

IAN'S INTERRUPTION

Hurricane Ian brings widespread campus power outages, blows back Family Weekend events

Sophie Rosenthal

Managing Editor of The Pendulum | @sophrosenthal

DESPITE STORM WARNINGS AND worries of canceled flights, Annmarie Dario flew up from Deerfield Beach, Florida, for Elon University's 2022 Family Weekend on Friday morning. But when she landed, she found that her daughter, Abagale Dario, was without electricity and events for the rest of the day had been canceled.

Hurricane Ian put a damper on the first day of Family Weekend for over 1,000 families at Elon University. In its course, Hurricane Ian rolled over central Florida and downgraded to a post-tropical depression. It regained strength again before hitting South Carolina as a Category 1 hurricane, and before Ian made landfall in North Carolina, the town of Elon was already seeing its effects.

Pre-storm black out

Save for a few canceled outdoor events,

family weekend was set to happen as planned until the morning of Friday, Sept. 30. While Abagale got ready for class in her Oaks neighborhood apartment, the light next to her bed went out. Some students reported hearing a loud boom as electricity went down across the majority of campus.

Without any indication to do otherwise, she went on with her day in the dark, attending both of her classes.

According to Elon University spokesman Owen Covington, a dead tree limb fell on power lines and connected three points, causing circuits to fail. Covington said though the possibility of outages later in the day was expected, both the university and Duke Energy, Alamance County's energy provider, were surprised by how early the outage came.

Because the outage happened before the storm hit Elon, winds were slow enough that Duke Energy teams and Elon facilities management were able to get the power back up quickly and safely. Duke Energy spokesman Jeff Brooks said it was lucky that Elon's power outage happened earlier in the day, because crews were able to repair it immediately.

"As the day progressed, by mid afternoon, we were starting to see much higher winds coming in, and by the evening they were really getting strong, and unfortunately, we do have limits to when we can safely work on power lines because they are high voltage power lines," Brooks said.

Covington said the university felt Duke Energy responded quickly. But sitting in the dark during her chemistry lab, Abagale said she wondered why the university was

taking so long to respond.

The power went out on campus at 9 a.m. An Elon E-Alert was issued at 9:14 a.m., and an update saying power would be restored in stages was sent out at 9:53 a.m. and that classes were being held as normal. The first email students received with any further information was at 11:43 a.m.

"As soon as the power went out, there should have been an email that came out and was just saying anything, like, 'We're working on this,'" Abagale said. "It took them an hour to say anything. ... I know a tropical storm isn't going to be the end of the world, but for some kids that haven't experienced that, they might have been thinking of it as a safety thing."

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CAROLINE MITCHELL | DESIGN CHIEF

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CORRECTIONS

In the Sept. 28 edition of The Pendulum, the story "ABSS community responds to book ban controversy" misstated pornography is not protected by the First Amendment. Pornography generally receives First Amendment protections. Elon News Network regrets this error.

In the Sept. 28 edition of The Pendulum, the story "From Costa Rica to Elon: Sylvia Muñoz's journey," misstated the distance between Elon University and Costa Rica. The correct distance is around 2,000 miles.

CHEAT SHEET

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

Climate change's effect on Hurricane Ian

Climate change has led to more frequent, more destructive weather conditions

Avery Sloan
Politics Director | [@AveryLSloan](https://twitter.com/AveryLSloan)



Amanda Chunco

Climate change has led to more intense and more frequent storms, including hurricanes, according to Amanda Chunco, professor of environmental studies. Between changing temperatures leading to higher winds, and higher sea levels leading to more flooding, hurricanes have caused more devastation in recent years. Chunco, who has done research on climate change, explained how hurricanes have progressed over time and why people are not equipped to handle this level of extremity.

This interview was edited for clarity.

How has climate change played a role in natural disasters?

"It's always very hard to attribute any particular storm to any particular cause. There's still a lot we don't know about storms, but we do see as it has gotten warmer, the number and intensity of storms has increased for sure. There's some good climatological modeling that shows as the ocean gets warmer, we should be expecting to have more intense storms, even more frequently. ... We've started to see that, between Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Florence and now Ian, there have been a lot of really severe storms over the last couple of years."

Did climate change play a role

in the effect that Hurricane Ian had?

