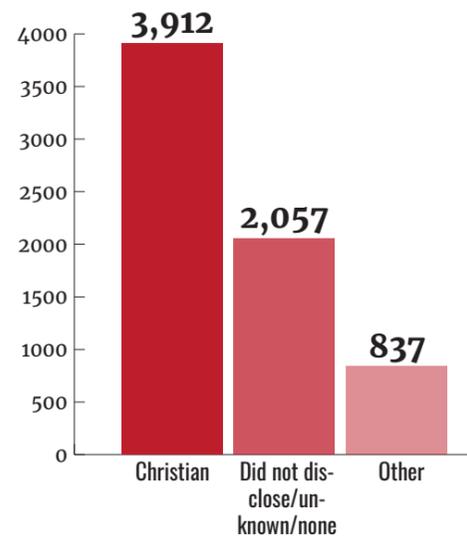
Students' religious affiliations followed previous trends — the majority of students continue to identify as Christian.

## Enrollment

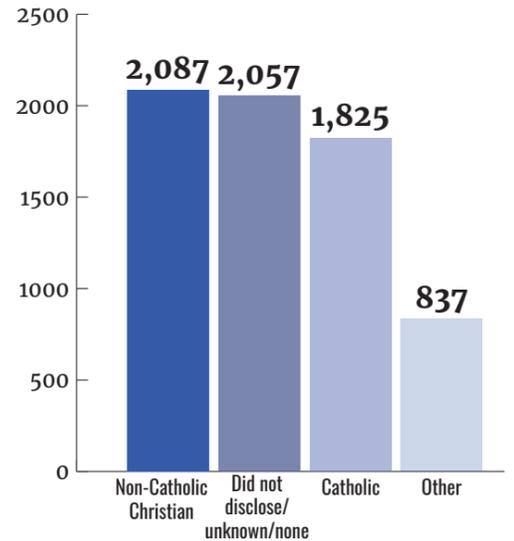
This year, enrollment continued its steady climb — undergraduate enrollment rose to 5,966 from last year's total of 5,933. Freshmen continue to dominate the undergraduate field with a fall 2017 total of 1,648. The senior class followed with a total of 1,487. Sophomores numbered 1,438, and juniors came in last place with just 1,393.



## Religion



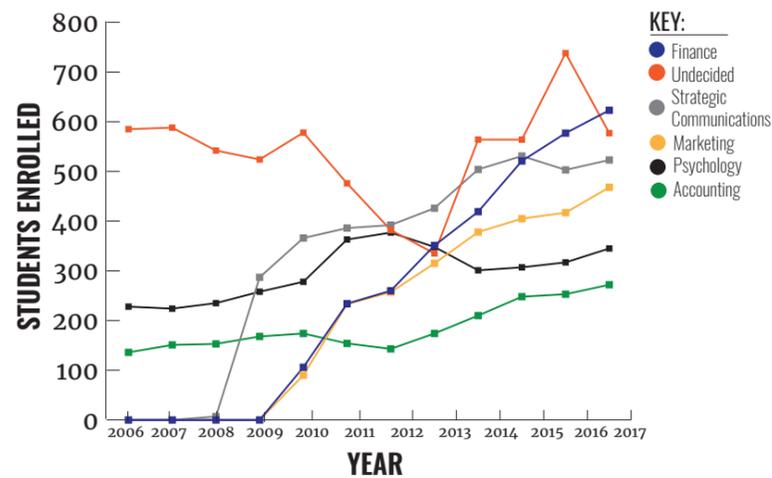
More than a third of students who identify as Christian also identify as Catholic. If separated, Catholics become the third largest group.



The majority of students at Elon identify as Christians. This year, the registrar's report also began including data about students who chose to not disclose their religious preferences — this group is the second largest.

## Major

This year marked the first year since 2013 that the number of students enrolled in a major surpassed the number of students enrolled as undecided. The last major to do so was strategic communications.



### TOP FIVE MAJORS - FALL 2017

1. Finance
2. Strategic Communications
3. Marketing
4. Psychology
5. Accounting

The top five most enrolled in majors in Fall 2017 were finance (623), strategic communications (523), marketing (468), psychology (345) and accounting (272).

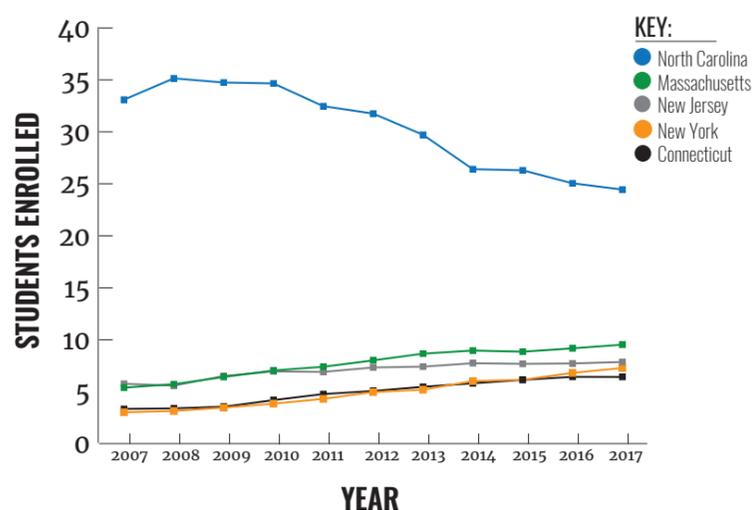
### BOTTOM FIVE MAJORS - FALL 2017

1. Business Administration
2. Science Education
3. Media Arts & Entertainment
4. Environmental Science/Environmental Engineering
5. Engineering Mathematics

The top five least enrolled in majors in Fall 2017 were business administration (1), science education (1), media arts & entertainment (2), environmental science/environmental engineering (2) and engineering mathematics (3). The business administration program stopped accepting new applicants after 2014.

## Geography

North Carolina's enrollment continued its decline this fall while Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut's numbers continued their slow but steady rise.



### TOP FIVE STATES (BY ENROLLMENT) - FALL 2017

1. North Carolina
2. Massachusetts
3. New Jersey
4. New York
5. Connecticut

The top five states with the most enrolled students in Fall 2017 were North Carolina (1,665), Massachusetts (648), New Jersey (535), New York (496) and Connecticut (437).

### BOTTOM FIVE STATES (BY ENROLLMENT) - FALL 2017

1. Alabama
2. Wisconsin
3. West Virginia
4. Kansas
5. District of Columbia

The bottom five states with the fewest enrolled students in fall 2017 were Alabama (10), Wisconsin (12), West Virginia (12), Kansas (20) and the District of Columbia (21).

## CHEAT SHEET

EACH WEEK THE PENDULUM DEBRIEFS COMPLEX EVENTS BY INTERVIEWING RELEVANT SOURCES

# Myanmar's Rohingya refugee crisis continues with no end

Jason Kirk, associate professor of political science and policy studies, explains the Rohingya Crisis

**Victoria Traxler**

Contributor | @elonnewsnetwork



**Jason Kirk**

The Rohingya people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, previously referred to as the State of Burma, continues to face genocide in one of the world's worst refugee crises.

## Q: Who are the Rohingya?

**A:** The Rohingya are a Muslim minority population in Myanmar who are concentrated primarily in the Rakhine state, a western state that borders Bangladesh. They're not a majority even within this state that they're concentrated in, but it's still a pretty significant population.

## Q: How has the government treated the Rohingya?

**A:** The government of Myanmar has really marginalized them for a very long time. It's been a long-standing issue. They were effectively stripped

of citizens' rights in 1974.

## Q: What is the reason for the marginalization?

**A:** As a refugee issue the Rohingya go back decades. It's a tough situation where, kind of in waves, never before have we seen the numbers we've seen in the last two years. This really sort of intensified about two years ago. There was a bit of international attention to it then. It was overshadowed in a lot of the media coverage by the Syrian and other refugee flows that were confronting Europe.

