

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020  
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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

# THE PENDULUM

# BIDEN WINS

## HOW ARE STUDENTS FEELING?

After four days of keeping the country on edge, election results have been reported in most states, and Joe Biden has made his way to over 270 electoral votes

**Samantha Hess** | Elon News Network

**E** LON UNIVERSITY JUNIOR ANDREA Sheetz was on her way to meet a friend for a walk around campus on Saturday when she felt a familiar buzz from her phone. After four days of waiting, she was shocked to see that CNN had called Pennsylvania in the 2020 presidential race for former Vice President Joe Biden. Sheetz knew what that meant. Biden would be the projected 46th president of the United States.

Sheetz knew the election's results wouldn't come on election night, but said "finally." Having concrete results was a relief.

Biden — a Democrat — has since begun planning for his shift into office with vice president Kamala Harris, who will be the first woman, Black person and South Asian person to hold her position.

See **ELECTION** | pg. 8



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

Joe Biden giving a speech for his campaign at Hillside High School in Durham on Oct 27, 2019. Biden became the 46th president-elect on Nov. 7, 2020.

## Study abroad plans for Elon community put on hold

The pandemic led to the cancellation of many study abroad programs and has significantly altered others

**Jacob Kisamore**

Elon News Network | @jacob.kisamore

Junior Hannah Knapic faced a difficult decision. It was mid-May, and with the coronavirus only continuing to spread, her study abroad plans for the upcoming fall semester hung in the balance. After weighing her options and talking to her advisers, Knapic opted to pass on the trip. Knapic was one of more than 500 students who had planned to study abroad in the fall that had their plans changed.

Knapic had been accepted to spend the fall semester studying in Prague. She would have taken five classes through the program, including three political science courses, a literature course and a history course. She also would have traveled across eastern Europe, with trips to Budapest, Vienna and Warsaw during the semester.

Shortly after Knapic determined she would not be going on the trip, Elon University canceled most fall study abroad programs, making her decision a bit easier to shoulder.

"I was definitely disappointed because the study abroad focus is one of the main reasons I chose Elon," Knapic said. "But under the circumstances, it was pretty easy to accept."

See **STUDY ABROAD** | pg. 5



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY WILBOURNE

Junior Emily Wilbourne visits Bukchon Hanock Village in Seoul.



### NEWS • PAGE 6

Local businesses prepare for break



### LIFESTYLE • PAGE 11

Modifications made to Festival of Holiday Lights



### SPORTS • PAGE 15

Men's cross country team continue practices



# 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.

### CORRECTIONS POLICY:

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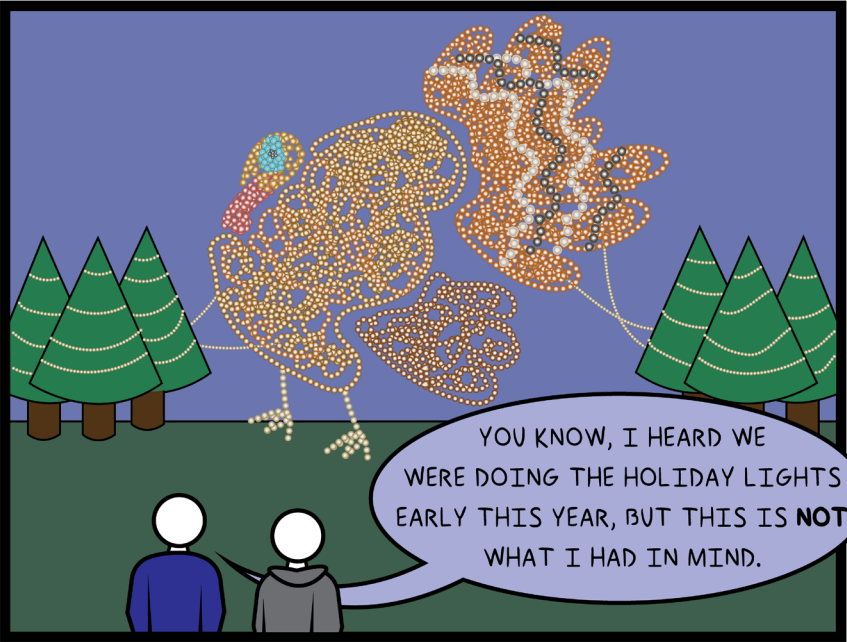
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## CORRECTIONS

In the last edition of the Pendulum, in a story about County Commissioner results, Kristen Powers, a candidate for the Board of Commissioners, had her name spelled incorrectly. Elon News Network regrets this error.

