

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM



“To facilitate accountability and support the work of the Town of Elon Police and EUPD...”



“Explore and implement measures to facilitate temporary closures, slow, quiet, and calm traffic on these streets”



“Educate community members on how best to respond in moments of crisis: who to call, what to do to protect their personal safety, where to go on campus for support and safety.”

“Create an E-Alert or equivalent notification system for protests, caravans, parades, and convoys to provide the community with notice of these activities.”



ROUNDTABLE MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESIDENT CONNIE BOOK

JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

What some of the roundtable’s recommendations from Oct. 19 may possibly look like.

As the discussions come to a close, students, staff and faculty reflect on discussions and recommendations to Book for action in the future

Kyra O’ Connor | Enterprise Story Coordinator | @ko_reports

THE ROUNDTABLE ON THE Trump caravan gave its recommendations to Elon University President Connie Book on Oct. 19. The list included 16 different recommendations of action that could be taken to boost campus safety. The group was formed following the pro-Trump caravan, which traveled through campus, and was made up of students, staff and faculty appointed by Book. They held three virtual meetings to discuss the caravan, explore what should happen should another situation like the caravan occur and what measures can be taken to protect the Elon community going forward. The third meeting discussed recommendations put forward by the roundtable. The recommendations included using E-Alerts or creating an equivalent system to notify students of protests, caravans, parades or convoys in the area, as well as increasing the number of street cameras and social listening. Social listening involves collaborating with leaders in Alamance County, Burlington and the town of Elon to develop strategies to best address concerns of public safety, according to the recommendations document.

See **ROUNDTABLE** | pg. 4

Clusters identified around campus, tests reimbursed

Four clusters have been identified at Elon University since Oct. 15, tests now reimbursed for students

Mackenzie Wilkes
Executive Director | @macwilkes

Four coronavirus clusters have been identified at Elon University. Three of the clusters are in freshman dorms — Carolina Hall, Barney Hall and building A in East Neighborhood — as well as the sorority Phi Mu, according to an email from Jeff Stein, chair of the Ready & Resilient committee.

The clusters in Carolina, Barney and Phi Mu were identified on Oct. 19 while the one in East was identified on Oct. 15.

According to Stein’s email, these are considered clusters because there were five positive cases in these groups within a 14-day period.

Stein said these clusters have been linked to social gatherings without masks on.

These new clusters come after the university moved to Level 2 — Moderate Alert for the coronavirus on Oct. 18 after the cluster was identified on Oct.15 in East. As of Oct. 20, there have been 53 cases of COVID-19 in the university community since Oct. 15.

Elon freshman Gaby Minionis lives in East A. She said she never expected an outbreak to be linked to both her building and her neighborhood.



GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR
Cone Health hosts free drive-in COVID-19 testing on July 16, 2020 at the Burlington Outlet Village in Alamance County.

See **CLUSTERS** | pg. 10



NEWS • PAGES 8-9
Meet the people making Alamance County’s vote count



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 11
Life@Elon Program pushes on virtually



SPORTS • PAGE 15
Baseball in Burlington gets a new look for the upcoming season

THE PENDULUM

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

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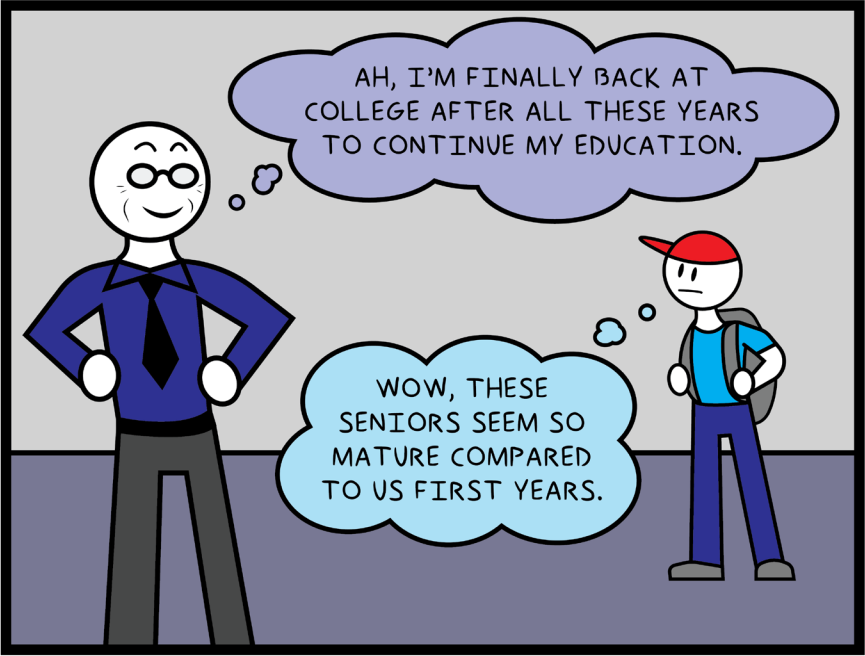
Elon News Network

CORRECTIONS

In the last edition of the Pendulum, Michael Bitzer's name was spelled incorrectly. Elon News Network regrets the error.

COMIC

CONTINUING EDUCATION



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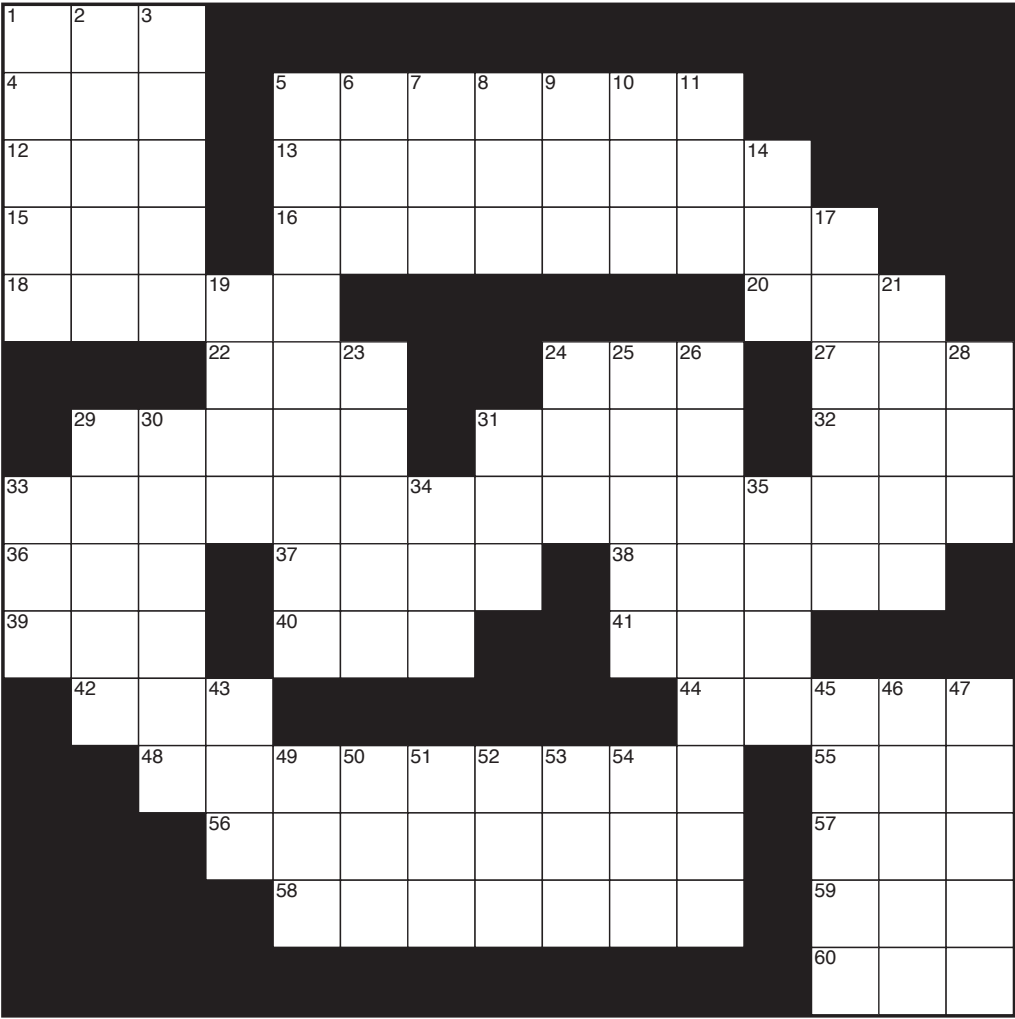


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2. Focus on the QR code
3. Click the pop-up link

CROSSWORD

Batter Up!