But actually, the Rohingya refugee crisis has been one of the most significant global refugee crises in recent years.

The government doesn't seem to want any witnesses to the policy that they've been carrying out. Which — not to put too fine of a point on it — is clearly ethnic cleansing. It may even meet the threshold of genocide.

## Q: Where are the Rohingya people trying to escape to?

**A:** The challenge geographically is there aren't really many places they can go. It's the Rakhine state's on the water in the Bay of Bengal. They can cross one border into Bangladesh. Bangladesh is, of course, one of the poorest and most resource challenged countries in the entire world, so it has its own problems; it doesn't want them. Some of them have



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

tried to flee in boats and they've found some safe haven in Malaysia and some parts of south-east Asia.

## Q: What has caused this recent round of violence?

What's happened recently that triggered the latest round of violence, again this is one of the things you see when you have these situations of long-standing repression and marginalization of people, is that a segment of the Rohingya have become radicalized. You have this terrorist organization, as the government calls them, or insurgency/militant organization. They

go by the acronym ARSA; it's a homegrown, "enough is enough" movement that draws from ranking filed disgruntled Rohingya, but apparently has some international leadership.

To some extent, it's becoming a bit of an international cause that's receiving some attention from majority Muslim countries. Maybe not to the level where any of these places are really going to stick their necks out for these Rohingya people, but that's the phase that we may be seeing now where it's becoming internationalized in a way it hasn't before. Which usually only pretends bad things

**Rohingya refugees escaping the violence in Myanmar flee to Bangladesh, a neighboring country. According to the United Nations, 300,000 Rohingyas have fled Myanmar.**

happening. That's when black money flows and maybe arms flows.

## Q: What would you say is the best possible outcome for the Rohingya population?

**A:** The best possible outcome is that they could be treated as citizens by the government of Myanmar; treated as human beings, but we're so far away from that. The lesson of Burma in the last few years is that the combination of international pressure and rewarding incremental reforms seemed to work for a while, but doesn't seem to be working lately. It's not exactly clear if we can get back to that. I think the government of Myanmar needs to be absolutely shamed by the international community.

## Q: What could Elon students do in regards to this crisis?

**A:** Educate themselves. Write to your senators, wherever you come from, write to your congressmen. Tell them you care about this issue, ask what they're going to do about it and what the United States is going to do about it. Demand of our media and demand of our leaders to take action. People can contribute to the humanitarian efforts in Bangladesh, but don't imagine that will be anything more than a Band-Aid if the structural roots aren't fixed.

# Students deal with unusual situations in double rooms

Half-empty double rooms are assigned to new occupants in the middle of the semester

**Abby Gibbs**

Contributor | @elonnewsnetwork

Divya Dewan planned her sophomore year based on her freshman year experience. She knew she wanted to return to the Leaders in a Global World Living Learning Community.

Her soon-to-be roommate was one of her friends from freshman year. When her friend told her she was transferring to another school in the middle of the summer, Dewan was left unsure of what to do.

"I was a little frazzled," Dewan said.

A couple weeks before move-in day, Dewan received an email from her LLC advisor. She was given the contact information of a freshman that had been assigned as her future roommate, so Dewan reached out.

"She sent me a response saying she wasn't coming until second semester," Dewan said. "Then I found out from my Resident Assistant she wasn't coming to Elon."

Dewan is not the only student in Global A without a roommate.

Freshman Parker Thompson on the second floor was not aware his roommate had withdrawn from Elon University until two hours after he had moved into his dorm. When he was told by Residence Life that he was going to have to wait a couple of weeks to find a roommate, he assumed his room would be a priority living space.

According to Thompson, Global A is a highly sought after housing option. Thompson's room is one of the few rooms without a shared bathroom.

While he was given the option to buy out his own room and use it as a single for the year, Thompson did not want to spend an additional \$800 on housing fees.

Instead, he filled out a form which entered his name into a pool of double rooms with vacancies, searching for prospective candidates.

The severity of the candidate's living situation was evaluated in the pool, but residents were allowed to select their roommate in conjunction with Residence Life.

"The situation plays a part, but [Residence Life] was really good about saying that it is up to you, and the person you feel well-con-



Freshman Parker Thompson lives in a double room in the Global Neighborhood with a vacancy.

ABBY GIBBS | CONTRIBUTOR

nected to," Thompson said.

Prospective roommate candidates can text or email residents in double rooms with a vacancy.

Candidates are supposed to prepare questions ahead of time for an interview with the resident, but residents should also have an idea of what they are looking for in a roommate. For Thompson, being flexible was an important part of his decision-making process.

"I came into it with an open

mind. I really made [my room] my own. I'm sure if I do get a roommate, one of the candidates will be fine and we'll get along well," Thompson said.

Freshman Katie Melton, current resident of Sloan went through the same process and received a new roommate in a shorter period of time.

"I did live with a vacancy for a little over two weeks, but I got a roommate halfway through Sep-

tember," Melton said.

While the prospects of a new roommate can be nerve-racking, Thompson is looking forward to the possibility.

"I'm sure it will be an easy fix. I am looking forward to having a roommate in the sense that I have someone here — coming home from class, having someone to talk to right before you go to bed," Thompson said. "I would appreciate those little things."

“ I'M NOT SURE IT WILL BE AN EASY FIX. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING A ROOMMATE IN THE SENSE THAT I HAVE SOMEONE HERE.

**PARKER THOMPSON**  
FRESHMAN



ELENA HERNANDEZ | DESIGNER

## STAFF EDITORIAL

## Pedestrian safety should not be an issue on campus

### HOW WE SEE IT

Instances of students being hit by cars on campus in recent years shows a need for greater pedestrian safety.

Elon University, with its winding brick paths and shady oak trees, is a residential campus at its core. Students walk or bike across campus to their classes and meetings every day. We cross Haggard Avenue and Williamson Avenue multiple times each day as a part of our daily routines.

In admissions and other marketing materials, the university boasts that Elon is a walkable campus, that it should only take students twenty minutes to walk from the farthest points. Some students may drive to class if they do not live on campus, but for the most part, students are on their feet walking each day.

So why has Elon's campus and sur-

rounding area become so dangerous for pedestrians?

In the last three years, there have been three major instances of students being struck by cars on or around Elon's campus. Two students involved in these events have sustained life-threatening injuries and have had to take a significant amount of time off from their education.

Most students were likely taught when they were younger to look both ways before crossing the street. But it seems students are more distracted while walking, which could be contributing to the number of students being injured by passing cars.

According to the Pedestrian &

Bicycle Information Center, national pedestrian fatalities have increased by 12.1 percent from 2006 to 2015. The rate of pedestrian injuries increased by 14.8 percent in the same time frame. These numbers are reflected in Elon's recent problem with pedestrian safety.

At Elon, this is an issue that must be addressed by the students, the university and the town as a whole. Students need to be more cautious when crossing the street, even if it seems trivial.

Though pedestrians do legally have the right of way, students still need to be looking both ways before crossing the street and trying to avoid distractions. This can include stopping to have conversations with friends and using cell phones. Students should also be more diligent about only crossing the street when they have a red light or other traffic signal.

On the other hand, the administration and city planning workers in the town of Elon need to do more to make our streets safer. The cross light on the corner of Trolling Avenue and Williamson Avenue where a student was struck two weeks ago does not work properly. Even after pressing the button to cross the street, the traffic signal still does not come on.

Considering how much of a problem pedestrian safety has become, the administration should also consider including more information and education on the topic in Elon 101 classes — for both pedestrians and drivers.

It may seem elementary to many, but pedestrian safety needs to be more prominent in our university's health and safety initiatives. This issue should not be allowed to persist on our campus.

## Being white does not exclude you from being a terrorist



**Maria Barreto**  
Columnist |  
@Maria\_ABarreto

The first breaking news update rolled in around 3:30 a.m. on Monday. Twitter was already streaming video of ambulances racing down the Las Vegas strip. Before I went to sleep, all I knew was that there was a single gunman firing off shots in Vegas.