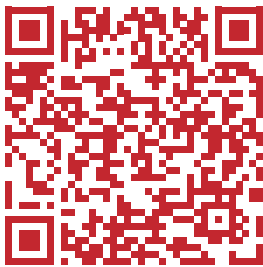
## COMIC

### EARLY HOLIDAY LIGHTS



COMIC SAMS – SAM POROZOK

**SCAN FOR AN ANSWER KEY TO LAST WEEK’S  
CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

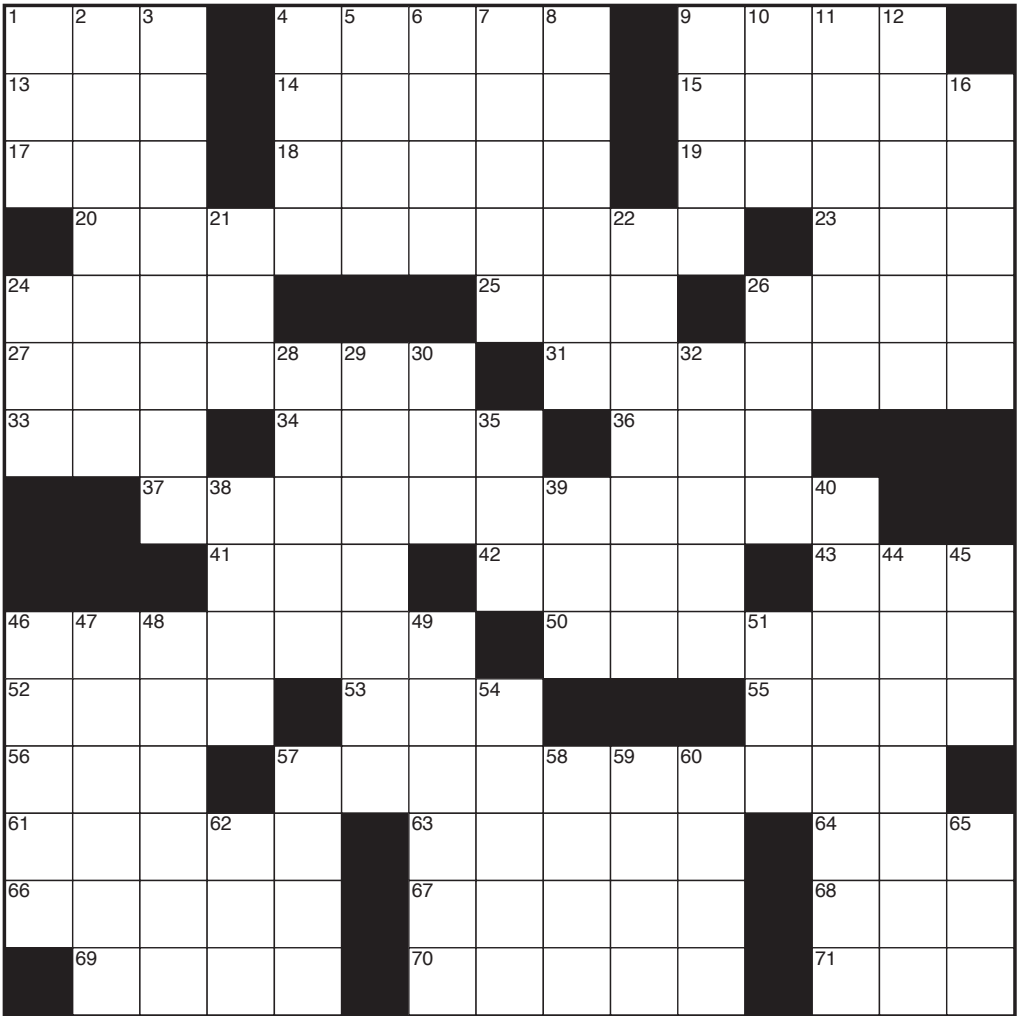


1. Open your phone camera
2. Focus on the QR code
3. Click the pop-up link

## CROSSWORD

### D’oh!

By Thomas Denome



#### ACROSS

- 1 Uneven?  
4 Big fly  
9 Follows alpha  
13 She/\_\_\_\_  
14 Archaic bygone  
15 With 9-across, the last letter in the alphabet  
17 Abbr. for the Eastern Orthodox Church in the U.S.  
18 Openly disregard  
19 Largest town in eastern Oregon  
20 Gynecology partner  
23 Ooh-\_\_\_\_!  
24 Incredibles ally Mode  
25 Period of time  
26 Care for, perhaps excessively  
27 \_\_\_\_ Islands, chain in the Eastern Caribbean  
31 Makes certain  
33 The \_\_\_\_, antiquated way to refer to one's wife  
34 Greek ancestral mother of life  
36 Bury \_\_\_\_ hatchet