By Thomas Denome



ACROSS

- 1 One might fall asleep at the drop of one
- 4 Buckeye sch.
- 5 New World namesake Vespucci
- 12 "Arrr, where be me treasure ____?"
- 13 "You're going the wrong way!"
- 15 EU doctors' group
- 16 A bus might make one to let passengers off
- 18 Creators of a famed purity test
- 20 Earth's second most famous satellite
- 22 Stevie Wonder genre
- 24 "Bark!"
- 27 School not in the west, and certainly not in Ga.
- 29 Second disc of an album
- 31 Rays 1B Ji-Man ____
- 32 Ash container
- 33 Five-tool player, often found at 16 or 56 across
- 36 Depressed teen genre

- 37 Surfers might ride one
- 38 ____ as you can go, in limbo
- 39 Electronics retailer
- 40 American power company
- 41 Cardinals abbr.
- 42 UNC conference
- 44 Georgia town, or a French city when singular
- 48 Drink also known as a tisane
- 55 Aircraft maneuver
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- 59 Sound phenomenon cited as evidence for ghosts
- 60 Positive prom asking answer

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- 3 Biggie Smalls contemporary
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- 7 Prefix relating to the goddess of love
- 8 Time to recharge
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- 25 Lists dictating when to do things
- 26 Wife of a common first pitch thrower

- 28 Young '____
- 29 Sheck Wes hit named after basketball player Mo ____
- 30 Tape brand
- 31 Detroit Tigers' rival abbr.
- 33 Org. for teaching young reporters, in association often with the NSPA
- 34 First stat of a batting line
- 35 Britain to the U.S., for instance
- 43 Corp. bigwig
- 45 "Not this again..."
- 46 Green
- 47 Deadline deals, perhaps
- 49 Brazilian road
- 50 Crypto abbr.
- 51 Fundamentalist Christian org.
- 52 Can topper
- 53 Training device for young sluggers
- 54 Tree variety



Signs leading into the early voting polls at the Elmira Community Center in Burlington North Carolina on Oct. 17.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR



FRANCES O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On Oct. 17, East Haggard Avenue closed for Homecoming events including a band, corn hole, the crowning of the Homecoming Royalty and more.



FRANCES O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students support local businesses Wednesday Oct. 14, 2020 as a part of Homecoming Week's Food Truck Frenzy event.



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

Rochelle Ford, dean of the School of Communications, grabs a doughnut from Cathy Mims, a hospitality services manager, during the first College Coffee of the semester on Oct. 20.



KATE GUTHRIE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Left to right, Seniors Morgan Rafferty, Lauren Kottcamp, and Rebecca Betterton enjoying their last homecoming as undergraduates, sharing memories of their time together at Elon during Homecoming Weekend on Oct. 17.

Pro-Trump caravan pushes roundtable discussions

ROUNDTABLE | from cover

According to participants, Book was not present at the first two roundtable discussions, but did participate in the final one, where the recommendations were presented to her. Senior Tyler Chavez, one of the 21 roundtable participants and someone who witnessed the caravan firsthand, said he was under the impression Book would be present at all three meetings. In an email to the campus community, Book said she looked forward “to receiving the recommendations” of the roundtable, but did not indicate she would be present at the discussions.

Talking to administrative staff in the first two discussions — rather than asking questions to Book directly — did not feel as helpful for Chavez.

“It felt not very productive because I felt like I was not being heard,” Chavez said. “It just felt like a lot of the decision had already been made, and instead of trying to come up with a solution, it felt like I was there to give feedback on the decisions that had already been made.”

Sophomore Kasey Fountain said she had been feeling frustrated with how the university administration had acted in the past, which was one of the reasons she wanted to be involved in the roundtable. However, Fountain also did not find the roundtable productive, and said students were interrupted by faculty and staff during the discussions.

With Book present at the third meeting, Chavez said he felt he was able to make his voice heard. Freshman Mason Mosley said having Book attend the third discussion made a difference and made him feel like the discussion was a lot more productive.

“When she’s on there, now we’re actually moving in a certain direction,” Mosley said. “She has the power to make the changes, before we were just talking.”

Prudence Layne, professor of English, said the roundtable had a lot of “good, diverse perspectives” from students especially, as the student members of the roundtable included campus leaders and student organizers.

The perspectives of students on campus was what Elon University Police Department Sergeant Joel Thomas liked most about participating in the round table. Thomas, who said he attended one full and one partial discussion out of three, said listening to the students was important and allowed him to hear what they thought should be fixed moving forward.

“I think one of the most important things is just listening to what people have to say,” Thomas said. “Because if you’re not listening and not hearing what they have to say, then how can we fix it?”

While some of the recommendations discussed, such as more communication via E-alerts, were on students’ minds, roundtable member and sophomore Kennedy Boston said social listening was not a solution she was hoping for.

According to Boston, social listening would involve partnering with police to keep the community informed about what is happening in the community. Boston said partnering with the police in social listening had been shot down several times by roundtable members.

Another recommendation of the roundtable is to engage in more educational opportunities surrounding the first, fourth and fifth amendment. Steve Friedland, professor of law, said it is important for students to understand their rights and the rights of others, and he hopes that education is part of the action taken in the future.

“They need to know what that means and there is a right to freedom of speech, or not to speak. And that’s not available to all speech,” Friedland said. “The other[s are the] fourth and fifth amendment. And this involves the police, because the police do play a role at Elon and of course in society in general.”

As a member of the search committee for the new director of campus safety and chief of police, Layne said she believes



A parade of vehicles in support of President Donald Trump drove through Elon University’s campus as part of a convoy organized by a member of Alamance County Taking Back Alamance County (ACTBAC), a group designated as a neo-Confederate organization by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

“

IT FELT NOT VERY PRODUCTIVE BECAUSE I FELT LIKE I WAS NOT BEING HEARD. IT JUST FELT LIKE A LOT OF THE DECISION HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE, AND INSTEAD OF TRYING TO COME UP WITH A SOLUTION, IT FELT LIKE I WAS THERE TO GIVE FEEDBACK ON THE DECISIONS THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE.

TYLER CHAVEZ
SENIOR



A caravan of vehicles in support of President Donald Trump drove through the town of Elon and Elon University. Some vehicles yelled profanities and slurs at pedestrians.

some long-term changes will occur when a new person is selected for this role.

“Once we set some benchmarks of what we want to achieve, there’s some things that I think will happen with the selection of a new chief, and his or her vision and plans and how that fits into the university’s own strategic planning,” Layne said. “The hiring of a new chief would be the first way of shaping a long term vision.”

While frustrated with the roundtable discussions, Boston said she would participate again if the group is reconvened. Boston said because the university has task forces and roundtables often, helping students understand what happens at these groups is important to her.

“I can at least share my experience with others, so that others can understand what happens with these roundtables,” Boston said. “I can at least get to share what happens on these roundtables, and that’s really important.”