Hours later I woke up to at least five news alerts reporting about the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. A gunman at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino was found dead on the 32nd floor, but not before killing at least 59 people and wounding hundreds of others at the Route 91 Harvest festival.

"Gunman," "shooter," "lone wolf" and "suspect" were the main words used to describe Stephen Paddock, 64, a Mesquite, Nevada, resident. Friends, family and neighbors stated Paddock lived a quiet life and kept to himself. While Paddock's family knew he had a hunting license, and with it a rifle and a few handguns, they were unaware of any automatic weapons.

Then police found roughly 23 rifles in the hotel room where Paddock's body was found, and later 19 more at his home. But what's most incredible is the language surrounding Paddock's actions and possible motivation. Most articles seemed to stress that Paddock did not have any known links to over-

seas terrorist groups, and no religious or political affiliations that would give insight into his beliefs. It's interesting so many articles are drawing attention to this point, but hesitant to use "terror" or "terrorist" when describing the incident.

Just because Paddock lived a quiet life, and had no known ties to terrorism organizations, does not mean we can rule out the term completely when looking at what he did.

According to the FBI, there is no one established definition of terrorism. But terrorism is defined in the Code of Federal Regulations as, "the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives." The FBI then further divides the term into domestic or international.

When Omar Mateen killed 49 people and wounded 53 others in Orlando, within hours the public was alerted to the mass shooting as an act of terrorism. Mateen openly aligned himself with the Islamic State, who took credit for the attack. The Pulse Nightclub shooting fits directly within the definition of terrorism, so it makes sense to label it as such.

In 2015, 21-year-old Dylann Roof

confessed to wanting to start a "race war" when he shot and killed nine people at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal church in Charleston. Yet, none of the major news outlets or officials involved in the case ever labeled it an act of terrorism. Roof was then charged with nine counts of murder, three counts of attempted murder and one weapons charge, but no charges of terrorism.

More recently, James Alex Fields was charged with second-degree murder, various accounts of malicious wounding and one hit-and-run after plowing his car through a crowd protesting the white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, leaving 32-year-old Heather Heyer dead and many others wounded. Again, "terrorism" doesn't even seem to be in the conversation.

Both Roof and Fields' actions fit into the FBI's definition of terrorism, seeing as how their actions were clearly politically and socially charged. And still media and law enforcement officials refuse to identify the two as terrorists.

The FBI doesn't say anything about race or ethnicity in their definition, so why are people so eager to make the two terms mutually exclusive? Today, the conversation around terrorism is restricted to acts by radical Muslims linked to the Islamic State. If the

FBI itself stated there was no one definition of terrorism, why does it seem the general public restricts itself to one? People are eager to jump the gun and label Muslims, or other people of color, as terrorists. But when a white person is added to the equation, all of a sudden the conversation becomes more ambiguous and revolves around humanizing the suspect.

Paddock was a white Nevada resident, and therefore not a terrorist — even though hospitals around Vegas are at full capacity and the death toll continues to rise. Sure, Paddock's motivations weren't clear, but in what people are calling the deadliest shooting in American history, how is this not an act of terror? How is a white supremacist who wanted to see "white with white, and black with black," not a terrorist? How is a neo-Nazi who plows a vehicle through a group of counter protesters not a terrorist?

The conversations surrounding people such as Dylann Roof, James Fields and Stephen Paddock need to change. Whatever Paddock's motivations were, it doesn't change what he did. And make no mistake; Paddock's actions Sunday night in Las Vegas were those of a terrorist — it's time we identify him as such.

# Don't let the fear of the "Freshman Fifteen" run your life



**Anna Osborne**  
Columnist

Before anyone decides to rant or send me an angry email about how backward I am when it comes to body image, or that I am most definitely sponsored by Weight Watchers and other similar companies, note that the "Freshman Fifteen" is in quotation marks.

I am quoting a concept, a trite concept somehow insinuated into the brains of every college female I have met in just the first month on campus. Before graduating high school, the guidance counselors thought it would be a great idea for us girls to write down our biggest fears about higher education. I could not help noting that "weight gain" made the list.

Yes, weight gain. That thing that makes your dresses tighter, the numbers on the scale higher, the intensely rigid amount of control you have about your appearance, which by definition encapsulates all of your morals and potential for success in life. It disappears like the repulsive fat surrounding your organs that keeps you alive as you pound away on the treadmill in between classes.

But if you are in the 5-20 percent of females ages 17-24, or the 20 million women in the United States with an eating disorder, weight gain can be a really good thing. It could get your period back after nine months without it, it could stop you from feeling like you want to collapse in the hallway between classes, and, with a lot of reading, introspection, therapy, projects and pills, it can help you see the world outside of this stupid, lethal obsession our society has with weight and body image.

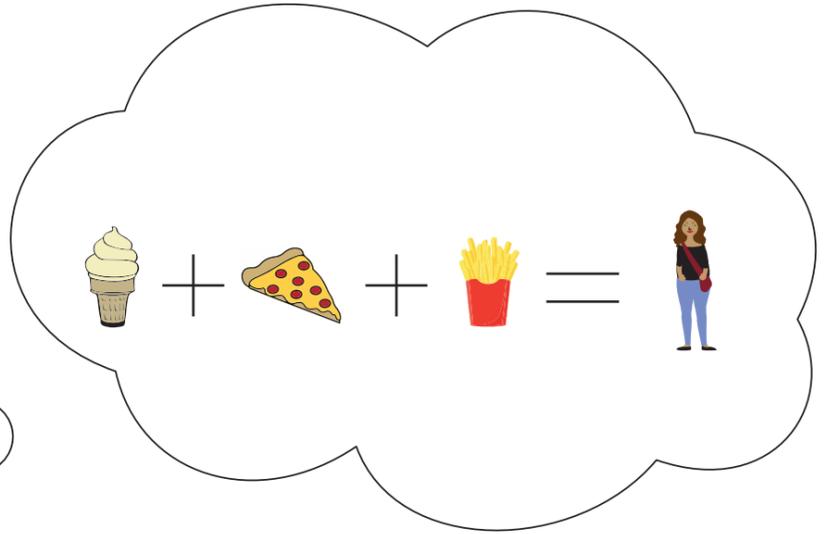
When I wanted more than anything to lose weight, when I asked for a diet book for my birthday, when I cried and cried about how much I hated and "needed" to change my body, when I restricted my intake so severely during the week that I would compulsively binge on weekends, it was rare that anyone ever stopped me and asked why I did those things. Often, whether through a "People" magazine, a mentor or any book I read in middle school, these things were encouraged.

While we changed in the locker

room before gym class, girls read their weights out loud — one wailing uncontrollably when someone told her every human has thighs, when our gym teacher told us she would "hunt us down" if we didn't eat a fat-free salad every day for lunch, that boys would never want to date us if we embodied, did or said anything about that bulging sin of the F-word worse than the official F-word: "fat."

I understand completely that not everyone who wants to lose weight has an eating disorder, and my experience is not applicable to everyone else's. While there were many things in my life and in my mind that led to me hating my body and restricting it from its basic needs, the environment is what pulls the trigger.

I am not exactly jumping for joy at the fact I was enshrouded in disordered eating behaviors and mindsets



HANNAH SICHERMAN | DESIGNER

for years, but it did prepare me for the disastrous relationship with weight nearly every woman in college has — a relationship they are encouraged by society and by their fellow sisters to have.

I was very glad that I brought Marya Hornbacher's memoir, "Wasted," to college with me because she has a message for everyone trapped in this dangerous culture, a culture that changes forms every decade.

"I want to write a prescription for culture, some sort of tranquilizer that will make it less manically compelled to climb the StairMaster into nowhere, and I can't do that," Hornbacher wrote. "It's a person-by-person project. I do it, you do it, and I maintain the perhaps ridiculous notion that if enough people do it we will all get a grip."