- 37 The home of 4-, 19-, 24-, 53-, 64-, and 69-across  
41 Long fish  
42 Steak sauce  
43 "\_\_\_\_ you okay?"  
46 Han Solo claimed to do the Kessel run in 12 of them  
50 Player for Belichick  
52 Aid and \_\_\_\_  
53 Christian school east of L.A.  
55 Latin word for bear  
56 Ideology suffix  
57 Detective  
61 Clogs with a very dirty substance  
63 Ate with vigor  
64 One of the Three Stoges  
66 Northern France city  
67 Tree, the oil of which is used to make medicine  
68 Roman garment  
69 SF metro area public transit  
70 Completely destroyed  
71 Get

#### DOWN

- 1 "What do we have here?"  
2 One who breaks ciphers  
3 Property of something boring  
4 Knife handle  
5 Gaze as a creep might  
6 Redundant  
7 Accustom (to)  
8 What a new AARP member might do  
9 Some women's hairstyles  
10 Aussie farmer enemy  
11 A famous reign of it occurred in the French Revolution  
12 Relative traceable through male ancestry  
16 Urn contents  
21 Woodcutter  
22 Star Wars has a famous scene in one  
24 Tree type  
26 How Hamilton died  
28 Yea vote

- 29 Train  
30 Loud, unpleasant noise  
32 Piece of paper  
35 Grp. for stomach doctors  
38 Bug or little kid, e.g.  
39 Cop brotherhood (abbr.)  
40 Milk deliverer  
44 Common viral infection  
45 Airline abbreviation  
46 One-hundredth of a rupee  
47 Sop up  
48 Type of suckerfish found on sharks  
49 Cause of fear in the faint-hearted  
51 Regret  
54 Flesh above the palate  
57 "Hey! Listen!"  
58 Gets older  
59 What passes as 58-down occurs  
60 City in Oklahoma  
62 Applied before feathers  
65 Partner of flow





Senior Sarina Abraham works outside of Global Commons as she prepares for final projects.

MADISON SHOSTEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



FRANCES O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A butterfly outside of Koenigsberger Learning Center on Nov. 9.



FRANCES O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Lauren Shur, a Carol Grotnes Belk Library staff member, sanitizes a book on Nov. 9.

An activist from outside of Washington D.C. holds up signs to cars in protest of the Trump Administration at the corner of Black Lives Matter Plaza on Nov. 3.



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



# Fall semester changes traditional freshman experience

Freshmen recap their unorthodox first semester experiences at Elon during the COVID-19 pandemic

Cailey Cetani  
Elon News Network | @cailey\_cetani

Freshmen have survived their first semester at Elon University with the fall now coming to a close. Of course, this semester was not a traditional one and had obstacles that no other freshman class has experienced. This includes the COVID-19 pandemic, a tense political situation and a non-traditional semester.

There are over 1,500 freshmen enrolled this year. With the semester looking different than in the past, many freshmen have appreciated being on campus, but some are struggling to balance school work, making friends and staying safe during a pandemic.

With the pandemic shaping how people go about their day-to-day life, it can be a struggle to keep up with all the new restrictions that have been put in place. Since most freshmen live on campus, the new restriction barring visitors in dorms made it harder for them to socialize. In addition, the dropping temperatures and the closure of indoor dining have made it harder to find spots to eat with friends out of the cold.

Freshman Katherine Sloan said she and other freshmen never expected to be on campus this long due to other colleges sending students home after two weeks.

“I didn’t think that we were going to be able to stay at Elon,” Sloan said. “I thought that max, I would be at school for two weeks, and then we’d be sent home. So I think it’s pretty great how we’ve managed to basically have a whole semester and they’ve still tried to have activities.”

William Moner, professor of communication design and faculty director of Historic Neighborhood, said this is a difficult time for everyone, and people cannot always predict what will happen in



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAM MONER

Freshmen residents in Historic Neighborhood show off their pieces from the neighborhood event “Paint n’ Sip” in September.

the future.

“We’re not as adaptable as we think we are,” Moner said. “I think a lot of us are experiencing the same types of challenges this semester ... smaller, more aggravating aspects of life have become a lot louder in the past few months.”

With the university learning more about how students can be more social on campus without exposing students to COVID-19, hopefully there will be more opportunities for freshmen to get involved on campus and make long-lasting friendships. However, for some people the amount of time spent on campus has negatively affected their mental health.