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RECOMMENDATIONS



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OR VISIT

ELONNEWSNETWORK.COM/
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BLE-ON-PRO-TRUMP-CONVOY-MAKES-REC-
OMMENDATION-TO-PRESIDENT-BOOK

Early voting and how to get to the polls on Election Day



Elon University sophomore Margaret Faust, a reporter for *Elon News Network*, early voted at the Elmira Community center. Early voting started on Oct. 15 and goes until Oct. 21.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

Elon provides ways to get to the polls on Election Day, though suggests students vote early

Abby Goretsky
Elon News Network | @abbygoretsky

Elon University and the organization *Elon Votes* are helping student voters participate in the upcoming Nov. 3 election by creating BioBus shuttle routes to the polls for in-person voters, canceling classes on Election Day, helping students register to vote providing aid in registering voters and answering questions about mail-in ballots.

On Election Day, students will have the chance to take the BioBus — which will be running on loops all day — to voting centers, or do the Phoenix Walk to the Polls with President Connie Book in the morning. In addition to these options, they can drive or walk themselves to their polling place.

No matter when or how students vote, *Elon Votes* co-coordinator Andrea Sheetz stressed the importance of voting this election.

“[Voting] is probably the simplest yet one of the most critical ways that we have a voice in our democracy,” said Sheetz.

The BioBus shuttles will run on a loop throughout the day with an estimated wait time of 15 to 20 minutes, according to Sheetz. Shuttles will leave from the Center for the Arts from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., and take students to either of *Elon’s* two polling places. Before getting on the shuttle, *Elon Votes* members will help students make sure they’re going to the right place.

The Phoenix Walk to the Polls with Book gives students the chance to walk with Book and *Elon Votes* members to the polling center at the First Baptist Church. According to *Elon Votes* staff advisor Bob Frigo, this walk is “symbolic” of President Book and the *Elon University* leadership’s “commitment to civic engagement and advancing the common good.”

Another example of what Frigo

describes as the school’s commitment to work in civic engagement is the fact that *Elon* has canceled classes on Election Day.

“This Election Day holiday provides generous time for members of the *Elon* community to cast their ballots,” Frigo said. “But also for students, faculty and staff to help staff polling places here in *Alamance County* and in local counties as the need for poll workers is significant this year due to the virus.”

Frigo said that approximately 18.4% of *Elon* students cast their ballots during early voting during the 2016 election. However, students are advised to “do everything early this year,” Frigo said, adding that students voting in *Alamance County* should cast their ballots during the early voting period.

Sheetz said students should plan to vote early this year because voting on Election Day is the “last chance.”

“

[VOTING] IS PROBABLY THE SIMPLEST YET ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL WAYS THAT WE HAVE A VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY.

ANDREA SHEETZ
ELON VOTES CO-COORDINATOR

“We’re really just trying to make sure students are prepared and understand what the gamble is. We haven’t been deterring students from doing it,” Sheetz said. “But we just want to make sure everyone’s kind of aware of that.”

The options to get to the polls on Election Day are not available for students who choose to vote early. However, the



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

The Elmira Community Center early voting location in Burlington, North Carolina. The Elmira Community Center is one of five different early voting locations. Other locations include the Alamance County Office Annex Building Auditorium, Mebane Arts and Community Center, Holly Hill Mall, and the Kernodle Senior Activities Center.

BioBus will take students into Burlington, which brings students close to early voting centers.

Early voting began in *Alamance County* on Oct. 15 and will be open until Oct. 31. There are five polling locations: *Alamance County Office Annex Building Auditorium* (201 West Elm Street.), *Mebane Arts and Community Center* (622 Corregidor Street.), *Holly Hill Mall* (309 Huffman Mill Road), *Kernodle Senior Activities Center* (1535 South Mebane Street) and *Elmira Community Center* (810 Wicker Street.).

Not only can students go to one of those locations to vote early, but they can also participate in same-day voter registration. To do same-day registration, students must bring a form of identification and proof of residence to the polls.

According to Frigo, every polling site has a booklet containing on-campus addresses and physical street addresses that students

can use to verify their residence. Students living off-campus can bring any bill, check or document that shows their name along with their address in *Alamance County*.

Sheetz said students who may not have a plan or have any questions about voting should talk to *Elon Votes*, even if they just need a free stamp or envelope for their ballots. They have office hours Monday through Friday both in-person and on Zoom or WebEx. They want to help to make sure that as many students as possible vote this year.

“It is important to add that voting is absolutely crucial, but one of many ways that we challenge students to actively engage in democracy and civic life,” Frigo said. “We want students to gain a deeper understanding of how government works and to develop the necessary skills to engage in civil discourse across political divides to advance the common good.”

Elon to host national undergraduate research journal

For the next three years, Elon will be the host of the Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics

Jacob Kisamore
Elon News Network | @jacobkisamore

Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society for college students, has chosen Elon University to host its Undergraduate Journal of Politics, a national journal of undergraduate research in political science and government. For the next three years, the university’s political science department will edit and publish the journal, which releases both a spring and fall issue each year.

Elon will be the fourth school to host the journal since it was founded in 2001, joining Union College, the College of William & Mary and Oakland University who were past hosts.

“The fact that Elon gets to say its students get to decide what political science research goes out into the world is so incredible and something very few institutions can say,” Tasia Theoharis, a co-content editor for the journal, said.

Elon’s chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha was founded in 1992 and has inducted over 800 members since its inception.

An editorial board of 20 Elon students is responsible for evaluating the submissions based on the quality and applicability of the research to the political science community. There are three co-faculty advisors — Laura Roselle, Baris Kesgin and Aaron Sparks — all of whom are political science professors at Elon. The three professors will take turns as the lead faculty adviser over the course of the university’s three year host term.

Students applied to be part of the editorial board last spring and the members are all currently in the POL 271: Analyzing Political Inquiry course, which contains readings on putting together a journal. Most of the students on the board are political science majors, although being a political science major is not a requirement to be an editor.

Due to COVID-19, all meetings have been held virtually through Zoom. The team utilizes breakout rooms to evaluate manuscripts and decides in small groups whether papers should be rejected or published with revisions. The accepted papers then go off to be revised by faculty members from universities all over the world.

This year’s board is composed entirely of women. Though that was not done intentionally, junior co-content editor Christy Dickman said the group has taken inspiration from another journal, the American Political Science Review which recently also had an all-woman board for the first time.

“We’ve been looking up to them and are excited to see a new direction in the field where female leadership is accepted and encouraged,” Dickman said.

“Political science is typically a male-dominated field, so it is definitely cool to see



Assistant political science professors Baris Kesgin and Aaron Sparks attend a Pi Sigma Alpha function in 2019 with Erin Jenkins '20.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BARIS KESGIN

“

WE ARE TRYING TO MAKE THE JOURNAL A FRIENDLY PLACE FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN STUDYING ALL TYPES OF POLITICS, NOT JUST THE REALLY COMMON, ONLY-STUDIED AREAS LIKE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND AMERICAN POLITICS.

TASIA THEOHARIS
JUNIOR



Political science professor Laura Roselle (left) and assistant professor Baris Kesgin (right) with Mark Berlin '13 attend a Pi Sigma Alpha event in 2019.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BARIS KESGIN

an all-female editorial board,” Roselle said. “They are all very excited about political science and it has been fun to see how much they have enjoyed the experience.”

According to Dickman, working on the journal has been very helpful for her as a political science student.

“It’s helped increase my knowledge on what makes a compelling research paper. It’s helped me learn about some of the necessary components for good research and what topics and issues are generating the most interest within the field,” Dickman said.

Theoharis said the board is attempting to include a broad range of topics in the journal this year.

“We are trying to make the journal a friendly place for people who are interested in studying all types of politics, not just the really common, only-studied areas like international relations and American politics,” Theoharis said. She said the board would like to include research on gender, race and sex studies.

The deadline for fall submissions was in early October, and the team is currently in the process of reading through the more than 100 manuscripts that were submitted for consideration. The board must then begin the process of selecting just four to six

articles to include for the fall publication.

For Theoharis, the most rewarding part about being on the editorial board has been working with the team of students.

“They are very supportive. We have grown and learned together. There has been a steep learning curve and I know I have made some mistakes, but it is nice to work in an environment where I feel comfortable to be myself,” Theoharis said.