"It was a Category 4 hurricane to hit Florida. Again, we've had hurricanes throughout history. There have always been hurricanes — some severe hurricanes — but just the intensity of this particular hurricane is certainly due in large part to climate change."

How do rising temperatures affect storm intensity?

"Wind is just the movement of air from one location to another, and a lot of that is driven by temperature. A lot of it is driven by temperature differentials where it's hotter and it's cold. And so we see these pockets now, it's getting much hotter, which leads to faster wind speeds. It's a very complicated relationship. Wind speed is driven a lot by temperature, so as it gets hotter, we're going to get faster ones."

How can we prepare for more intense storms in the future?

"We tend to be really reactive. So after Hurricane Andrew — which was back in the '90s — destroyed Miami, building codes changed. So we need to build roofs that are going to withstand higher winds. I think we need to start being more proactive because these storms are becoming more intense and more common. Thinking about zoning, where do we let people live? How do we build structures that are going to survive?"

It's complicated because in my opinion, a lot of people live in really dangerous areas right now. So do we make those areas more safe, or do we encourage people to move to safer areas?

Miami is now flooding after just a little bit of rain because of sea level rise. The city of Venice in Italy floods with a lot of high tides now, so Venice is trying to build sea walls, Miami is trying to raise roads. If we want to continue to live in these areas, we are going to have to put billions of dollars into infrastructure

changes. We just can look around campus and the fact that the hurricane was not that bad here and we still lost power tells you something about the resiliency of our power system."

Elon is not particularly coastal, but we are still seeing these storms. Should we be more prepared for hurricane weather in the future?

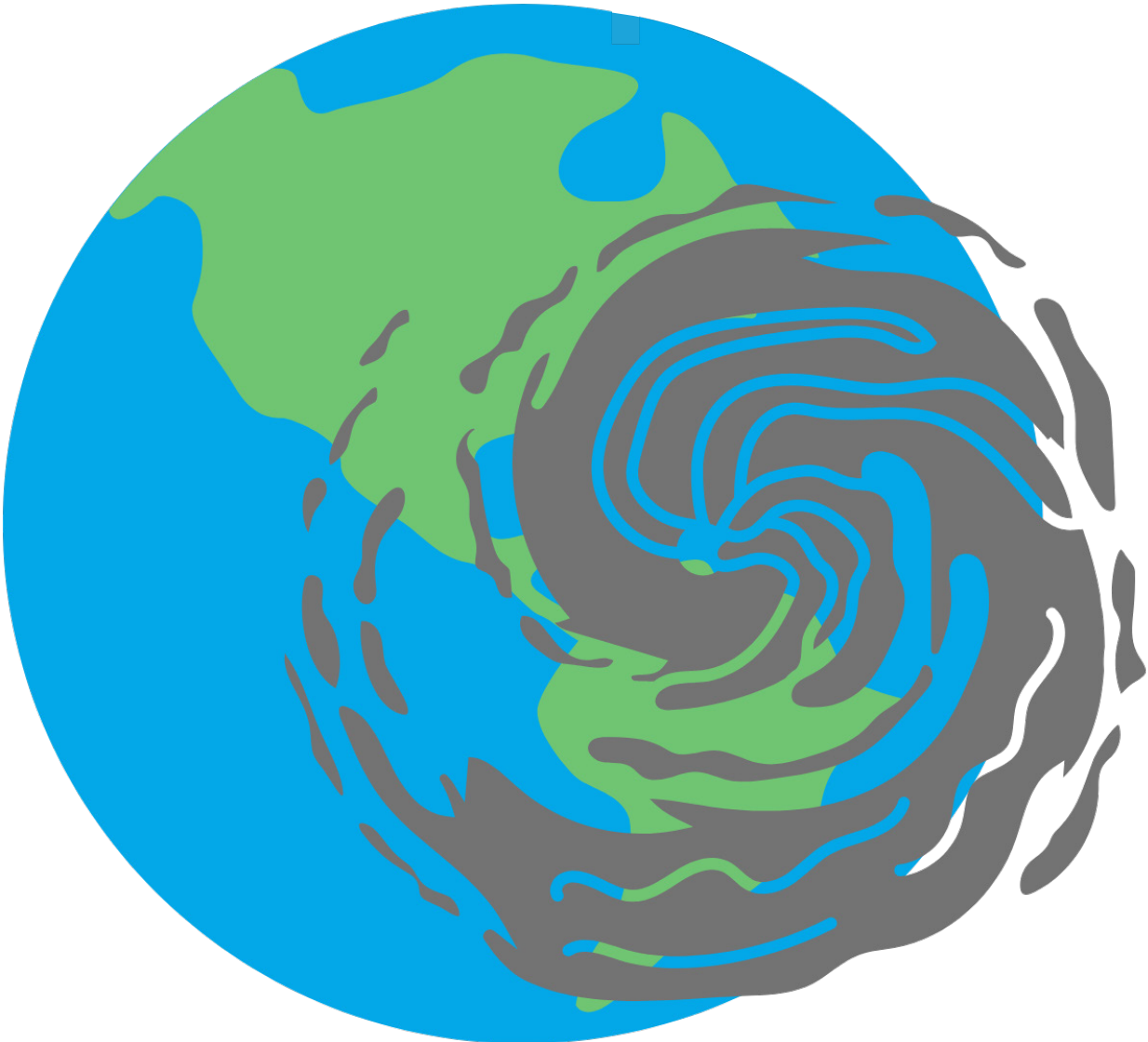
"Certainly we're never going to see what Wilmington is going to see, we are pretty far from the coast and hurricanes slow down as they go over land. Ian in particular had a long path through Georgia and South Carolina before it finally sat down.