Freshman Devin Guilbeau said the limited amount of breaks for students to relax during an already stressful semester has caused a negative impact on their

mental health.

“It did a lot of mental damage,” Guilbeau said. “Just from going ... from midterm and having just a day break, to go right back into classes. It takes a toll.”

There have been opportunities for freshmen to get involved with events on campus and make friends. Elon has tried to keep up traditions such as Homecoming weekend. Students were able to experience college coffee for the first time in October, and freshmen had a modified convocation, thus allowing for some sense of normalcy to be incorporated into the semester.

Many freshmen, like Sloan, have made friends through living in a dorm. She said she has made most of her friends through talking to her neighbors in her hall.

Guilbeau said that the precautions Elon has taken to help limit the spread of

the coronavirus do not fully protect the population from people who may ignore the restrictions put in place to protect the campus.

“Giving the students a little bit more freedom has unfortunately put us in a worse state than we had in the past,” Guilbeau said “Simply just because kids will unfortunately be kids, no matter if they’re in middle school or college students. They take those freedoms as far as they can possibly go without really thinking of the consequences.”

“

I THOUGHT THAT MAX, I WOULD BE AT SCHOOL FOR TWO WEEKS AND THEN WE’D BE SENT HOME. SO I THINK IT’S PRETTY GREAT HOW WE’VE MANAGED TO BASICALLY HAVE A WHOLE SEMESTER AND THEY’VE STILL TRIED TO HAVE ACTIVITIES.

KATHERINE SLOAN  
FRESHMAN

Provost Aswani Voley said in an email that Elon is continuing with the “engaged” and “experiential” residential model and will keep classes mainly in-person or hybrid in winter and spring terms.

Similar to fall semester, spring term will only have small, one to two day breaks. This will help to contain the potential spread of COVID-19 that might occur if students were to have a week-long spring break like in years past, according to Voley.

Despite the uncertainty of what is to come and the struggles that will come along with it, Sloan still feels grateful to be at Elon.

“I was walking through campus, and it was raining, and the bells started ringing. It felt very peaceful, and the campus looked especially beautiful, and I just knew that I made the right choice to come to Elon,” Sloan said.

With the university learning more about how students can be more social on campus without exposing students to COVID-19, hopefully there will be more opportunities for freshmen to get involved on campus and make long-lasting friendships.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAM MONER

Freshmen participate in Paint n’ Sip held by Historic Neighborhood in September.



# Elon University study abroad programs take a detour

## STUDY ABROAD | from cover

Elon’s study abroad programs adapted to restrictions implemented by other countries due to COVID-19. Worldwide, 52 countries have completely closed their borders to outsiders and 95 countries have partially closed their borders, only letting people from certain places in.

While disappointed, Knapic believes it was best for her to wait to participate in a study abroad program.

“There will be other chances for me to go abroad, and under these circumstances, you’re not going to have the opportunities to make the connections you would during a normal semester,” Knapic said. “I was really afraid that I would regret going.”

There are 19 students — 13 of them undergraduates — currently participating in study abroad or study USA programs. There are seven students abroad in Germany, Rwanda, South Korea and the United Kingdom and six students completing Business Dual Degree programs in France, Germany and Spain. There are two students currently in Study USA programs in Chicago and Washington D.C. and four students are completing physical therapy clinical placements in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado and Pennsylvania.

Shanna Van Beek, the communications manager for the global education department and study abroad, said she knows all students, even the ones currently studying abroad, had their plans altered.

“Every person’s plans have changed because all programs are a little different,” Van Beek said. “Even for the students studying abroad this fall, the experience is not the same as they expected because of COVID-19.”

All winter study abroad plans have been canceled and some programs for the spring semester have been as well. Study USA programs in Washington D.C. and Los Angeles will run, while Elon in New York has been suspended for the spring semester.

There are usually approximately 80 study abroad programs offered for the fall semester, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, around 70 are not happening. Not all of these programs have been suspended, but many did not have Elon students registered.

With the situation constantly fluctuating, Van Beek is not sure if the programs still scheduled for the spring semester will be able to happen.

“I am confident in our processes, but I can’t definitively say if they will happen or not because we won’t know what the situation will look like even a month from now,” Van Beek said.

Van Beek wants students to feel comfortable about studying abroad during these circumstances and is happy to meet with students and their families to help them make decisions that work for them.

“We typically have very high ranks for study abroad programs in terms of participants, but we don’t want any students to be in a situation they are not comfortable with,” Van Beek said.