Hosting this national research journal is an important achievement for Elon and the political science department and will provide great opportunities for students over the school’s tenure as host, Roselle said.

“The editors on the board of a journal like this are gatekeepers for information and research,” Roselle said. “For Elon students to have that opportunity is a big deal, and having their names published in such a prestigious journal is going to be amazing.”

The deadline for submissions for the journal’s spring issue is Feb. 2. Visit <https://www.elon.edu/u/academics/arts-and-sciences/political-science/psa-journal/> to submit an entry for the spring issue.

Students interested in joining the editorial board for next year’s issues of the Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics should contact Laura Roselle at lroselle@elon.edu.



The editorial board for the Pi Sigma Alpha research journal meets for the first time over Zoom to discuss the Fall 2020 issue.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BARIS KESGIN



Early voting location in Holly Hill Mall in Burlington, North Carolina on Saturday Oct. 17, 2020. As of Oct. 19, 2020 28 million Americans have already voted early including about 10,000 in Alamance County according to the Alamance County Board of Elections

Election Board officials weigh in on early and in-person voting

Alamance County Election Board workers discuss what to expect at the polls this year

Kieran Ungemach
Politics Editor | @kieranungemach

With Election Day quickly approaching and early voting started last week, Elon University students are gearing up to cast their ballots by mail or in person on or before Nov. 3.

28 million Americans already have voted early, including about 10,000 in Alamance County according to the Alamance County Board of Elections.

Polling stations are hard at work to process incoming early votes and absentee ballots, with numbers in the county up by over 180% compared to the 2016 election.

Elon education professor and 20-year poll judge for the Alamance County Board of Elections Ren Bryan discussed some of the differences she has experienced this year while working at the polls.

“The volume of paper this year has been phenomenal compared to previous years,” Bryan said, referring to the amount of absentee ballots being submitted.

She attributes this change to “interest in the election, and also anxiety over COVID-19.”

As North Carolina has recently seen a record high number of new daily coronavirus cases, some students are utilizing early voting to avoid crowds of people on election day.

“It definitely made me nervous about being in a big crowd,” said Kai Nehrenz, a junior from Raleigh. She chose to vote early due to her concerns about social distancing.

“I wasn’t planning on voting early this year,” Nehrenz said. She was happy with the precautions her polling station was taking, including requiring people to wear masks due to Raleigh’s mask ordinance. “They had it really spaced out, and they had tape on the floor so people could stay six feet apart.”

Polling stations look a little different this year, with social distancing procedures in

place due to COVID-19, and staff taking precautions to protect themselves as well as the voters. Alamance County voting precincts are taking similar actions.

“Our workers will be using masks, face shields, gloves, cleaning everything, and will be requiring six foot distance,” said Dawn Hurdle, the deputy director of the Alamance County Election Board. “We cannot require a voter to wear a mask, but we are recommending that they wear masks.”

Since Alamance County does not have a mask ordinance, voters are not required to wear masks when voting in person.

“

IT SEEMS LIKE TODAY YOU'RE EITHER ON ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER, THERE'S NO GRAY AREA. I FEEL LIKE IT'S CAUSED A LOT MORE AGGRESSION, BECAUSE ONE GROUP OF PEOPLE CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE SIDE OF THE OTHER GROUP OF PEOPLE.

TAMER METWALI
SOPHOMORE

Tamer Metwali, a sophomore from Davidson, also decided to vote early in person this year due to reservations about not knowing who will be at the polls on election day.

“It makes it feel weird, I can imagine myself going, and having people there just going off at you,” Metwali said.

Metwali is nervous about voting in

person after the recent pro-Trump parade that drove through Elon’s campus, with some drivers harrasing students. He also discussed his concerns after hearing president Donald Trump’s rhetoric, urging his supporters to go and watch the polls.

“The fact that the president now is willing to tell his followers to go out and take actions into their own hands is just a scary thought as a voter,” he said.

Metwalli acknowledged that the country is more politically divided this election, which makes him more uneasy about in-person voting.

“It seems like today you’re either on one side or the other, there’s no gray area,” Metwalli said. “I feel like it’s caused a lot more aggression, because one group of people can’t understand the side of the other group of people.”

Federal laws prohibit any kind of voter intimidation, and people are not allowed to show up to polling places to watch the polls.

Poll watchers only monitor polling station staff and keep track of voter counts.

In North Carolina, county party chairs appoint poll watchers, and these workers are prohibited from getting too close to voters or even speaking with them.

Polling places have strict rules that protect voters when they show up to vote in person. Hurdle depicted what some of those rules would look like at Alamance County polling places.

“Once you cross over a 50 foot line that’s from the entrance to the polling site, there’s no talking about politics inside,” Hurdle said. “The only people allowed inside the polling site are people that are actual voters and people that work for us.”

Even with tensions and concerns high, election workers like Bryan are urging students and especially first time voters to not only vote, but enjoy their moment in history.

“Savor the moment. I think your first vote is very exciting,” Bryan said. “if you’re having your first vote while you’re away at school without your parents there, it’s all on you. You’re an independent voter.”



As North Carolina's COVID-19 numbers reach a record high, students are taking advantage of early voting to avoid crowds of people. Prior to voting, you talk to a poll employee who verifies your name and address.

ALAMANCE COUNTY'S PEOPLE OF THE POLLS

For some residents of Alamance County, going to voting polls is not a single event, but rather a series of long visits to help them reach long-term goals or life missions

Grace Terry | Managing Editor | @gfterry9

The Third Party Voter

ADRIANNE MOWRY SITS in a lawn chair at the Holly Hill Mall — an Alamance County early voting location — greeting voters and asking passerbys if they have voted. There is a sea of political paraphernalia: red and blue pickets line the walls, people wear candidate T-shirts and there is even a cardboard cutout of one candidate. Mowry stands out in this group because her T-shirt and signs are green.

Mowry helps campaign for the North Carolina Green Party. She has been doing so for four years and is currently a delegate of the Green Party presidential nominating convention.

The early voting period and Election Day will look much different for her than a single trip to polls to cast a vote, as Mowry will be at the polls whenever she is not working.

Her goal for this election is to get 2% of North Carolinians to vote for Howie Hawkins and Angela Walker, the 2020 Green Party candidates for president and vice president. If they do not get the 2% or reach one of the other requirements spelled out in Senate Bill 656, it is not certain the candidates will be automatically on the ballot in the 2024 presidential election. They did not appear on the ballot in 2016.

Her pitch to voters is that the Green Party can offer what she calls the “whole enchilada” - a list of progressive items that include the Green New Deal, legalizing marijuana and defunding the police. Mowry said the two mainstream parties only offer some of these items — in her words, voters are only getting the enchilada “sauce.”

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UNFORTUNATELY, BECAUSE OF THE PARTY THAT I'M IN, IT'S BEEN RATHER HARD. IT'S DIFFICULT TO EITHER RUN FOR GOVERNMENT OR EVEN GET ON BALLOT.

ADRIANNE MOWRY
ALAMANCE COUNTY RESIDENT

When working at the polls or campaigning for the Green Party, Mowry is often with only one other person or alone, but it doesn't bother her.

“Being alone or being the only one, it doesn't bother me at all,” Mowry said. “Because sometimes all it takes is one to make the difference.”

Mowry has voted for the Green Party her entire life despite only recently turning her efforts to campaigning for the party. She hopes to one day run for government once the Green Party is on the ballot in North Carolina.

“Unfortunately, because of the party that I'm in, it's been rather hard. It's difficult to either run for government or even get on ballot,” Mowry said.