We should all be doing a better job of being ready for power outages. How do we make our power system more wind resistant? We don't have much of an issue with flooding here because areas that are close to rivers can see some flooding when the water gets really high really fast. I know Hillsborough got some roads that were getting close to being flooded over just because so much water got dumped in such a short amount of time."

During Hurricane Florence a couple years ago, Elon had more issues with trees that fell down. Do you think that was something Elon learned from and made changes in response to?

"I don't necessarily think we've made many changes. I do think newer buildings are going to have better standards. Thinking about where trees go on campus and about what kind of trees we plant, we did lose some oaks I think in the last big storm. We have a really good team of arborists, but keeping trees pruned in a certain way makes them less resilient or more resilient to getting knocked down here.

You need to think really carefully about how to be more resilient for the future. Future weather conditions are not going to look like the past."



Hurricane Ian foils Family Weekend plans

Weather conditions left some Florida families unable to travel

Sydney Spencer
Elon News Network

As Elon University freshman Addison Fry got ready for classes the morning of Sept. 30, her family — who originally supposed to come for Family Weekend — was still over 600 miles away at home in Orlando, Florida. Hurricane Ian grounded Fry’s family in Florida, and they were stuck waiting out the storm and attending to damage afterward.

“I felt really guilty because I knew that my family had to wade through waist-deep water to get to one of their cars and go check on my grandma,” Fry said. “I felt bad because I was just going about my day here. I was just going to my classes, and everything was totally normal.”

Almost 2,000 families were registered for Family Weekend festivities at Elon University, which took place from Sept. 30 to Oct. 1. But when Hurricane Ian made landfall Sept. 30, the university canceled and postponed numerous weekend activities on campus, and travel plans for many Elon students’ families were interrupted, especially for those from the Southeast.

Upon first hearing of the hurricane, Fry said she assumed it was just another storm that would blow over. Once she realized the severity of the hurricane in Orlando, as well as the potential impact in Elon, she said she grew nervous for the safety of her family.

According to a press release from the city of Orlando, many areas of the city experienced flooding of 14



Elon freshman Addison Fry is from Orlando, Florida. She said being away from her family during severe weather was more difficult than she thought it would be.

or more inches.

“On Friday, I was definitely a little worried about everything,” Fry said. “I was just very nervous that day.”

After back and forth communication, Fry learned her family was safe. But once she no longer had to stress over her family, she said she became concerned about the state of her childhood home, as well as her neighborhood and town she grew up in.

According to Fry, the street her family lived on, the surrounding area and the two lowest rooms in their house flooded.

“Our whole street is flooded,” she said. “The water just has no place to go.”

Fry, who has lived in Florida her whole life, said her family is used to severe weather. as storms hit

the area constantly. Florida leads the country in hurricane landfalls, seeing more than 50 major storms — Category 3 or higher — since 1851, according to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Despite missing her family, Fry said she understood the situation and did not take their absence last weekend personally.

“I knew that they were taking care of stuff back home,” Fry said. “I knew that it wasn’t just a case of, ‘Oh, they didn’t want to come.’”