Junior Emily Wilbourne is studying in Seoul, this semester at Sungkyunkwan University. While it has not been a typical study abroad experience, she is still enjoying the opportunity.

“I’ve felt really safe here despite the pandemic, perhaps because I’ve been in a country with such an aggressive COVID-19 response,” Wilbourne said. “My classes have been mostly virtual, but I’ve still been able to have the best time here. I feel so lucky.”

Wilbourne watched South Korea’s case numbers closely over the summer, and upon finding out that Sungkyunkwan University was not canceling their exchange program, she made the decision to continue with her study abroad plans.

“By the summer, they had contained the virus to a level where I had no qualms about continuing my efforts to study in Seoul,” Wilbourne said.



Junior Emily Wilbourne, one of the 19 Elon students studying abroad this semester, sits in front of the Dongdaemun Design Plaza in Seoul.

PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY WILBOURNE

“

I WAS DEFINITELY DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE THE STUDY ABROAD FOCUS IS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS I CHOSE ELON. BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS PRETTY EASY TO ACCEPT.

HANNAH KNAPIC  
JUNIOR

Junior Alyssa Merritt planned on applying to participate in the public health practicum offered in South India during winter term, but decided last March not to apply.

“I remember being really upset after making the decision. With my busy schedule, the winter term was the only chance for me to go abroad and I felt like I was missing an opportunity,” Merritt said.

Merritt said she was frustrated that the pandemic was limiting her options to advance her education, but understood the implications of traveling abroad under the circumstances.

“Deciding not to apply for the program was like me giving into the pandemic,” Merritt said. “When I was making the decision, myself, like the rest of America, didn’t know that coronavirus was a big deal, which made it tough. But as we know now, it is a big deal.”

Merritt will instead be participating in a domestic practicum in a location that is yet to be determined. While it is not what she originally envisioned, she is excited about the chance.

“I’m really looking forward to the practicum. I had no knowledge of what it was before because I had committed myself to the one in South India, but the domestic one is in an area [of public health] I am more interested in,” Merritt said.

Elon will be offering 10 May Term study abroad options to make up for the canceled winter programs. The travel will take place between May 22 and June 25.

Van Beek said she is appreciative of Elon’s faculty for putting May Term together during such challenging times.

“It’s taken a lot of flexibility and quick pivots from a lot of offices to make it work for this group of students,” Van Beek said. “Every office is willing to provide students with a chance for safe and ethical study abroad and global engagement opportunities.”

### BY THE NUMBERS

52

countries are currently completely closed. Only citizens, residents returning home or people in other special circumstances may enter these countries, according to Kayak.

95

countries are partially closed. Entry into these countries may depend on the traveler’s citizenship or point of origin, according to Kayak.

68

countries have no formal restrictions on entry by air but may have other travel policies in place, such as mandatory testing or quarantines upon arrival, according to Kayak.

SCAN TO READ MORE ABOUT STUDY ABROAD OR VISIT  
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# Local businesses prepare for departure of students for Thanksgiving break



Phil Smith prepares coffee on Nov. 9 at The Oak House. The store remained open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local businesses begin to prepare for an expected downfall in business when students leave campus

**Quinn Corrigan**  
Elon News Network | @quinn\_corrigan

In just a few weeks, North Williamson Avenue will experience a downturn in traffic as students are leaving campus for a winter break longer than usual. Stores such as All That Jas and The Oak House are preparing for this shift in business.

All That Jas owner Michaelle Graybeal said that the past eight months have been hard, but they are hoping for it to get better.

“My dad always would say, ‘when you get to the end of the rope, just tie a knot and hangout,’ so that’s kind of what we are doing,” Graybeal said.

When students left campus in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the store closed and kept its doors shut until August when students returned. Behind closed doors they created their ambassadors program which has the goal of spreading awareness of All That Jas across campus. In addition they used the time to prepare for fraternity and sorority recruitment at the Elon location and various partner universities.

“We are here creating and doing orders traditionally, even during the summer. We have normally been open because we do things for other schools like High Point, who has recruitment in the fall and then other stuff all over the country,” Graybeal said.

Over the break, they plan to do the same. The shop is working on several bulk orders for sororities and fraternities and creating new products and designs. As

of now, they only plan on closing for two weeks during December holidays.

Although they have continued creating they have experienced a nosedive in sales due to a drop in customers. They are down nearly 50% from last year’s sales.

“We have made up more shirts and gotten more things, but if they don’t walk through the door and come shop, then there’s only so much we can do as far as a small business is concerned,” Graybeal said.

Because of issues like this, Graybeal wants students to know the importance of supporting small businesses during a downswing such as the one her store is going through.