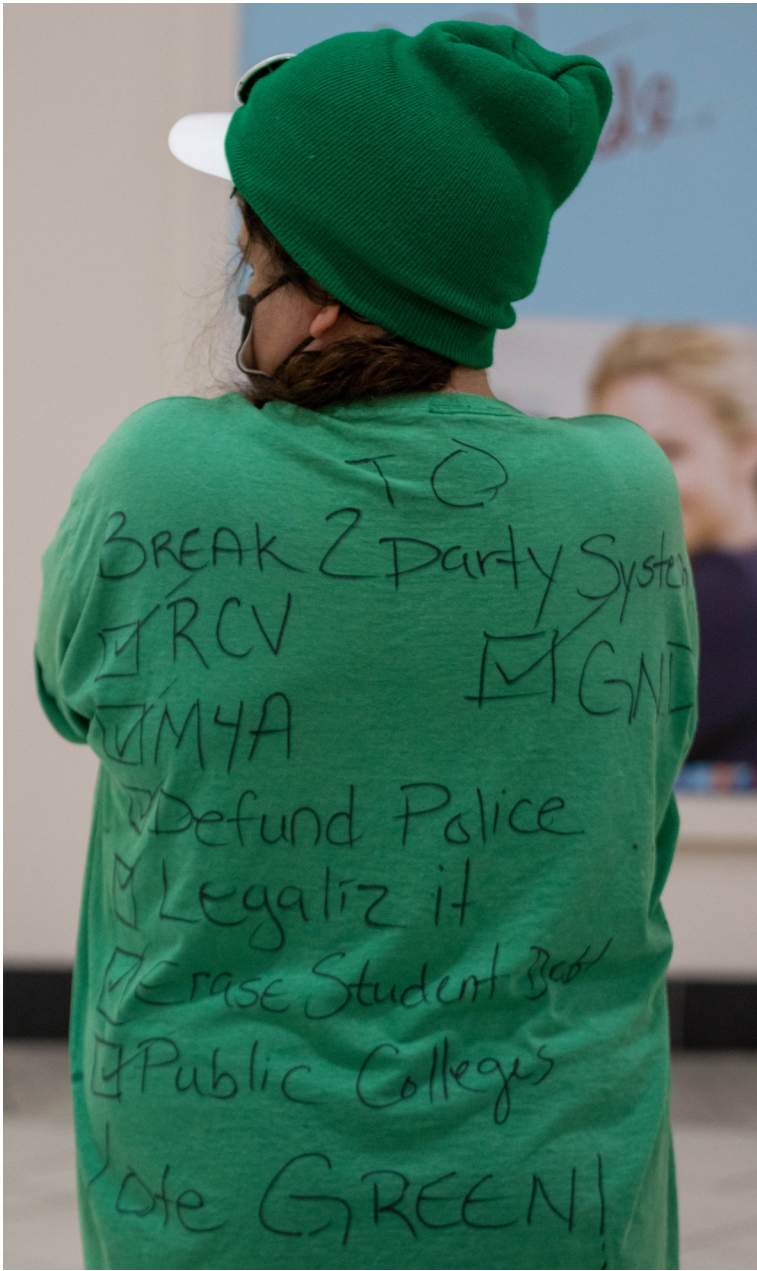
The outcome of the election could help determine when she'll have the opportunity to be on the ballot.

But until that opportunity arises, Mowry will keep going to the polls and meeting people.

“I will go to as many of them as possible up until Election Day, and be there trying to support the Green Party,” Mowry said.



Adrienne Mowry sits in a lawn chair at the Holly Hill Mall, an Alamance County early voting location, greeting voters and asking passerbys if they have voted on Oct. 17.



GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR



GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR



GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR

Top: Adrienne Mowry holds a sign with the 2020 Green Party candidates Howie Hawkins and Angela Walker.

Middle: Adrienne Mowry speaks with early voters at Holly Hill Mall.

Left: Adrienne Mowry wears a shirt while campaigning, that shows a list of issues the Green Party would implement.



GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR

Sadie Howard-Stanfield sits in a lawn chair on Oct. 17 at the Elmira Community Center. She has been working at polls for 30 years and 10 of those years she has worked at Elmira Community Center. Each year at the polls her set up has been the same. She sits in a lawn chair under a tent greeting voters.



GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR

Above: Sadie Howard-Stanfield sits outside during an early voting time.

Left: Sadie Howard-Stanfield is the Democratic precinct chair at Elmira Community Center.

The Precinct Chair

SADIE HOWARD-STANFIELD TYPICALLY GREET'S voters at the polls by saying she is on the ballot this year. Then when a voter inevitably asks what her name is or what race she is in, she follows up by saying "I'm right there" and points to Sen. Kamala Harris's name. She laughs; so does the voter, usually.

Howard-Stanfield has been working at polls for 30 years, and 10 of those years she has worked at Elmira Community Center. Currently, she is the Democratic precinct chair at Elmira Community Center. Her job is to preside over precinct meetings, establish goals for the location and recommend people to serve as precinct elections officials.

Her interest in voting started with her grandmother when she was 6 years old.

"I had a grandmother when I was 6 years old that was really, really active in politics," Howard-Stanfield said. "I'm the first grandchild, so guess what? I had to do, what grandma says, and grandma said always be a passionate person with everybody."

“

I HAD A GRANDMOTHER WHEN I WAS 6 YEARS OLD THAT WAS REALLY, REALLY ACTIVE IN POLITICS.

SADIE HOWARD-STANFIELD
ALAMANCE COUNTY RESIDENT

Even today at the polls, she keeps a motto close to her heart that her grandmother told her: "reach back, get one, teach one."

As for why voting is so important to her, she said it teaches the way of life.

"Because a lot of times you're not going to be living in the same place, and if you can go anywhere and if you know ... to vote and people and issues and why it makes you a better person," Howard-Stanfield said. "That means you got a Ph.D already."

Howard-Stanfield will be working at the polls every day of early voting and Election Day with the goal of getting as many people as possible to go through the effort of voting. Howard-Stanfield said no matter what the elections results are, she plans to continue to work at polls. The final day of voting in North Carolina is Election Day, Nov. 3. The outcome will affect all three in different ways.



Life@Elon provides senior citizens a chance to continue their education and still has over 300 members from their shift online. An example of a class this year is Zoom 101, which shows proper Zoom etiquette such as what to wear, good lighting, and not interrupting others.

Life@Elon continues to push virtual learning

The virtual learning program has begun its tenth year remotely because of the COVID-19 pandemic

Quinn Corrigan
Elon News Network | @quinn_corrigan

The members of Life@Elon are not showing up to class late this semester, even though many of them have never used Zoom prior to the program. They take their pre-class conversation time very seriously.

For a decade, Life@Elon has been helping senior citizens in the Elon community continue their education. Although they can't meet in their usual home of Johnston Hall because of the coronavirus pandemic, Life@Elon is still promoting their mission of lifelong learning online. For \$100, members have access to twelve classes each semester. Even without their mid-class snacks and coffee, the program has had a smooth transition online.

Kathryn Bennett — the program's coordinator — has been involved with Life@Elon since it started. Originally, the program was targeted at alumni, but after publications in the area picked up the story, their local membership of locals grew immensely due to a high volume of community members wanting to join.

"We decided if we could just get 50, and then the phones started ringing and we had 100 and we were like, 'what are we gonna do?'" Bennett said.

Since then the program has grown to nearly 500 members. However, this fall, the enrollment dropped for the first time since the program started. While they had only 350 members sign up, Bennett and her team were still shocked by the return rate after they told members they were transitioning to online classes.

"We were shocked how eager the members were. They didn't want to stop because of this change," Bennett said.

Luigi Orlando joined Life@Elon last year and has now become a member of the new technology team. Orlando recently moved from Wilmington where he and his wife were in a lifelong learning program. It became an important part of their life in Wilmington and they wanted to continue in a similar program upon moving to Elon. Overall, Orlando was surprised at the abundance of opportunities.

"Me and my wife were up there on campus

three, four times a week [for] Life@Elon, going to lectures, movies, sports or whatever, and I can't wait to get back to that," Orlando said.

Coming from a much larger program at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Orlando said he has appreciated the intimacy of the program.