Fry wasn’t the only freshman whose family was unable to visit this weekend. The Rudd family of Sarasota, Florida, also had a change of plans.

Elon freshman Dani Rudd has a twin sister at the University of Florida, and she said her parents

planned to divide and conquer the simultaneous family weekends. But after evacuating from Sarasota due to the hurricane, neither daughter had a parent present for their events.

Wendy Rudd, Dani’s mother, said this was a difficult realization.

“I felt guilty for not coming because all the parents still seemed to be coming, and Elon wasn’t canceling,” Wendy said.

Following initial forecasts from the National Weather Service, Sarasota residents were advised to prepare for a direct hit from Hurricane Ian. Dani said she was concerned for her family’s safety but was comforted after hearing of their evacuation to Boca Raton in southeast Florida, where much less damage was forecasted.

Having experienced extreme

bouts of weather before, she said she was unphased by the hurricane and is used to adapting at short notice.

“We’re used to this, we’re used to boarding up the windows and hoarding food and things like that, and making sure the generators are working,” Dani said.

After the hurricane changed its path slightly, making direct landfall south of Sarasota near Fort Myers, Dani said her home ended up being relatively untouched. The only damage found was a few inches of water in the backyard and fallen trees throughout the neighborhood.

“My house itself is built to withstand those kinds of hurricanes, but there’s definitely a lot of cleanup to be done,” Dani said.

Similarly to Fry, Dani said she felt out of place, watching her family experience relentless conditions while she was in a different state with different weather patterns. Elon received the brunt of the storm days after Ian made its first landfall.

“It’s obviously different being away from home because here it’s so pretty, and it’s hard to comprehend that it’s so awful down there right now,” Dani said.

Although Wendy was upset that she was unable to see her daughter, she was more relieved that Dani, as well as her twin, were alright.

“I know that they’re safe,” Wendy said. “I have faith in the school, I have faith in the hands of the people that I put my kids in.”

Both families said they are looking forward to long-awaited reunions during the upcoming Fall Break from Oct. 12 to Oct. 16. Fry said she is most excited to see her family and to check in on her home.

“I’m going home for Fall Break,” Fry said. “If they need any help while I’m down there, I’m happy to do whatever I can.”

Storm stalls busy downtown business weekend

Multiple downtown locations lost power because of Hurricane Ian

Avery Sloan
Politics Director | @AveryLSloan

Kimberly Holt, owner of Pandora’s Pies in downtown Elon, said her decision to close early during the hurricane weather for the safety of her employees meant losing out on business from one her business’s busiest weekends of the year.

Holt said Pandora’s Pies lost power Friday morning, causing the business to open late. But after the power came back on, she made the call to close altogether, allowing her employees who live further away to get back home sooner and avoid the worst of Ian’s weather conditions.

“Some of the parents were still like, ‘What do you mean you’re closing early?’” Holt said. “Y’all traveled here in the middle of a hurricane, but my employee safety is more important than making any money.”

Despite having to close early, Holt said sales numbers on Oct. 1 were similar to what her business saw in previous years over Family Weekend.

This was consistent with other businesses in downtown Elon as well. Chris Brumbaugh, owner of The Root and TANGENT Eat + Bar, wrote in an email to Elon News Network his businesses were not heavily affected.

“During open hours this year

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Y’ALL TRAVELED HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A HURRICANE, BUT MY EMPLOYEE SAFETY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MAKING ANY MONEY.

KIMBERLY HOLT
OWNER, PANDORA’S PIES



Campus power outages affected downtown Elon as well, cutting power to stoplights at the intersection North Williamson and East Haggard.

both places were at capacity pretty much,” Brumbaugh wrote. “There are lots of other factors involved, but the numbers ended up being similar to previous years.”

Along with Pandora’s Pies, two other businesses in downtown Elon — TANGENT Eat + Bar and Barnes & Noble — lost power because of hurricane weather. Holt said she would have liked more communication directly from the university. While she has dealt with hurricanes and winter storms before,

Holt never before experienced this during a special event.

“For Elon not to make a decision until Friday afternoon when people’s parents were already in town or on their way to town, it would have been nice if Elon would have made a decision earlier in the week,” Holt said.

Holt said an earlier decision would have impacted her decision to purchase extra products in anticipation of Family Weekend crowds. Now, she is left with an excess

of supplies and perishables, but she said she still feels lucky downtown Elon didn’t lose power for longer.