I, too, have been bitten by

culture's venom, and I am positive that if I came to college without the anti-venom of recovery or of hope, I would not have put the "Freshman Fifteen" in quotes. It would have been more than a concept or a lifestyle; it would have been an essential part of my existence.

Not all of us will develop an eating disorder, but many of us know someone who has or has had one. I may be speaking hyperbolically when I say that none of this will ever affect you, or that I need to follow the millions of "how to have a perfect body, a hot husband, be a mom and be a multimillionaire all at once" Instagram accounts so I can get with the program, but I encourage you to read, learn and think about the number of reasons why this culture is toxic, and destroy the "Freshman Fifteen" before it destroys us.

# There is more value in owning fewer things



**Jake Lenett**  
Columnist

To my surprise, I was the last person in my flat to finish unpacking on the morning of move-in day. Only about an hour before, Daniele N was swarming with fellow freshmen and their parents, who brought the building to life with their energy and conversation.

But as the last drawer of my wardrobe clicked to a close, everything fell silent. Peeking my head out of the doorway, I listened for a murmur or a pin drop, for the assurance that I wasn't alone in my very first hours of college.

Unfortunately, this was not the case. Unaware of 204's exodus, I instantly began searching for signs of life, or at the very least, another addled and solitary freshman just like me. Instead, I came across two orientation leaders outside my building — to which I introduced myself and apprehensively asked, "Am I supposed to be doing anything right now?" Both girls turned to each other and laughed. "Welcome to college," they said, to my dismay.

It's hard to believe the interaction I had with those girls was already a month in the past. Even though it unfolded in a matter of seconds, the

words "welcome to college" have had a profound impact on me.

I thought I was ready for college. After all, I bought the textbooks, packed my socks and read numerous

Reddit forums that quelled my anxieties about the college experience. In fact, the sole reason I was the last person to leave flat 204 that morning was because I brought everything I needed — or so I thought.

Coming from San Francisco, I don't have the option of returning home during a short break or weekend to retrieve more of my belongings. In anticipation of this, I overcompensated by bringing everything. Consequently, I spent way too much time moving into my dorm, when I probably should've

been meeting my flatmates instead. As a result of being fixated on the items I owned, I sacrificed valuable first impressions. I'd only been on campus for one morning and already started

to feel the onset

of loneliness. Though it took me a while to fully process what I learned on my first day of school, the takeaway was profound.

It goes something like this: It's a Sunday afternoon, you're laying in bed and the door is closed. You look around the room and think to yourself, "My desk chair could be a lot nicer.

I should go to Target right now and buy a new one."

Or you say to yourself, "These walls are pretty bland. I should go to Target right now and buy some artwork."

As you're calling the Uber to Burlington, you may even decide that



AS A RESULT OF BEING FIXATED ON THE ITEMS I OWNED, I SACRIFICED VALUABLE FIRST IMPRESSIONS. I'D ONLY BEEN ON CAMPUS FOR ONE MORNING AND ALREADY STARTED TO FEEL THE ONSET OF LONELINESS.

you need an eighty-dollar strobe light because it'd be sick for next week's pregame.

But you're wrong. You don't actually need any of these things. In fact, I'd go so far as to say that most dorm accessories are objectively useless.

The first problem in this hypothetical (but not unlikely) scenario is that the door is closed. Maybe, if that door was open, somebody might walk by and ask you how you're doing, perhaps leading to a stimulating conversation and a new-found friend. But, if that door stays shut, they may never even know you're there.

I suppose what I'm getting at is that if we shift our focus from materialism to interpersonal aspects of college life, we may find more value in the relationships we cultivate with people, rather than the relationships we form with our material belongings. I certainly did.

Since that first day at Elon, I discovered a sense of home that I never thought I would find so quickly, and I know that is predominately because of the genuine, charismatic and kind people I meet everyday. Welcome to college.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY CITLALY MORA

## Activist *by day,* mother *by night*

Elon alumna balances advocacy and motherhood through college and beyond

**Perla Salazar-Rangel**  
Contributor | @PSalazarRangel

STUDENTS AT ELON UNIVERSITY know that having a busy schedule is just a part of campus culture. Students often have to balance classes, meetings and working on- and off-campus jobs.

Citlaly Mora felt these pressures while she was a student at Elon just a few years ago. The Elon alumna graduated in 2016, and had to balance all of the above — and more.

She's also a mother.

Mora was a member of the Latin American Student Organization (LASO) — now the Latinx Hispanic Union — and Elon Feminists for Equality, Change and Transformation (EFFECT). She worked three jobs, some of which were not even on campus, and commuted from her home where she was raising her daughter, Zoe.

Mora's daughter was born while Mora was in high school. The new mom quickly had to learn how to balance her own life, and the life of a newborn.

"It was really hard," Mora said. "I luckily had the support of my mom, and I learned how to manage my time. I figured out a schedule so she wouldn't be neglected. Whenever there were any events I had to go to, she would be there. She grew up at Elon."

Time management played a big



SHE IS HONESTLY SO STRONG, DETERMINED AND PASSIONATE ABOUT THE WORK SHE DOES. SHE HAS SO MUCH ON HER PLATE. FOR EXAMPLE, SHE IS A YOUNG MOTHER AND THE WAY THAT SHE HAS HAD TO WORK COUNTLESS JOBS TO TAKE CARE OF HER DAUGHTER AND COME TO SCHOOL, THAT'S REMARKABLE."

**OSCAR MIRANDA**  
'17

role in Mora's ability to be able to get through college. She planned out her days and made sure they revolved around whether her daughter would be at daycare or if she needed to take a night shift, so she could put her daughter to rest before she went off to work.

Her dedication toward her schoolwork and her daughter inspired many. Oscar Miranda '17 met Mora through their scholarship program, Golden Door Scholars, which allowed her to continue her education at Elon. She motivated him daily through her passion and dedication to finish school.

"She is honestly so strong, determined and passionate about the work she does," Miranda said. "She has so much on her plate. For example, she is a young mother and the way that she has had to work countless jobs to take care of her daughter and come to school, that's remarkable."

Mora said one of her biggest accomplishments was receiving her diploma. She graduated in 2016, and had a job lined up before her graduation.

"My parents were unable to finish school," Mora said. "Graduating and being able to work and get involved will be my proudest accomplishment."

Mora currently lives in Greensboro, and works as the Senior Director of Women's Resource Center and Latino Family Center at YWCA High Point. She was offered the position while still at Elon, and they waited for her to graduate so

that she could begin working.

Mora always knew she wanted to help people somehow. She is a feminist and advocates for immigrant rights as well as women's rights. She motivated other people such as Miranda to become involved.

"Citlaly is a huge advocate," Miranda said. "She will be the voice for the people that do not have that voice. She pushed me to come to my first protest in Greensboro. She is a fighter."

Her job allows her to help people and be an activist, which was what she knew she wanted to do.

"On a daily basis, my work includes a lot of meetings and case management to help women with resumes and looking for jobs," Mora said. "I do not have many restraints with my activism in my job, but I had to learn to be diplomatic and to not work against the interest of people I am supposed to be supporting."

Mora recently came back to Elon's campus to speak about her work. She was invited to speak as part of *Perspectivas III*, which are dialogues dedicated to the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. She titled her presentation, "Looking at feminism, racism and Latinx empowerment through a nonprofit lens."

She felt good delivering her presentation to a room of people ready to learn about activism in the workplace.

"It was nerve wracking," Mora said. "I get very anxious. It feels a little different to present and be back on campus having already

**Top left:** Mora presenting at Elon last week as part of *Perspectivas III*.

**Top right:** Mora and her daughter at her graduation in 2016.

**Bottom right:** Mora now works at the Women's Resource Center and Latino Family Center at YWCA in High Point.

been through this. It is starting to feel more like home now that I've graduated than when I was here."

Elon was at times a difficult environment for Mora, but says that it prepared her for the workforce.