"I have got to know individuals pretty intimately as a result of working on these

“
WE WERE SHOCKED
HOW EAGER THE
MEMBERS WERE. THEY
DIDN'T WANT TO STOP
BECAUSE OF THIS
CHANGE.”

KATHRYN BENNETT
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

teams, and that's connecting. Connecting is key," Orlando said.

While Orlando is a member of the program he also played a crucial role in helping the program transition online. He was a member of the "nucleus" of the technology team along with Janna Trout and Carole Thronell.

Trout has been teaching online at Saint Joseph's University for 14 years. Her past experience with systems such as Zoom and Webex made her an important part of the early steps of development. Once they decided on using Zoom to continue the program, the team attempted to make the app seem much easier to use for members.

"We looked at it all like a funnel. We took all of this information and said 'how much of it do we need?' And then went from there," Trout said.

Trout said the program leaders decided to prioritize teaching members the basics of Zoom first. They did this by creating a training manual called "Zoom 101." The training consisted of both videos and writing.

"So we had Zoom 101 training and then additional individual training for those who need it where someone would call them up



Johnston Hall used to be the home of Life@Elon, a program helping senior citizens in the Elon Community continue their education; however, to keep the program going during COVID-19, classes has now been moved online.

and talk them through like you would if you called a tech services department," Trout said.

The training was broken down into two categories to make it more effective: mobile devices and computers. This allowed the team to make sure that as many people as possible could get involved.

Besides teaching members the basic technology of the program, Zoom 101 also instructed viewers on proper Zoom etiquette such as what to wear, good lighting and not interrupting the speakers. They also plan to launch a "Zoom 201" soon, which will help members discover how to change their background and much more.

The change to online did not alter the structure of the classes. They have four classes a week: two on Tuesdays and two on Wednesdays. Each week there is a new presenter who leads these sessions. Typically in between each class, the presenter will be brought to lunch. Bennett said they knew they wanted to keep this structure as much as possible.

"Some of our members have been here for all ten years and made friends with these people and or they joined because they were friends with people in that class we felt like to keep the community and one way we could do that was by keeping or four class," Bennett said.

Throughout the process of transitioning online, the executive team made sure that members would still be able to have the social aspect of this program. Typically, along with weekly classes there are events such as wine tastings and book clubs. This year they have "Fun Fridays."

"Fun Fridays are going to be fun little things that we can do so one of our members — our student workers — are making videos so that members can just log in and watch them together," Bennett said.

So far, the program has released a cooking video and plans on having ones covering TikTok and other modern things. Bennett said they want their members to still have a sense of community within the program. They also allow members to join twenty minutes early to have pre class chats, which allows members to gain more than just knowledge.

Bennet says that Life@Elon is another way to further seniors' connection to the university.

"There are people moving here from all of their country, and they are moving to a college town because they know some of the programming and library and athletics and all of those things a university can provide," Bennett said. "That's appealing to them, so this is just another thing."

Elon singing groups find ways adjust to pandemic

Elon choir and a cappella groups adapt to rules and regulations set by CDC during the coronavirus pandemic

Graysen Shirley
Elon News Network

After classes moved online for last spring due to the coronavirus pandemic, Vital Signs, a coed a cappella group, decided to host a virtual concert and dedicate the performance to six senior members who had missed participating in an in-person concert. Junior Alexa Lugo, the president of Vital Signs, and junior Miles Carabello, the music director of Vital Signs, teamed up to write a song to honor the seniors.

“That was a really cool creative experience,” Lugo said. “Our virtual Facebook live concert was the first time that they saw the song we wrote, so that was pretty cool.”

With the onset of the pandemic, Elon choir and a cappella groups are now adapting to new rules and regulations put in place by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In accordance with the new regulations, singers now wear masks, practice virtually or at socially distanced rehearsals and are shifting their focus from large concerts to making new recorded music.

Guidelines from the CDC are calling for wearing masks and increasing distance between people to greater than 6 feet if they are singing, chanting or shouting. The CDC is also recommending modified layouts to gatherings- hosting gatherings in larger spaces, prioritizing outside gatherings when possible and offering online attendance options in addition to in-person.

In addition, Dr. Polly Cornelius, a senior lecturer in music at Elon, is recommending

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IT'S A PRETTY BIG ACCOMPLISHMENT CONSIDERING THAT WE'RE NOT REALLY GETTING TOGETHER AS A FULL GROUP. HONESTLY, HALF OF US HAVE NEVER HEARD THE OTHER PEOPLE SING THE SONGS THAT WE'VE RECORDED, SO IT'S PRETTY COOL THAT WE ARE ABLE TO DO THAT SEPARATELY BUT HAVE IT ALL COME TOGETHER.

BEN HARRITON
JUNIOR

that singers stay hydrated and rest their bodies and voices after vocalizing for an extended period of time to stay safe during the pandemic. Cornelius also suggests singers should learn breathing techniques which put less strain on the voice and to practice warming up before singing in order to help them protect their voices.

Catholic Campus Ministry Choir

Senior Taylor Stephens is working with seniors Sam Davidson and Becca Kimock to assist other members of the Catholic Campus Ministry Choir in following new policies and guidelines. The three seniors



GRAYSEN SHIRLEY | ELON NEWS NETWORK

Catholic Campus Ministry Choir members Taylor Stephens and Tim Olson practice guitar and piano at rehearsal in the Numen Lumen Pavilion Sunday, Oct. 18.

are music interns, meaning that they are in charge of coordinating songs to be sung at Mass along with coordinating who are the singers and musicians at Mass.

“In this semester in particular, we’ve done a lot to make sure that we can still have music at our services, but making sure that we follow all CDC and diocese guidelines and to promote safety and make sure that we mitigate the spread of the virus,” Stephens said.

The Catholic Campus Ministry now implements guidelines of their own into services such as there being no singing during Mass, except for a designated cantor and members of the choir who maintain 16 feet of physical distancing to avoid the spread of respiratory droplets.

In accordance with CDC guidelines and diocese guidelines, Stephens, Davidson and Kimock have worked together to develop a strict quota and tap on how many people can sing at a particular service. To help limit the number of people at a service, a choir schedule has been developed each month where every singer has the opportunity to sign up for three slots per month. At Mass and services, there are only three singers including the cantor and only two musicians- each individual is practicing social distancing with each other and other congregation members.

Stephens and other music interns have also formulated a cantor schedule where members who are interested in being the leader who sings part of the readings for a specific week are able to do so in a safe way. The cantor schedule has also assigned back-ups for the position if a designated cantor is unable to attend a specific service.

Contact tracing is being implemented within the choir to allow members to track if they have come in contact with anyone who might be considered sick or ill. Attendance at rehearsals and services is regularly being checked. The music interns have also worked to ensure that members are not present at Mass if they do not feel well or are concerned that they might have come into contact with someone who has coronavirus.

Another measure being taken is the formation of a virtual choir within the Catholic Campus Ministry Choir. The virtual choir allows members to still participate in singing by recording themselves following along to a music practice track which is later compiled and used in services and other functions.

Being part of a leadership team during

the pandemic has allowed Stephens to continue encouraging current and new members to keep going and persevering despite the challenges of the pandemic.

“To see a group of individuals despite everything that the pandemic continues throws at them, one of the most rewarding things to see them want to continue trying to make music as safely as possible and as best we can,” Stephens said. “Given the circumstances I think that’s been just the most rewarding part of all of it.”

Elon A Cappella Groups

Lugo, president of Vital Signs, is leading efforts to adjust to the new guidelines by modifying the coed a cappella group’s rehearsals and group meetings. Instead of a classroom, Vital Signs now practices in the Jordan Gym with group members wearing face shields and staying 16 feet apart.

“We’ve cut our in-personal rehearsals down a lot to limit exposure, and we also rehearse in bigger spaces,” Lugo said.