“I’m grateful that it was only out for three hours. If it would have been off for a whole day, I would have lost a ton of products in the walk-in that just got delivered Friday morning,” Holt said. “We definitely have a lot of stuff that we were prepping. We have a lot of extra stuff that now we’re going to have to figure out what to do with so we don’t waste it because we thought we would have used it.”



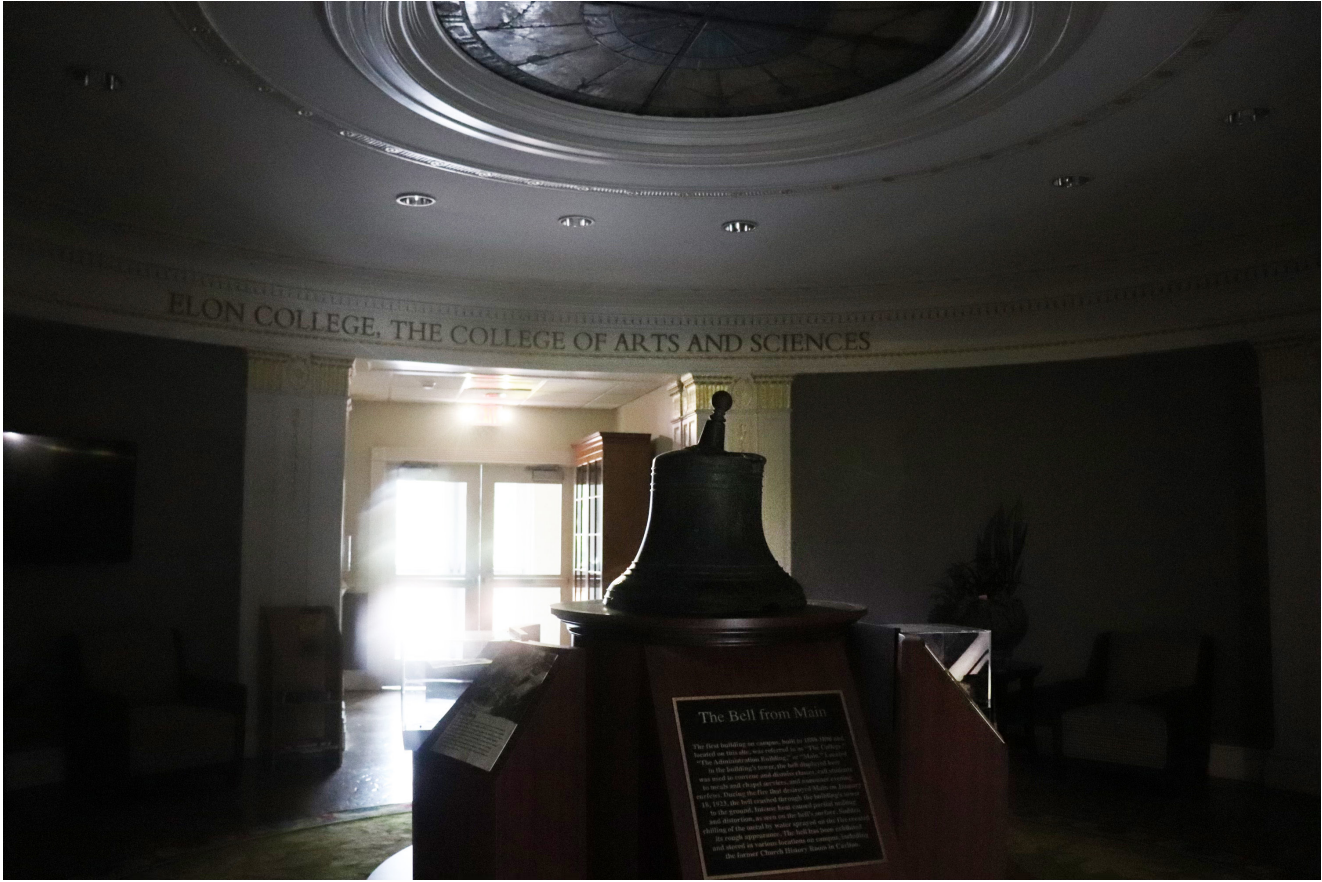
LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A fallen tree smoked on power lines at 613 Williamsdale Road in Graham on Sept. 30 as Hurricane Ian swept through central North Carolina.



ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Facilities Management workers cleaned up leaves and debris after intense wind and rain on the evening of Sept. 30.



ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alamance Building was without power the morning of Sept. 30.



ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rain pooled in front of Lakeside Dining Hall on Sept. 30.

Elon freshman running back Jalen Hampton made the game-winning touchdown in double overtime. Elon beat Richmond 30-24 Oct. 1.



AIDAN BLAKE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Fallen trees were part of the reason for power outages across Alamance County on Sept. 30, including at Elon.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



SYDNEY SPENCER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Global E third floor residence hall was lit by only emergency exit signs during campus power outage Sept. 30.



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A tree lays on the ground on Oct. 1 after it knocked a light pole down on 208 Lee St. in Elon after Ian passed over central North Carolina.

University, students, families work around storm

IAN | from cover

Power on, university off

Though power was restored to all parts of the university by 12:45 p.m., the university closed all operations at 1 p.m. An email from Vice President for Student Life Jon Dooley announced the closure and the subsequent cancellation of all Family Weekend events planned for Sept. 30.

According to Covington, senior staff, safety and police, facilities management, student life, parent engagement, university advancement, auxiliary services, the provost's office and athletics were all involved in the decision to shut down. Discussions began before the power outage, and Friday morning, the group considered changing forecasts, plans from nearby universities and reports from the county Emergency Operations Center before deciding to close.

Covington said though the timing matches up, the decision to close the university was not due to the power outage earlier in the day — though the outage may have influenced it.

"The unexpected power outage that came certainly made us respond a little bit sooner than we might have had to just waiting on the storm," Covington said.

Annmarie said she doesn't understand why the university closed only after electricity was restored.

"We were in total disbelief because, honestly, there were times when the weather was not bad," Annmarie said. "It just felt very last minute."

Of the 14 events planned for Sept. 30, only one happened before the university closed. All of the rest were canceled.

"It certainly was one that we would rather not have had to have made," Covington said. "But looking at the facts and the likelihood of high winds and heavy rains, as well as the input from emergency management officials, we felt that it was the right move to keep people safe."

Saturday and Sunday events were moved inside and went on as planned. Covington said the university is working to reschedule Fall Convocation with speaker Ashley Judd.

Family weekend in flux

Almost 2,000 families registered for Family Weekend, and Assistant Director of Parent Engagement Will Roberson said the storm didn't deter most. The check-in desk saw 1,200 families, and Roberson said it's likely more made it but weren't able to check in while the university was closed on Sept. 30.



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Branches can be seen on the ground between Sloan and West Residence Halls as a result of high winds on Oct. 1.

For parents planning on flying to campus, Roberson said the real barrier was flight cancellations. Friday saw 60 flights canceled at Raleigh-Durham International Airport, 32 at Piedmont Triad International Airport and 26 at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport.

When Vicki Iglesias was notified on Sept. 27 that her Friday flight out of Tampa, Florida, had been canceled, she decided to make the 10-hour drive up to Elon to visit her daughter, junior Anna Iglesias.

"Why do I want to stay here in Tampa, when I know a hurricane's possibly coming and then I might lose electricity or anything like that," Iglesias said.

Many hotels in the area, such as the Inn at Elon and the Drury Inn, offered refunds for cancellations because of the weather. Despite some cancellations, most hotels remained fully booked. Inn at Elon manager Corinne Hollingworth said since many families made it to campus, any rooms opening at hotels near campus were quickly rebooked.

"There were people already in town waiting to get a room," Hollingworth said.

"It wasn't like a mass cancellation for the weekend at all."

Some families, however, did not make it to campus. Cathy Gamberoni, junior Siena Gamberoni's mother, said she and her husband decided to cancel based on weather predictions on Thursday morning. Gamberoni said they waited as long as they could to cancel because they were waiting to see if the university would cancel the weekend out of caution.

"I wanted them to cancel it so I wasn't the one disappointing my daughter," Gamberoni said. "By the time Friday rolled around, and you guys were in it, she got it."

Less damage than possible

Forecasts Friday morning predicted Elon could receive up to six inches of rain, but the storm slowed down, downgrading to a tropical storm before reaching Elon. Raleigh National Weather Service meteorologist-in-charge Jonathan Blaes said being 200 miles inland, Alamance and Guilford counties caught the end of the storm as it faded out, which likely lessened its impact.