"The environment was at times difficult with the lack of diversity," Mora said. "As a commuter student, it was also really hard to build relationships. It wasn't the same to establish connections with students as it was with mentors and professors. It helped because that is how the real world is."

Her Elon education translates into her job as well.

"Although I work with a lot of minority people, they are not running the nonprofit," Mora said. "It tends to be like Elon. It has gotten me comfortable and I work on still being myself and not assimilating, but being able to work around that and do what I want to do."

Mora is currently applying to graduate schools and she continues to have an impact on others.

"She is a great woman. She is a great mother," Miranda said. "She pushes me to be a better person."



Top: Duan grew up in China until 2008 when she moved to Seattle to pursue a Ph.D.

Below: Duan and her husband are pursuing careers in higher education.

## PROFESSOR COMBATS MISCONCEPTIONS THROUGH TEACHING

History professor moved to the United States almost 10 years ago to pursue higher education

**Alex Hager**  
Web Producer | @awhager

Xiaolin Duan thinks it's strange that so many Americans see China as a restrictive Communist state. She would say that it's quite the opposite — and she would know. Duan spent her entire childhood there before moving to the United States for graduate school.

Duan has worked as a history professor at Elon University since 2015, but the journey she took to get to the brick-lined campus has been far from typical. Duan grew up in Xi'an, a city of eight million people in northwestern China. Studying Chinese history and culture as an undergrad in Beijing, she elected to go overseas to the University of Washington in Seattle to pursue her Ph.D in 2008.

She came to the United States because Western teaching of Chinese history has a more social and cultural focus than its Chinese counterpart. As she's spent time studying and teaching Chinese culture, she's also learned a bit about American culture along the way.

"It's a society that really values individualism and independence," Duan said. "It's a society where if you have some request, you should speak up. In China, traditional values say you should hold it back. There are less social rules in the U.S."

### Starting, struggling, staying

Now, Duan's settled down a long way from Seattle, and a world away from Xi'an. Her first stop after leaving Seattle was Luther College, a small school of about 2,000 students tucked away in the cornfields of northeast Iowa. After just a year there, she rerouted to Elon.

"For the first couple months I was really concerned and bothered that there is no food — especially street food — after 9 p.m.," Duan said. "If I'm craving some food after nine, instant noodles seemed to be the easiest choice, and that bothered me."

Now, she thinks about the things that have changed for Chinese people in the

United States during the time that she's been here. In 2008, Duan said, she and her friends barely talked about the election. Maybe they watched one of the debates, but they didn't find much interest in U.S. politics. This year, though, things have been much different.

Every night when she gets home, Duan sees her phone light up with hundreds of messages in group message chats with her friends, some Chinese expats in the United States, some still living in China. They like to talk about how the Chinese-American community handled the most recent election. It's a topic, she says, that has split that community.

"Now we can see that we will stay in this society for a considerably long time, so we care more about what this society will turn into."

### Managing misconceptions

Duan has some other thoughts on American society, too. She thinks that it's a little odd that so many Americans have this idea that China is a restrictive communist state. She teaches a class called, "Western Imaginations of China," and at the beginning of every semester asks her students about their pre-existing ideas of what life in China is like. And every year, students paint a picture of the "Red China" of years past. Years that ended before Duan was even born.

She says that this perception is about 85 percent stereotype.

"I never felt any restraints on what I could read or what I couldn't read," she said. "I remember my parents reading or watching the movies or books that were supposedly banned, but apparently we had ways to find that online."

She doesn't really know where Americans get the idea that China is still like the communist state it once was, but she actually thinks it's kind of funny. While Americans like to talk about the fact that the Chinese government censors websites such as Facebook and Google, Duan and her friends use the sites freely, and often joke the Chinese government will, "invite them for a cup of tea" if they post about any "sensitive topics."

Her unique cultural situation, not only as a member of both cultures, but also as a teacher, has helped her bust stereotypes and misconceptions on both sides. Just ask David Fletcher, a colleague of hers in Elon's history department.

"Having been here in the United States



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY XIAOLIN DUAN

and having studied in the U.S., she brings the best of both worlds," Fletcher said. "She has a foot in China, and has her heart there, but at the same time she also has a perspective from the West and can speak to western students and Asian students to bridge misunderstandings for the both of them."

### A past in two worlds, a future in one

While she's had plenty of time to think about how her life has changed since moving to the United States, her roots are in China, and sometimes she can't help but think about going back. Her husband Wei, another Chinese native living in the United States, is a professor at Oakland University in Michigan. While their short-term plans keep them apart, they often talk about the potential of closing the physical distance between them.

The two don't have any children yet, but they go back and forth on where they'd rather raise a child. She's found pros and cons for both countries. Duan says her high school years were some of the unhappiest of her life, and she's not sure she'd want to put her own child through the Chi-

nese education system. She also considers the idea that her children could have some identity issues growing up Chinese in the United States.

Though Duan thinks about her decision with a future family in mind, she's also torn on which country would best suit her own life. Before coming to the United States for school, she had always planned on moving back to China after graduating. But now, with almost seven years of her adult life spent in the states, she wonders if that would make the most sense.

"I started my independent life here in the U.S. I'm more familiar with this social system, rather than how to survive in a big city in China," Duan said. "I know it sounds funny, but I'd feel even more nervous about going back than finding another job here."

For now, she believes that wherever she ends up, she will always enjoy the opportunity to have lived in two different societies.

"It's a great experience to live in two cultures and be able to compare the two cultures on a level I didn't expect," Duan said. "There are certain challenges to living in a foreign country, and I think those challenges make me a better person."

# Students embrace *musical theater* off campus

Nonmajor students find other ways to pursue performing

**Deirdre Kronschnabel**  
Contributor | @kronschd

Elon University has an intensive and selective music theatre program. This year, 20 students were selected from an applicant pool of 802.

But outside of Scott Studios and the Center for the Arts, it doesn't take long to hunt down the plainclothes theater junkies. There's the guy in The Oak House with a cast party picture from his high school production of "Chicago" as his desktop, and the girl in the religious studies seminar who absentmindedly hummed the opening number of, "The Book of Mormon."

December of her freshman year, junior psychology major Alyssa White decided she had gone long enough without performing on stage. White took to community theater as a means of pursuing musical theater while studying at Elon, without being a music theatre major.

Since she was four, White had been an active participant in Durant Road Musical Theater in Raleigh, as well as high school shows, private voice lessons and choir. White discovered The Paramount Theater — which sits in downtown Burlington by The Blend & Co. and The Company Shops — through a Google search.

"I was really missing that part of my life so I looked for auditions online," White said. "I saw they were having 'Hairspray' auditions and I decided to do that, which was so out of my comfort zone."

David Anthony Wright, managing director of The Paramount Theater, welcomed White with open arms.

"It's a wide-open community, and that's one thing that I'm very proud of particularly in relation to Elon students," Wright said. "Sometimes theaters can be a little cliquish — not so here, in the Alamance County community."

White remembers sitting at her first audition so full of nerves that she almost got up and left. Now, she's a valued member of The Gallery Players, one of several theater companies that use the Paramount Theater space. Since her first audition, White has performed in "Hairspray," "Bye Bye Birdie," "Ragtime," and most recently, "Sister Act."

"She is one of those very versatile ensemble perform-



I DID LAW SCHOOL — AND I STILL GOT TO DO 'MARY POPPINS' TO A THOUSAND-PERSON HOUSE WITH A 12-PIECE ORCHESTRA. THAT'S REAL STUFF. THAT ISN'T, 'I FOUND A LITTLE SHOW BOX THAT LET ME SING.'

**KATIE MUHLENKAMP**  
ELON '10

ers," Wright said. "I know she's going to be moving into principle lead roles here in the next couple years. I always love to see her show up that first night of auditions."

White enjoys working with adults because she can lean on the more seasoned veterans. One of her role models this season appeared alongside her in "Sister Act," which closed last weekend.