Rehearsals also now consist of leaving time for respiratory droplets to settle after singing for extended periods. Rehearsals are split into allotted increments of time spent between singing and waiting for droplets to settle. Lugo said that group members will typically go outside while waiting and will discuss business surrounding the a cappella group.

Rip Chord, an all male a cappella group, now has rehearsals where members meet in groups of 2 to 4 people separated by voice parts — basses, baritone, tenor and high tenor. Group members typically spend an hour in an outdoor space practicing and recording parts of songs to send to their music director.

The focus of rehearsals have also shifted from practicing an entire set of songs to learning songs for recorded music. Both Vital Signs and Rip Chord are working in collaboration with other Elon a cappella groups to produce music for the luminaries album, a collaborative music album between different Elon singing groups which is set to release in later semester. The luminaries album will allow the Elon community to still enjoy music of the Christmas season despite not being able to have the luminaries light ceremony as in years past.

While performances and concerts remain virtual, singing groups have shifted focus to continue learning music for professional music videos. The songs for each music video are arranged and mixed

by group members themselves.

“We’re well on our way to producing two of these music videos and we’re recording them ourselves and mixing them together, so that’s been really fun,” Lugo said. “Some of our newbies actually arranged one of the new songs that we are doing this semester, so that was really exciting.”

Members of Rip Chord are going to a studio in Durham in small groups to record music for an album. Junior Ben Harriton, the PR and social media chair for Rip Chord, said that the studio has been following guidelines, and that group members feel safe and secure.

Recording in small groups in both outside spaces and a studio has allowed Rip Chord to create songs for an EP, a shorter version of an album. The EP is set to release later this year or early next year.

“It’s a pretty big accomplishment considering that we’re not really getting together as a full group,” Harriton said. “Honestly, half of us have never heard the other people sing the songs that we’ve recorded, so it’s pretty cool that we are able to do that separately but have it all come together.”

The onset of the pandemic has also impacted how groups are recruiting new members. New member recruitment for a cappella groups occurred early into the fall semester; students stood behind plastic shields and sang for all the groups at one time instead of auditioning for each group separately like they would have previously.

For Rip Chord, recruitment in the past normally occurred at the student org fair where current members asked people to sing for them. However, the pandemic has caused the a cappella group to struggle to find new members due to lower turnout at auditions, which made it difficult for the group to reach individuals to recruit.

“This year we also didn’t reach a lot of people that might not know about a cappella or might not think they want to join a group like that because of the virtual org fair,” Harriton said. “We’re really hoping that in the spring things will be a little bit back to normal, we’ll be able to get some guys that way.”

Despite the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, both Vital Signs and Rip Chord welcomed new members to their groups this fall.

“It’s definitely been challenging with the friendship aspect, but I really love our newbies,” Lugo said. “It’s starting to feel like they are a part of the family now.”

THE ELON BITE

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

Sal’s Italian serves the comfort food for fall



Jack Chambers
Senior

As fall is moving into full swing and the weather is getting colder, the time for warm comfort food is upon us. This week, I ordered takeout from Sal’s Italian Restaurant in Burlington, next door to Cook Out.

I have been to Sal’s a few times while at Elon and have sampled several items. This time, on one of the colder nights this week, I was craving a warm bowl of pasta and decided to order DoorDash from Sal’s. I asked for an order of penne vodka with Italian sausage, which came with a side of garlic bread.

The pasta was good, even for delivery. Each piece was warm and toothsome, but still held its shape with the vodka sauce, which was delicious and creamy and probably the best option on their menu. The sausage really tied the dish together. Spicy and a little smoky, the meat paired really well with the cream-fortified tomato sauce. When I crave a warm bowl of pasta on a cold day, this is one of my favorite places to go and not just for flavor. The bread was good too. Warm and dense, it was great to mop up leftover sauce in the container the meal came in.

The taste wasn’t the only great part of the meal. The price-to-portion ratio at Sal’s is very economical. One order of pasta and protein can easily serve two people or makes for great leftovers. Also, a bowl of pasta from Sal’s only costs about \$12 to \$15 and as it serves two portions, it is an smart way to eat out for college students.

JACK’S SCORE

7 of 10

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

Although this time I ordered penne alla vodka, I also love the chicken and veal parmesan and recommend them. For a fun twist that I really like with my Italian food (although not traditional), try substituting the traditional red sauce with vodka sauce on your chicken parmesan.

Again, these are great home-style comfort foods that are delicious on a cold fall day and provide a hearty meal to keep you full. And if you order a bigger meal like a chicken parmesan, which comes with a side of pasta, that could even stretch three meals. When you are craving Italian food that isn’t mac and cheese or boxed spaghetti and red sauce from a jar, I highly recommend calling in an order and taking the trip to Sal’s to get your food and support a local restaurant.

This time, I’ll give Sal’s a 7 out of 10, but normally would rate it a little higher if it wasn’t delivered and instead fresh from the kitchen at the restaurant, but COVID-19 has unfortunately made that impossible. Either way, Sal’s is still worth a trip and satisfies the itch for good Italian comfort food.



JACK CHAMBERS | ELON NEWS NETWORK
Sal’s Italian Restaurant located at 402 Huffman Mill Road in Burlington, has been serving up fresh dishes to the area for nearly 40 years.

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THOMAS DENOME
CHIEF COPY EDITOR

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SPORTS

Elon cheerleader stretches time to reach stardom

Elon senior Zach Wallace has spent nine years cheering and placed second at The Cheerleading Worlds twice

Anna Terry
Elon News Network | @atterry63

Cheering extends beyond the sidelines of Elon University football and basketball games and into other facets of life for senior Zach Wallace. He started cheerleading in 2011 while he was in middle school and became enamored with the sport.

“I just fell in love with it,” Wallace said. “I love the stunting aspect of it. And just being around with all your teammates, I think practicing with teammates and becoming a family was one of the biggest things that I fell in love with.”

Wallace is a skilled cheerleader and trains at the highest level in the sport on the national level. During his nine years cheering, Wallace has been to The Cheerleading Worlds — an annual international cheerleading competition — six times, placing second twice: once with as a part of the Cheer Athletics team Swooshcats in 2018 in the International Small Coed division and again in 2019 as a coach in the Large All-Girl division.

“

AS A CHEERLEADER AND A PERSON ON MY TEAM, AS WELL AS A PERSON AND AN INDIVIDUAL, HE GIVES A HUNDRED PERCENT TO EVERYTHING THAT HE DOES.

SUSAN TURNER
HEAD CHEERLEADING COACH

When he was thinking about what college he would go to, Wallace knew he wanted to continue his cheer career and looked for a school close to Cheer Extreme in Kernersville, North Carolina. With the gym 40 minutes away, Wallace decided to attend Elon. Wallace started cheering as a part of their All Star team his freshman year at Elon and later began to work as a coach at the gym his junior year.

Wallace joined the Elon cheerleading team his sophomore year. Although he has cheered on the mat at several international cheerleading competitions, his favorite place to cheer is at Elon football games.

“Football games are my absolute favorite. It’s just, it’s fun. It’s stress-free except when the score is close. You just get to go out there and yell as loud as you can and have a great time,” Wallace said.

Elon head cheerleading coach Susan Turner said Wallace is a role model for everyone that is a part of the squad.

“Zach doesn’t meet a stranger. Usually, the guys and girls alike really look to him for advice, for leadership, for guidance,” Turner said. “He’s super talented and everybody knows that he’s non-threatening to people, and the team members automatically respect him and look up to him for advice.”

A stretch beyond ordinary

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Wallace dedicated around 40 hours a week to cheerleading.

On Monday, Wednesday and Friday,



GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR

Elon University senior and cheer team member Zach Wallace took up to 40 hours a week before coronavirus to hone his craft.

Wallace would spend five and a half hours each night at Cheer Extreme, coaching and practicing from 4 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Wallace devoted his Tuesdays and Thursdays to Elon cheer practices, training for three hours each night from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. During the weekend, Wallace would go into the gym early for nine and a half hours, arriving at 10 a.m. and leaving at 7:30 p.m.