One of the biggest issues the store is currently facing is the limitations it has due to its size. With only six people allowed in at a time because of implemented physical distance, several staffing changes were in order. Michaelle said that they have found it most effective to limit the number of workers rather than customers.

“We have gotten to the point where we are here one at a time so that has helped because one of the biggest things is payroll,” Graybeal said.

Despite their steep decline, Graybeal is confident that sales will bounce back during the winter and spring.

Just one wall over at The Oak House, owner Phil Smith said he would rather be “slow for a long time than shut down and not make a dollar.”

Over break they plan to cut down hours and — similar to All That Jas — take a little bit more time off. During the pandemic, Smith has been trying to find the silver lining to the extended winter break.

“The good part of closing is you get a break and we can do some cleaning and get ready for the winter term,” Smith said.

With students making up nearly 90%

of their customers, Smith said The Oak House usually has a plan set before breaks to host events and welcome in more locals. After the campus was nearly vacated in the spring, Smith said that a majority of their profits came from students who had remained at school.

The Oak House has remained open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to keep the drinks flowing, they prioritized making the space safe and comfortable. The bar has become grab-and-go only, and the coffee shop has limited seating.

After seeing the success of the grab-and-go format for the bar, Smith decided it would be best to keep this structure for the fall.

“MY DAD ALWAYS WOULD SAY, ‘WHEN YOU GET TO THE END OF THE ROPE, JUST TIE A KNOT AND HANGOUT,’ SO THAT’S KIND OF WHAT WE ARE DOING.”

**MICHAELLE GRAYBEAL**  
ALL THAT JAS OWNER

“We could have had a seating arrangement that could have worked, but we were like, ‘why would someone want to sit on one side of the bar here and another over there?’” Smith said.

The bar staying closed has also helped lessen the congestion that often occurs at the front door by having arrows on the floor directing customers in and out without too much interaction.

“We try really hard to make it flow because especially in a pandemic, waiting in line is a little bit more of an issue and we have probably lost business because people see the line and don’t want to have to wait,” Smith said.

For now, Smith hopes that students and locals will realize the impact that supporting small local businesses has.

“When people spend money at one place,” Smith said, “it helps us all out.”



All that Jas employee works an afternoon in her shop on Nov.10.

# Alamance County Health Dept. announces new director

Tony Lo Giudice, who currently serves as assistant health director at the Forsyth County Department of Public Health, will assume his responsibilities this month

**Madalyn Howard**  
Elon News Network | @madalynhoward\_

The Alamance County Health Department announced that Tony Lo Giudice will assume the position of Alamance County health director on Nov. 30. The county revealed their choice after a three-month-long search.

Previous Health Director Stacie Saunders — who held the position since 2014 — left the department in July. Saunders joined the Buncombe County Department of Health and Human Services as public health director on Aug. 3, and Alexandria Rimmer, Alamance County’s environmental health specialist, assumed the role of Alamance County’s health director in the interim.

Lo Giudice will serve as the administrative head of the agency, overseeing and directing the county’s public health activity. He has served as Forsyth County’s assistant health director since 2017 and has extensive experience in public service, according to an Alamance County Health Department news release.

Lo Giudice was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1998 after five years of service. He went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in political science from Arizona State University in 2004 and a master’s degree in government from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia in 2007, according to his LinkedIn page.

He served for one year as an assistant to the mayor in Phoenix — he was accountable for briefing the mayor and working on special projects — and three years as a firefighter and paramedic in Mesa, Arizona. He transitioned into administration and public health in 2010 and served as Mesa’s Community Health Program Director before moving to North Carolina in 2017. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in public administration from Capella University in Minneapolis.

Elon News Network reached out to Alamance County’s Public Information Office for an interview with Lo Giudice, but were told he is unavailable until later this month.

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HEALTHDEPT/](http://WWW.ALAMANCE-NC.COM/HEALTHDEPT/)



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ALDERMEN UPDATE

A MONTHLY LOOK INTO THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETINGS

# Board of Aldermen approve special ordinance for Twin Lakes

The board voted on special use permit for a proposed five story building in the Twin Lakes community

**Kyra O'Connor**  
Enterprise Story Coordinator | @ko\_reports

The Board of Aldermen voted this week to approve granting the Lutheran Retirement Ministries a special ordinance to build a five-story apartment project in the Twin Lakes Community campus, which will be the town's first five story building. Teague, Freyaldenhoven & Freyaldenhoven — one firm working on the project — took “a great deal of time and consideration” working on the plans for the building, according to Walt Teague, an architect working on the project.