"She could be on Broadway, but she's a first grade teacher," White said. "Even adults can have this hobby that they can fall back on after their everyday jobs. I think my favorite part of being on-stage is watching her do her thing."

If anyone's a role model for "doing her thing" through community theater, it's Elon alumna Katie Muhlenkamp '10. Muhlenkamp didn't perform in the community until post-graduation, but her journey along the way is a testament to the power of cultivating your passions with your own timeline and framework.

Muhlenkamp began school as a vocal performance major, but later switched to pre-law. Still, Elon allowed her to stay on the recital track with the ensembles and perform through her senior year. Like White, musical theater at Elon was never an option.

"During the time I was there, there was one vocal performance major who performed a cameo solo in a large musical, and that was the only overlap there ever was," Muhlenkamp said.

The inverse is also true. Elon nonmajors rarely have the opportunity to perform in musical theater productions on campus, and Elon musical theatre majors rarely have the opportunity to perform in community theater productions.

"Our relationship with



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KATIE MUHLENKAMP

Elon performing arts is somewhat limited because of the incredible amount of dedication and time that it takes in the academic curriculum and the production schedule they have," Wright said. "They're getting that training and they have to be working with their professors. Still, we've had amazingly talented people who have participated here, like Alyssa and Katie."

Today, Muhlenkamp continues her theater work to great success. Her trajectory was not a straight line, but rather a collection of just the right twists and turns of fate, married with equal measures of grit and adaptability.

After completing law school, Muhlenkamp was studying to take the bar exam. Between taking the exam and receiving results, Muhlenkamp couldn't practice law and would soon find herself facing about a month and a half of time in limbo. She and her husband were out walking when they were stopped by an advertisement that screamed opportunity.

"We saw auditions posted for 'Fiddler on the Roof' with Gallery Player at The Paramount Theater," Muhlenkamp said. "My husband was like, 'This would be a really good thing for you to do to not be freaking out about waiting to find out how you did.'"

Muhlenkamp auditioned just two weeks before the exam. She even had her study materials with her as she was waiting to go into the audi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER HOLMES

tion.

Muhlenkamp continued to balance the passions she cultivated at Elon — voice and law — during this month and a half, just as she does today.

"The first day of rehearsal was the night of the bar exam," Muhlenkamp said. "I drove from Raleigh straight to my first choreography rehearsal."

She channeled her energy into "Fiddler on the Roof" as she waited for her results. When she passed, she celebrated with the cast.

Fast forward two-and-a-half years of marathon shows, teaching voice lessons and practicing law before a stint last year living in France, and Muhlenkamp's path stands as a reminder to nurture all parts of yourself in which you find success and happiness. And to peruse them without

hesitation.

"I did law school — and I still got to do 'Mary Poppins' to a thousand-person house with a 12-piece orchestra. That's real stuff. That isn't, 'I found a little show box that let me sing.'"

This week, she's driving up from her new home in Charlottesville, Virginia — where she'll be performing in community theater and teaching voice lessons with a fellow cast member — to sing one of Wright's shows for the week.

"You can be great at many things," Muhlenkamp said. "Sometimes we think we're on one linear path, and we find ourselves on another linear path. What we love tends to pull us in certain directions. Follow all of those little rabbit holes, do the things you love and be as good at them as you can, because there's always opportunities."

**Top: Muhlenkamp performed in her first show at the Paramount Theater in "Fiddler on the Roof."**

**Bottom: White with the cast of "Sister Act" which premiered in late September.**

**THE PARAMOUNT THEATER**  
128 East Front St.  
Burlington, NC 27215  
Box Office: (336) 222-8497



CORY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior running back Malcolm Summers dives into the end zone for his second touchdown of the year during Elon's game against Charleston Southern Sept. 16.

# SUMMERS' STREAK

Junior running back moves up in the record books only five games into the season

**Christian Galvano**  
Contributor | @Christgalvano

Following another thrilling win for the Elon University football team, all eyes are on junior running back Malcolm Summers.

Summers had a career-high game Sept. 30 against the University of Richmond, breaking all the records he set in his previous career-high game the week before against Charleston Southern University. The Phoenix topped the Richmond Spiders 36-33 on the road.

And on Sept. 30, he added to his legacy.

Summers rushed for more than 100 yards for his third consecutive week, running for 171 yards against the University of Albany in a 6-0 victory. The Phoenix (4-1) is now off to its best start in eight years.

But Summers, who has unquestionably been a key contributor to this success, says he's not surprised

by it happening.

"It's been a long time coming," Summers said. "We've been in the dark so long. We knew we had it in us and now the pieces are starting to come together."

Summers ran a spectacular 294 yards against Richmond, the second highest amount of yards rushed in a game ever by an Elon running back, and the 10th most in Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) history. His 40 carries were just eight rushes short of the school's all-time record of 48 set by Bobby Hedrick in 1978.

Though Summers didn't finish with a touchdown against the Spiders, every scoring drive was the result of impressive runs from the junior. When asked about his performance, Summers put the spotlight on his offensive line.

"I give all the credit in the world to them because without them there would be five guys coming straight for my head," Summers said. "They are doing a great job. They are making it happen up front, and I'm just running behind it."

Last season, he carried the ball 108 times. He's already carried the ball 117 times this year. But the early wear and tear isn't affecting Summers. To him, "it's all about the mindset."

"I don't really worry about the carries," Summers said. "I don't really worry about the yards or the stats. I just worry about winning the game."

This season Summers is averaging 126 yards per game, which is

## SUMMERS' STATS

# 674

Rushing yards Summers has on the season, already 161 yards more than he had during the 2016 season.

# 117

Carries on the year, surpassing his total from the previous season already by nine.

# 1

Summers' ranking in the Football Championship Subdivision for number of rushing yards. Summers is also third in rushing yards per game, averaging 134.8 for the Phoenix.

more than double his average last year. For his achievements, Summers was named the co-CAA football offensive player of the week.

"Things are starting to open up," Summers said. "Everything's coming together and so I'm grateful."

Looking ahead, the Phoenix play on Saturday at 2 p.m. against William & Mary — who brings a 2-2 record to Rhodes Stadium.

According to Summers, the Phoenix has been focusing on just one thing.

"Taking every game as if it was the first game so everything stays consistent," he said. And about playing Saturday's game, "We will be ready."

## Albany stays in Virginia night before Elon game

**Erik Webb**

Sports Director | @ErikWebbElon

Going into a top-25 matchup, preparation is the key to success. When you are forced to stay in a different state the night before a game, success can be harder to achieve for any team.

The University at Albany, ranked No. 19, traveled to Elon University this weekend to face off the No. 23 Phoenix. But things were a bit different than normal.

Following the passage of House Bill 2 in North Carolina earlier in the year, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo implemented a nonessential travel ban to the Tar Heel state. After the repeal with House Bill 142, the ban remains in place, which prevented the team from traveling from the capital of New York to Elon.

With Albany being contractually obligated to play the game as a football-only member of the Colonial Athletic Association, the Great Danes stayed in South Boston, Virginia overnight in an effort to spend as little money in North Carolina as possible.

"We're pleased that we're able to honor the spirit of the governor's executive order, and we're excited to play another big game against a nationally ranked opponent," said Pete Iorizzo, assistant athletic director for media relations for Albany football.

But after finishing the game scoreless, defeated by the Phoenix 6-0, Albany head coach Greg Gattuso disagreed with the scoreboard and claimed that it was a great game.

"It made no difference," Gattuso said about staying in Virginia. "That would be taking credit away from Elon who did a great job. We got to give them credit for playing a great, emotionally hard-fought football game."

"That is not something that the league was specifically involved in," said CAA Commissioner Joey D'Antonio about the decision to stay in Virginia. "That was a matter between Albany and their administration. I'm certainly happy that it got worked out, certainly happy that the game was played, but I do not have a comment on how that all played out."