To balance his schedule, Wallace takes only three classes a semester. But even with this smaller course load, Wallace has to spend late nights to get his work done, usually staying up until 1 or 2 a.m. When day breaks, Wallace goes to his first class at 8 a.m before he goes to cheer in the afternoon. Wallace also takes Winter Term and summer classes so that he can complete his credits on time.

In hopes of getting first place at The Cheerleading Worlds, Wallace decided to take a gap year in Texas after his freshman year at Elon to train as a part of the all-stars team Cheer Athletics.

“I moved my whole life to Texas in like two weeks. I just randomly did it,” Wallace said.

After placing second at The Cheerleading Worlds that year, Wallace moved back to Elon to begin his sophomore year.

Wallace said that his passion for cheer is what keeps him motivated to spend long days and nights cheering and doing homework.

“I call it to work, but like, it’s really fun. Like it’s, it doesn’t feel like work 90% of the time. It just feels like I’m going and getting to do what I love to do and get paid for it. It’s kinda great,” Wallace said.

Once Wallace graduates, he said that he hopes to combine his communications design major and his cheerleading background into his career.

“I can kind of integrate it into both if I want it to. There’s a lot of design aspects of cheerleading when it comes to uniforms or just t-shirt design like logos for gyms. And there are some huge companies like Varsity and Rebel Athletics that need designers,” Wallace said.

Wallace is dedicated to everything he does both in and outside of his life as a cheerleader, Turner said.

“As a cheerleader and a person on my team, as well as a person and an individual, he gives a hundred percent to everything that he does,” Turner said.



GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR

Elon senior cheer team member Zach Wallace performs a standing back tuck at Rhodes Stadium, Sunday, Oct. 20, 2020.



GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR

Elon University senior cheer team member Zach Wallace shows of the multiple rings he has won through cheer competitions in his career.

1

Won at cheer competition “The Majors” in 2020

2

Won at cheer competition “The Majors” in 2019

3

Won at NCA All-Star Nationals cheer competition in 2020

4

Won at “The Summit” cheer competition in 2019

5

Won at “The Summit” cheer competition in 2019



A view of Burlington Athletic Stadium from center field. According to the Burlington Royals’ website, the stadium was originally in Danville, Virginia, but was moved to North Carolina in 1958.

JON SARVER JR. | ELON NEWS NETWORK

Burlington Baseball is no longer affiliated with minor league baseball, but will still play in the Appalachian League

Jon Sarver Jr.
ELon News Network | @sarver_jon

Burlington Athletic Stadium has not hosted a baseball game since September of 2019. The stadium’s occupants, the Burlington Royals, saw their 2020 season wiped out by the coronavirus pandemic.

In fact, the Royals’ last game, a 7-2 loss to the Johnson City Cardinals, will be the team’s last professional game in any capacity. The team will undergo a complete restructuring before the beginning of the 2021 season.

At the end of September, Major League Baseball and USA Baseball announced that the Royals’ league — the Appalachian League — will no longer be affiliated with minor league baseball and will become a collegiate summer league. This announcement ended the Burlington baseball team’s relationship with its MLB affiliate the Kansas City Royals.

According to the MLB’s official announcement, the Appalachian League will play a 54-game season and will feature rising college freshman and sophomore players. As a result of being in the new league, general manager Anderson Rathbun said that the team will change its name. For the time being, he said the team will be called Burlington Baseball.

In a statement on social media just before the announcement of the league changes, Burlington Baseball owner Ryan Keur expressed gratitude towards the Kansas City Royals organization.

“We will never forget the countless memories that have been created over the past 15 years,” Keur said. “On behalf of Burlington Baseball, we cannot thank the Kansas City Royals enough for both their partnership and their friendship.”

Other changes to the organization happened in Burlington’s front office in March, when Keur hired general manager Rathbun and assistant general manager Thomas Vickers.

Rathbun said the front office has had its share of challenges in the past year.

“I’ve experienced more in the last eight months than a lot of people do in the sports industry. Trying to get a brand-new league, trying to battle COVID, which obviously everybody did. But then on top of that, also rebranding,” Rathbun said. “Not many teams rebrand at a professional level, so the fact that we were able to do that — more so forced to do that — has been something crazy.”

Rathbun said that a higher level of competition will be coming to Burlington as a result of the new league structure.

“People are gonna say, ‘How is that possible because it’s professional baseball versus college baseball?’ It’s going to be more condensed. So, these players are the top. It’s going to be the best of the best up-and-coming freshmen, up-and-coming sophomores,” Rathbun said. “USA Baseball is going to select, going to rank and invite the top 300 rising freshmen and rising sophomores, and it’s just going to be so much more condensed.”

Rathbun also said he believes this increase in talent will bring fans to the ballpark.

“Just from a talent perspective, it’s really, really intriguing,” Rathbun said. “And I think a lot of fans, when they start learning more about the league and the players coming through here, they’re gonna be really excited.”

“

I’M SUPER PUMPED. I HAVE A 6-YEAR-OLD SON, TO BE 7-YEAR-OLD SON, WHO WAS DEVASTATED WHENEVER WE LOST THE ROYALS. AND I’VE KIND OF TALKED HIM UP THAT BASEBALL IS COMING BACK SO I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO HIM.

CASEY GURAL
FIELD AND GROUNDS MANAGER FOR
BURLINGTON ATHLETIC STADIUM

Burlington’s relationship with baseball

Longtime Burlington Royals fan David Horne said he remembers a time when there was not a baseball team in Burlington. Before they were the Burlington Royals, the team had gone through various iterations and affiliations and did not exist at all for a dozen years in the 1970s and ‘80s.

According to Baseball Reference, the Burlington baseball team started as the Indians from 1958-1964 and returned to the name



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID HORNE

David Horne at Burlington Athletic Stadium with the Royals’ mascot, Bingo.

from 1986-2006. From 1965-1972 the team was the Burlington Senators and Rangers and Burlington did not have a team from 1973 to 1985. The team became the Burlington Royals and a Kansas City affiliate for the 2007 season.

Horne said he would have preferred the team keep its minor league affiliation, but he also echoed the sentiment that the talent level for Burlington Baseball will increase.

“Having the summer league is a nice consolation. I think it’ll be good,” Horne said. “I think we’ll actually have a higher percentage of players make it to the majors, so you’ll see a little bit better talent with what we’re gonna have. They’re just gonna be younger.”

Burlington Athletic Stadium, the home of Burlington Baseball, is owned by the city of Burlington. Casey Gural works for the Recreation and Parks Department for the city of Burlington and is the field and grounds manager for the Burlington Athletic Stadium.

Gural said baseball in Burlington is a big deal for the community, as well as his own family.

“I’m super pumped. I have a 6-year-old son, to be 7-year-old son, who was devastated whenever we lost the Royals. And I’ve kind of talked him up that baseball is coming back so I know what it means to him,” Gural said. “And I know what it means to a lot of community members here and businesses. This is a great

place for businesses to come together and maybe talk a little shop, but really just to get together have a good time.”

Rathbun said he and the front office will have more work to do moving forward as they search for Burlington Baseball’s new identity, and he said that he hopes to announce the new team name before Thanksgiving. Rathbun also said the research process has been extensive and that he wants to let the community have input on the new name.

“We interviewed ... two and a half weeks’ worth of people that have been new to the area, that have been here their entire life. For all walks of life. We’ve interviewed them on their experience with Alamance County and Burlington as a city,” Rathbun said. “We’ve learned so much information. I know more history about this town than I do my own hometown. And that’s been one of the coolest parts for me.”

When Burlington Baseball takes the field in 2021, it will have been almost two years since the franchise has played due the cancellation of the 2020 minor league baseball season. Horne said he has a few reasons for being excited about the return of baseball in Burlington in 2021.

“Just sitting in the seat that I’ve sat in for 20 years,” Horne said. “Watching the game, just having baseball again after not having it.”

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