"A lot of times with these storms, the impact of what happens is very localized," Blaes said. "So in certain areas, there's a lot stronger winds — and we're talking parts of a town or county neighborhood — the damage may be greater, and in other places, perhaps with better infrastructure, fewer trees, stronger buildings, the damage is often a lot more different."

Elon Fire Chief Landon Massey said the fire department responded to 24 calls between Friday morning and Saturday afternoon — though not all were directly storm related. On average, Massey said, the Elon Fire Department responds to eight to 10 calls each day.

Among the 24 calls were five trees fallen on roads. Austyn Howell, Burlington streets superintendent, said the streets division in Burlington worked throughout the night removing trees and branches from roads. At least four trees fell directly on power lines in Burlington, according to Howell.

Brooks said the majority of damage utility crews saw were broken utility poles

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WE WERE IN TOTAL DISBELIEF BECAUSE, HONESTLY, THERE WERE TIMES WHEN THE WEATHER WAS NOT BAD.

ANNMARIE DARIO
ELON PARENT

and power lines. Across the region, he said, crews replaced more than 40 utility poles and repaired about 100 spans of power line.

Flash flood warnings were in effect throughout Sept. 30, but Blaes said the heavy rainfall didn't produce as many floods as it could have because North Carolina had been in a drought prior to this storm.

Making the best of it

Abagale and Annmarie did the only thing they could think of during the storm: take a walking tour of campus in the wind and rain.

"It was a little bit of survival mode, of not getting blown away," Annmarie said. "We were sopping wet, but making the best of it."

Abagale was named after a strong gust of wind — a fact her mother said is now ironic. After losing everything to Hurricane Sandy living in New Jersey back in 2012, neither mother nor daughter were phased by Hurricane Ian. The family walked to Loy Farm, the Innovation Quad and ended their afternoon at the Inn at Elon.

Both said despite the storm and event cancellations, Friday afternoon was the highlight of their Family Weekend.

"It was just getting to spend time with my family after not seeing them for a month, the excitement that I had for them coming," Abagale said. "Nothing could bring me down from that. I didn't care what was going on, as long as I was getting quality time with my family."



ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students walk on campus with umbrellas during the power outage in the morning of Sept. 30.

BY THE NUMBERS

1,200

families checked in during Family Weekend. Almost 2,000 families had pre-registered before the storm.

60

flights were canceled at Raleigh-Durham International Airport on Friday, Sept. 30.

40+

utility poles had to be replaced by Duke Energy crews throughout the Alamance County region during the storm.

24

calls were responded to by the Elon Fire Department between Friday morning and Saturday afternoon. The department responds to eight to 10 calls a day.

13

Family Weekend events were canceled on Sept. 30 when Elon University closed at 1 p.m. because of the storm.

Father-son duo spruces up campus following storm

A local landscaper enlisted special help to clean up Ian's damage

Erin Martin
Executive Producer of ENN On Air | @ErinMartin35

On the morning of Oct. 1, Chris Breedlove, owner of High Rock Land and Hardscapes Landscaping Company, received a dreaded phone call from Elon University. The university informed him that high winds from Hurricane Ian uprooted trees on campus — the same trees his company had planted only months before.

He quickly jumped in his car to come to campus and replant them, with his son Weston tagging along to fix the landscaping damage.

Although most of Chris and his son's work consisted of replanting trees, he said it's hard to see how quickly the wind was able to lift the trees out of the ground.

"It's somewhat frustrating because you see a lot of hard work going to things and then just in the blink of an eye, things are damaged or destroyed," Chris said.

High Rock Land and Hardscapes has worked with Elon University on many campus projects, most recently, laying sod and landscaping for summer campus construction projects such as the Innovation Quad, Alumni Center and the pathway connecting Danieleey Center to Colonnades neighborhood.

Facilities Management gardener Frank Clapp said Elon began working with Breedlove after he purchased the previous landscape contracting company Elon used. Clapp said Breedlove



Father and son duo Chris and Weston Breedlove replant a tree that had fallen due to wind from Hurricane Ian on Oct. 1.

ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

and his company normally come in and do larger installations of landscaping, sod and trees.

"Breedlove and his company come in and help with a lot of projects on campus," Clapp said. "They do the installation, and then we tend to it when they're done."