Albany finished the game with 148 passing yards and 76 rushing yards, but were not able to put any points on the board. Moving forward, Gattuso needs to get his team into shape before traveling to Richmond next weekend for another CAA matchup.

"We do what we always do," Gattuso said. "We're going to get back to work and get ready for a tough road game ... next week against Richmond."

It might be a while before the Phoenix welcomes back the Great Danes to Rhodes Stadium, since the 2018 schedule has not yet been announced.

"We are working on the 2018 schedule right now and we are hoping to have something out to our schools in the very near future," D'Antonio said. "In a perfect world, our schedule would have already been out by now for 2018. You won't see a flip flop of the schedule as we have been doing in the past because we're now dealing with a brand new set of scheduling philosophies."

With all the complications involved, it wouldn't be surprising if SUNY Albany doesn't travel to North Carolina again while the travel ban still in place, but we will not know for sure until the official schedule is released soon.

# Don't kneel out of the conversation

If I could equate the state of our country's politics right now, it'd be to an episode of my mom and I debating about my chores when I was in grade school.

It's an unusual comparison, but bear with me.

When I was younger, I despised doing the dishes. They smelled and required a lot of work to clean. Usually, I tried to finesse my way around it. And over the years, my mom and I had plenty of exchanges like this:



**Emmanuel Morgan**  
Managing Editor

@EmmanuelMorgan

"Oh, you wanted me to do that today, Mom? I didn't hear you."

No matter the excuse, she and I both knew I couldn't escape responsibilities. The dishes sat in the sink waiting. Sooner or later, I'd have to face what I didn't want to do.

On Saturday, I had a similar experience, but I didn't realize it until now. After Elon University's 6-0 win against the University at Albany, I finally met first-year head coach Curt Cignetti in person. And the first question I asked definitely broke the ice.

Amid a slew of NFL protests after President Donald Trump said players who kneel for the national anthem are a "son of bitch" two weeks ago, I wanted to know how Elon's football team felt.

College is different than the NFL. Most teams — Elon being one of them — aren't on the field for the national anthem. Still, I wanted to know if Cignetti and his team discussed the issue of protesting and what he personally believed on the topic. His answer surprised me.

But it also didn't.

When I asked, "I know the team isn't on the field, but have you and your team had a conversation about the anthem?" he looked at me funny.

"What's been going on? When I'm in season, I don't really watch television or read the paper," he said.

My friends and family know when I get nervous, I stutter. From that point, the words floundered out of my mouth.

"Well, Colin Kaepernick knelt last year to raise awareness to social injustice, and recently President Trump ..." Midway through the sentence, I saw him smile a little bit.

"You want a comment from me about this don't you," he said.

"Yes, sir," I said.

"I love our flag and I respect the national anthem," he said. "That's my comment. I had to play hard to get with you at first"



Former San Francisco 49er Quarterback Colin Kaepernick (7) and his teammates kneel during the national anthem.

Afterward, we shook hands again and laughed before I left the press conference room. And the more I thought about it later, I realized why he gave me that answer.

In his mind, it probably wasn't worth it. He's coached the Phoenix to a 4-1 record, its best start to a season in eight years. The program's momentum is the highest it's ever been recently. Why would he risk all that and change the narrative by divulging his team's private, and possibly controversial, conversations?

Other coaches have done the same. North Carolina State University coach Dave Doeren bluntly told reporters, "I'm not in the NFL, so I don't have to deal with that," regarding protests. Coaches have every right to talk as much or as little as they want about this issue. I respect that. But it's the easy way out.

And as a nation, we need to stop choosing that route.

Usually, my mom had the perfect answer for my excuses.

"You didn't hear me because you didn't want to hear me," she said.

Until I headed her message, I didn't get anywhere and the work I had to do wouldn't get accomplished.

Right now, the United States is in the same situation.

It amazes me how steeply Colin Kaepernick's message has been construed. On a constant basis, the quarterback and players who followed his protest said their message was not in disrespect toward the flag or military. Yet people constantly refuse to change course.

One month after Kaepernick prophetically

said, "There are bodies lying in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder," in August 2016, that scenario took place in my hometown. The officer involved shooting of Keith Lamont Scott and the subsequent riots in Charlotte rocked me to my core. You can't really put into words what it's like to see the city you grew up in tear itself apart on national television. I thought people would realize Kaepernick's message after that tragedy.

It's been a year since, and I was wrong.

I'm now convinced people will subjectively twist Kaepernick's message to how they see fit. They don't want to hear what he said. Instead, they're taking the easy route out.

As a nation, we have a lot of social and political chores to take care of. It's what Kaepernick originally protested, but people choose to be mad at other things because it's easy and convenient for them.

At this point in our history, we can't have selective hearing.

If we manipulate this issue into a competition of who is more patriotic and sidestep the true issues altogether, then we are acting like I did when I was a child.

We're not doing our chores.

The ebb and flow of news cycles inevitably changes, and considering the events of Las Vegas, this kneeling story will soon subside. But the issues Kaepernick protested aren't going anywhere. We can't avoid it.

Let's stop taking a grade school approach to this issue. We need to take care of our responsibilities. We need to talk about the direct problems. We need to do our chores.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Football moves up in national rankings

Coming off a 6-0 win against the No. 19 ranked University at Albany Great Danes, the Elon University football team moved up in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) rankings.

In the FCS Coaches Poll, Elon moved up to No. 23 after falling two shy of making the top 25 list last week. In addition, the Phoenix bumped up five spots in the STATS FCS poll, moving from No. 23 to No. 18 this week.

The win against Albany moved Elon's record to 4-1 on the year. Coach Cignetti and his team go for a fifth-straight win when they face William & Mary on Saturday at 2 p.m. during family weekend.

### Goaltender Jegier moves up the list

After posting his 23rd career shutout on Saturday, Elon University men's soccer goalkeeper Matthew Jegier now sits alone at second place in the program record books.

The redshirt junior held College of Charleston scoreless during the Phoenix's match this weekend against the Cougars, Elon's sixth tie on the year. Jegier is now only two shutouts away from the all-time record set by Nathan Dean, class of '14.

Elon will play only one match this week. The Phoenix will take a short break from in-conference play as the team travels to Durham on Tuesday night to face the Duke University Blue Devils. Elon aims to better its 3-1-6 record when that game kicks off at 7 p.m.

### Women's soccer wins in 20T

Traveling to South Carolina, the Elon University women's soccer team faced off against College of Charleston over the weekend.

After both teams scored during regulation, the game headed to overtime and then a second time as each team battled for the win. In the 103rd minute, freshman forward Meredith Christopher's game winner found the back of the net, elevating the Phoenix over Cougars.

The win improves the Phoenix's record to 8-4-2 on the season. The team will play a couple of Colonial Athletic Association matchups this week, as the Phoenix welcomes both William & Mary and Northeastern University to Rudd Field. Those games are scheduled for Thursday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at noon, respectively.

### Elon volleyball coach receiving praise

Volleyball head coach Mary Tendler was inducted into the University of Illinois Athletics Hall of Fame this past weekend.

Tendler, the most decorated volleyball player in Illinois school history, was named one of 28 people to be a member of the inaugural class. While at Illinois, Tendler was the 1988 Honda Broderick Award winner as the nation's top player, and was a three-time First Team All-American and a four-time First Team All-Big Ten selection.

Tendler made the trip to Chicago for the ceremony this weekend. Back at Elon, her team boasts a record of 12-6 on the year, proving that she can be a good coach as well.

## THE PHOENIX FOCUS



The volleyball team high-fives after winning a point during its match against William & Mary Sept. 28.