At five stories, the proposed Twin Lakes building would be the tallest in the town of Elon, although it is unknown if it would be the tallest.

“There’s a lot of character here that makes it a lot more palatable,” Teague said at the agenda setting meeting last week. “The entire campus is so well buffered.”

Last week, the Board of Aldermen discussed moving meetings to a larger venue to accommodate for COVID-19 restrictions such as physical distancing and limited capacity. In the current setting, only 10 people can be inside the board meeting space and four people can be in the lobby. Board meetings are currently broadcast via Zoom to allow for public attendance.

Alderman Emily Sharpe said moving the location of meetings may provide the public an easier way to address the board in-person.

“How do we accommodate the public who shows up, and how do we accommodate the public who doesn’t have access to the internet, or doesn’t have access to join via Zoom?” Sharpe said during last week’s agenda meeting. “We need to not just think about today and next week, but the long-term of this, and how we are going to accommodate the public in the foreseeable future.”

The board decided to continue holding meetings in town hall unless a meeting looks like it could have high attendance.



The Board of Aldermen voted to approve or disapprove granting the Lutheran Retirement Ministries to build a five-story apartment in the Twin Lakes Community campus.

FROM THE MEETING: BOARD OF ALDERMEN VOTES

### Voting on special use ordinance

- Elon's Land Development Ordinance requires a special use permit for any building that exceeds three stories in the public institutional zoning district.
- The university and the Twin Lakes community are the only entities that exist in the public institutional district, which means they are bound to different ordinances than other buildings within the town.
- The proposed building site is the current location of the Coble Creek Skilled Healthcare Building, the first building in the Twin Lakes community constructed in the early 1980s.
- The special ordinance was passed unanimously.**

### Voting on land development ordinance

- The current Land Development Ordinance defines a minor subdivision as less than 10 lots. This type of subdivision can be approved by staff.
- A subdivision larger than 10 lots must receive a recommendation from the planning board and final approval from the board.
- The board voted to approve amending existing language in the Land Development Ordinance, giving the Board of Aldermen greater oversight.**

## Alamance County GOP will vote on vacant commissioner seat

Republican Amy Galey won NC District 24, leaving her seat on the Alamance County Board of Commissioners open

**Kyra O'Connor**  
Enterprise Story Coordinator | @ko\_reports

With 52.53% of the vote, Amy Galey won North Carolina’s 24th Senate District in the 2020 election. But to serve the people of Raleigh, Galey will no longer maintain her seat on the Alamance County Board of Commissioners. The Alamance County GOP executive board will vote on a candidate to finish the remaining two years of Galey’s term in January, according to Chairman of the Alamance County GOP Ben York.

York said as of Monday Nov. 9, only two people had publicly announced their intention to run: Craig Turner, first vice chair of the Alamance GOP, and Michael Trollinger, council member for the town of Green Level.

Because Galey ran as a member of the Republican Party, the GOP will choose who will serve the last two years of her tenure. If the election were partisan, like a school board election, for example, a replacement would not be chosen by the GOP or Democratic Party, as they are not elected by a party.

“If that seat becomes vacant before the

term is up, the party that holds the seat would get to pick the replacement,” York said. “It’s not uncommon here and across the state to have vacancies from time to time.”

According to York a similar situation arose in Alamance County both in 2014 and in 2016.

“

IF THAT SEAT BECOMES VACANT BEFORE THE TERM IS UP, THE PARTY THAT HOLDS THE SEAT WOULD GET TO PICK THE REPLACEMENT.

**BEN YORK**  
CHAIRMAN OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY GOP

The executive board of the GOP will vote on the candidates in January. The process will be open to the public and the press, however there is a public vote for the position.



Amy Galey winning the NC District 24 Senate leaves an open seat in the Alamance Board of Commissioners.





Joe Biden taking photos with his supporters at Hillside High School in Durham on Oct. 27, 2019.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

# Hopes for the future after many firsts in Congress

ELECTION | from cover

“I am honored and humbled by the trust the American people have placed in me and in Vice President-elect Harris,” Biden said in a statement released on Nov. 8. “In the face of unprecedented obstacles, a record number of Americans voted. Proving once again, that democracy beats deep in the heart of America. With the campaign over, it’s time to put the anger and the harsh rhetoric behind us and come together as a nation.”

Sheetz, a co-coordinator for Elon Votes, was pleasantly surprised with record voter turnout seen during this election cycle. Biden received the largest number of votes of any candidate during a presidential election, and Trump received the most votes of any losing presidential candidate in U.S. history. Despite this, the small margins in many states also shocked Sheetz. She expected there to be a longer-than-usual wait for results due to a surplus in mail-in ballots during the pandemic, but that didn’t ease her anxiety surrounding the outcome.