Clapp said Chris' efforts on larger projects make his job easier. Although it was hard to predict the impact Hurricane Ian would have on North Carolina, Chris

said he did preparation to prevent his work on local construction projects from being destroyed.

"We put some bales of straw out and just tried to make sure that when the water was running in certain areas that it wouldn't be damaging the ground," Chris said.

But beyond Elon's campus and other sites, Chris said his first priority was the safety of his family. A resident of Brown Summit, 15 minutes northwest

of Elon, Chris lives in a heavily wooded area and said he was concerned about falling trees when the storm hit Friday evening.

"I'm going to be honest, there for a while, I wasn't necessarily worried about projects," Chris said. "We live in the middle of the woods, and I was more concerned about a tree falling on our house than anything at that time. My family and myself took shelter in the basement and just decided to

ride out the storm until we felt safe to come back upstairs."

Chris said he was grateful there was no major damage to his house or any of his company's equipment, though he lost power for over 72 hours and had to rely on a backup generator.

"It was scary there for a little bit, but I made sure everybody was protected and safe in the basement and fired our generator up," Chris said. "We've just been living off of that ever since."

Ian washes out partial fall harvest for local vendors

Some food and flowers will be in short supply following the storm

Ellis Chandler
Executive Producer of ELN | @ellis_chandler

On Craven Smith's farm in Gibsonville, hurricane preparation takes a lot of planning. There's only so much he can do, he said, and as he cleans up debris on his property this week, he and his workers are trying to make up for lost business.

"It's a wash up," Smith said. "They will not do another Family Weekend, and then in the retail business, you never gain a Saturday back."

Smith is the owner of Smith Farms, which grows fruit, vegetables and flowers. The farm is a vendor within the Authentically Alamance Farmers Market network — servicing Elon, Burlington and Mebane. His farm also provides vegetables to restaurants such as Michelle's Kitchen and Table and Da Vinci's Table. Smith said when people cancel reservations and catering orders, it creates a loss of sales for his farm and its suppliers.

"It causes a chain reaction," Smith said. "Through it all, it's great to support local small businesses, and we try to do the same. Part of our suppliers and different things we try to buy are local instead of bigger corporations off the

West Coast, we just try to keep everything local. The lifeblood of the industry is local."

Smith said his end-of-season corn, cantaloupe and watermelon harvests were completely wiped out due to the rain, and his tomato crops suffered damage as well but will likely be fine. Fall growth focuses mainly on pumpkins and mums, but he said those were harvested and put under a shelter before the storm. Smith and his workers are spending this week putting out a fall display at the Smith Vegetable Barn. He said the damage is frustrating, yet he's fortunate.

"On the other hand, you have to look at Florida," Smith said. "When you think it's bad, it's worse somewhere else. You just overlook it and hope for the best and expect the worst."

Clark Norman is also a vendor at the farmers market and the co-owner of Rodwell Roots, a specialty flower farm located in Mebane. He said all of the damage his farm experienced was caused by the wind, and it may take a while to see what's been affected.

"We'll notice more things, especially stems that have been affected or heads of flowers that maybe got weighed down and aren't coming back," Norman said. "That will hopefully give us a good indication of things that are going to rebound or not. It wasn't all that much, but at the same time, it could be a very subtle wind damage that just crooks and makes things a little less clean and



ELLIS CHANDLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Craven Smith, owner of Smith Farms, prices pots of mums in the greenhouse on his farm in Gibsonville. Smith stored most of the mums in a covered shelter before the severe weather and is now putting them in larger pots to help make up for some of the money he lost over the weekend due to canceled farmers markets.

“
IN THE RETAIL
BUSINESS, YOU NEVER
GAIN A SATURDAY
BACK.

CRAVEN SMITH
FARMER

straight.”
The most notable damage was losing eight rows of sunflowers, which had about 400 in each row. Norman said losing over 3,000 of some of his most popular flowers was frustrating.
“They were the most mature plants, but they still couldn't be cut before the hurricane because they weren't ready,” Norman said.
Norman said the only business opportunity he missed out on was

the downtown Mebane market that takes place on Saturday mornings.
“It was very fortunate,” Norman said. “It goes to show that some things can sustain winds, and it all depends on what direction they come from. We're very, very lucky.”
The Authentically Alamance Farmers Market in Elon will take place from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursday afternoons until November. It is located in the Elon Community Church parking lot.

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