### WOMEN'S SOCCER

**RESULTS** 8-4-2

**SEPT. 28** TOWSON/TOWSON, MD 1-2  
**OCT. 1** COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON/  
MT. PLEASANT, SC 2-1

#### SCHEDULE

**OCT. 5** WILLIAM & MARY/ELON 7 P.M.  
**OCT. 8** NORTHEASTERN/ELON 12 P.M.

### MEN'S SOCCER

**RESULTS** 3-1-6

**SEPT. 27** UNCW/WILMINGTON 1-2  
**SEPT. 30** COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON/  
ELON 0-0

#### SCHEDULE

**OCT. 3** DUKE/DURHAM 7 P.M.

### FOOTBALL

**RESULTS** 4-1

**SEPT. 30** ALBANY/ELON 6-0

#### SCHEDULE

**OCT. 7** WILLIAM & MARY/ELON 2 P.M.

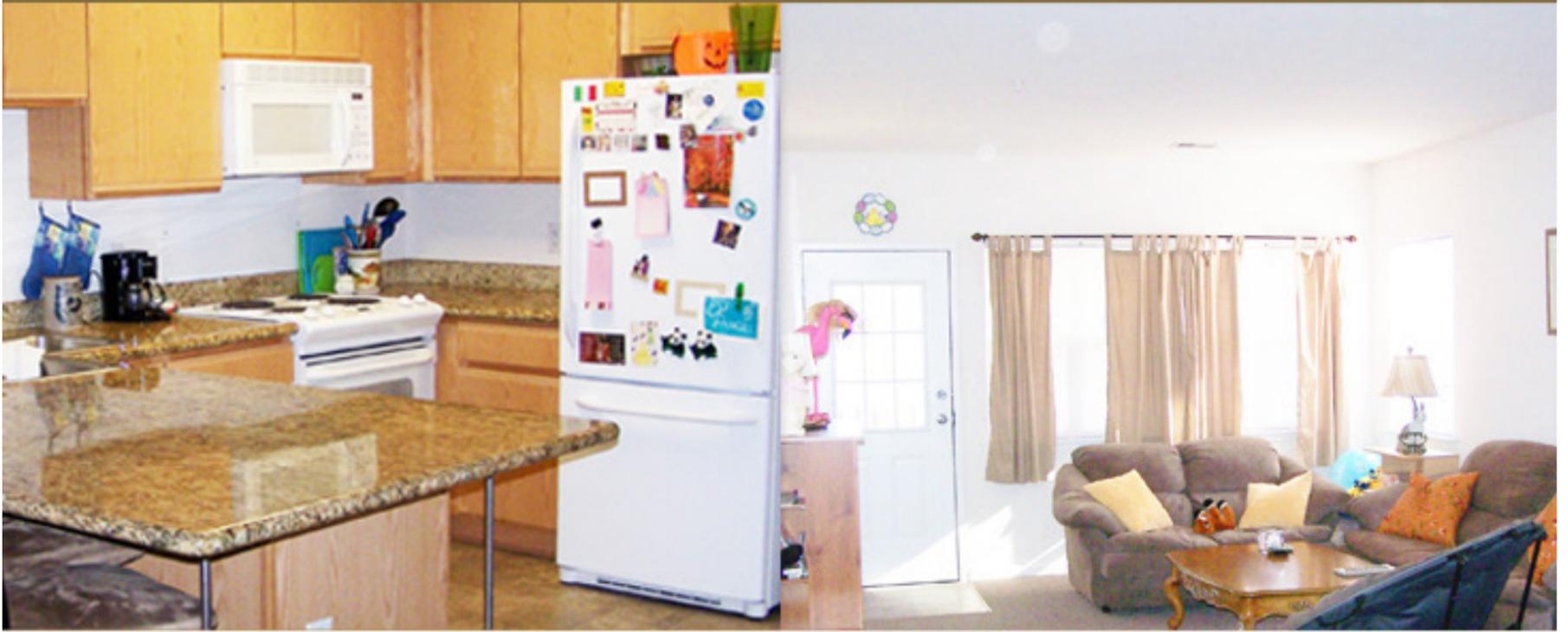
### WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

**RESULTS** 12-6

**SEPT. 28** WILLIAM & MARY/ELON 3-1

#### SCHEDULE

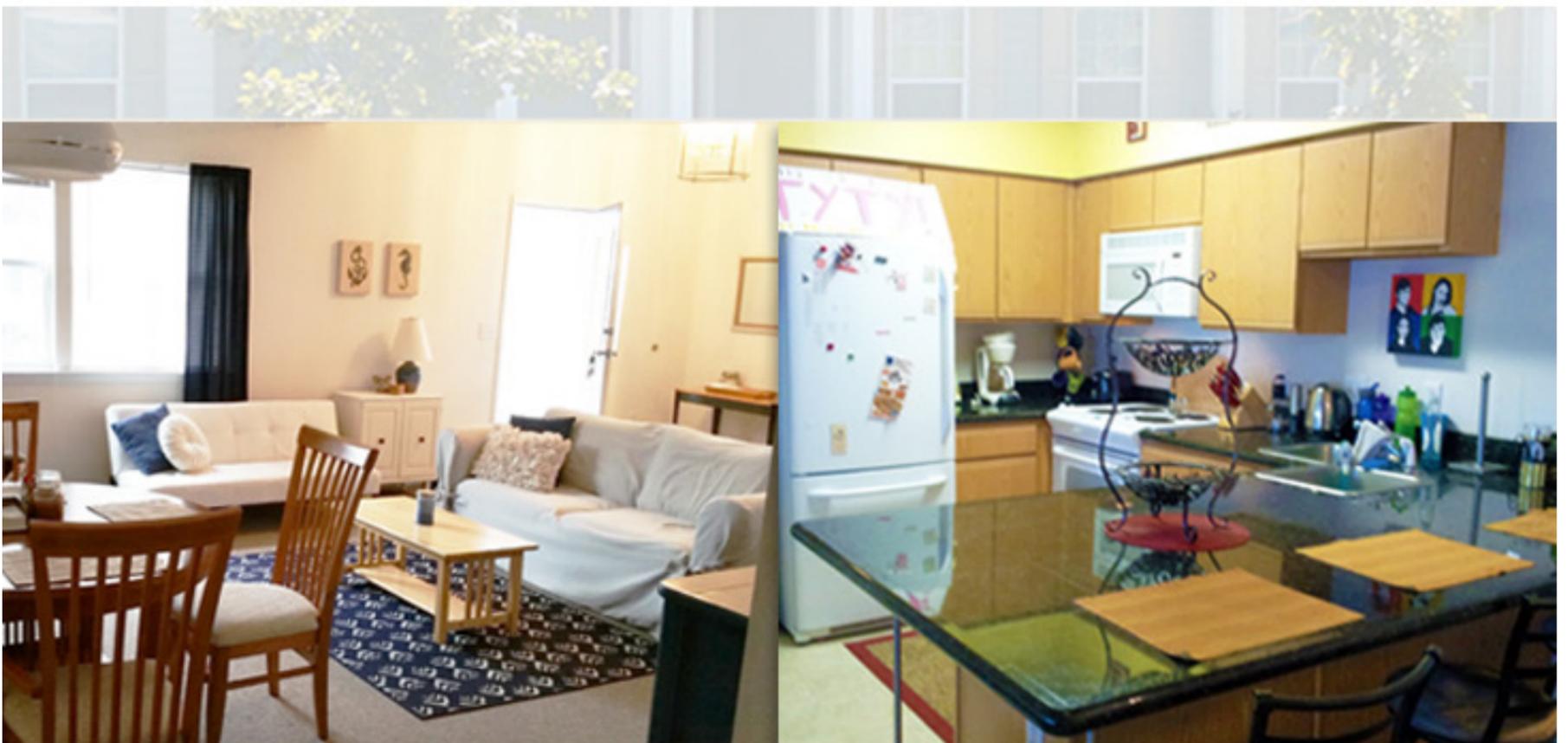
**OCT. 3** NC CENTRAL/DURHAM 6 P.M.  
**OCT. 6** HOFSTRA/HEMPSTEAD, NY 5 P.M.  
**OCT. 8** NORTHEASTERN/BOSTON, MA 1 P.M.



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