“Turnout is fundamental to a functioning democracy,” Sheetz said.

Sheetz said she expected results to take a while, but still struggled with the anticipation that came with waiting. She experienced a wide range of emotions, from pride to fear and “every emotion in between.”

This victory was the culmination of a tumultuous year in which many Americans were uneasy about the outcome of the election and what those results could mean for the future. A survey conducted by Elon Poll found that 74% of a sample of North Carolina voters were at least somewhat concerned about violent outbursts following the election.

This was a landmark election for some young voters as many of them got to vote for a president for the first time. As of Nov. 10, North Carolina’s presidential results still have not been finalized, but Trump has a 1.3% lead with 98% of votes reported according to NBC.

In a projection from The Economist, Biden was expected to have a 97% chance of



WE CAN SLOW DOWN A LITTLE BIT, BUT WE STILL HAVE WORK TO DO. THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE WHO NEED TO BE HEARD, AND WE REALLY NEED TO KEEP PAYING ATTENTION, KEEP KNOWING WHAT’S GOING ON, KEEP HAVING AN OPINION AND KEEP VOICING IT.

ANDREA SHEETZ  
JUNIOR

gaining enough electoral votes to win. The New York Times predicted that for a Biden presidency, he would have to win states such as Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. While Wisconsin and Pennsylvania came down to a 1% margin difference between the two candidates, Biden prevailed in those states.

“I think a lot of us expected it to be a wider margin of victory for either candidate, and that’s something that I’ve kind of struggled with personally,” Sheetz said. “I was like, ‘why was this election so close?’ But then again, I also think it’s hard to say what other people are voting on if you don’t necessarily have that same background.”

The other co-coordinator of Elon Votes, sophomore Trevor Molin, was uncertain surrounding the outcome of this election, especially following polling results from the 2016 presidential election. In most 2016 polls, Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton was projected to have a large margin of victory but ended up being defeated by Trump. Many polls this year leaned a similar way for Biden.

Sophomore Ethan Rau had a similar feeling surrounding polling data, and was more invested this year in the Congressional races rather than the presidential one. Rau is the public relations chair for Elon College Republicans, and was not shocked by Biden’s close victory.

“Without coronavirus, I think Trump would have had a bigger advantage going into the race, and there was a lot of tension this summer with Black Lives Matter,” Rau said. “No matter what you think about Trump’s policies, he’s a pretty divisive guy.”

Rau said he hopes some of the aggressive political discourse seen over the past year will slow down a bit with Biden in office, but worries that stubborn partisan differences may get in the way.

Molin said he expects a Biden presidency to lead to a different perspective in the executive office than what he’s experienced since Trump has been president. Molin said he is also optimistic of the results that came from many state races as well, specifically those for the U.S. House of Representatives.

“I want to see America’s government look

more like what America looks like in terms of who’s in the House and the Senate,” Molin said. “Looking at a lot of the outcomes from the House races, there’s been a lot of firsts, and that’s something that I’m happy to see.”

Women have claimed 135 Congressional seats as a result of this election — more than ever before — and many state assemblies elected their first LGBTQ and BIPOC representatives. Ricky Hurtado won the race in North Carolina’s 63rd House District against Stephen Ross, making him the first Latino ever to be elected to the North Carolina General Assembly. Another major first happened in Delaware, where Sarah McBride was elected to state Senate, making her the first transgender state senator in U.S. history. She currently is the highest-ranked government official in the U.S.

With many results tallied this weekend, some races still have not finished. Georgia will have two Senate runoffs on Jan. 5: one between Republican incumbent David Perdue and Democrat Jon Ossoff and the other between Republican incumbent Kelly Loeffler and Democrat Rafael Warnock. These races are of the utmost importance to both parties as they will decide the Senate majority.

Going into the election, Rau was most excited about the Senate races because of the hope they hold for the Republican Party. If the Republicans lose their Senate majority this year, both the executive and legislative branches of government will be controlled by Democrats.

While having a final outcome in the presidential election has given many voters solace, Sheetz believes people need to be vigilant in the upcoming months with the election results and issues that may arise in the future.

“I hope that people are paying attention all the time, not just every four years. Yes, we got to this point and this may be a finish line, but the work doesn’t stop here,” Sheetz said. “We can slow down a little bit, but we still have work to do. There are still people who need to be heard, and we really need to keep paying attention, keep knowing what’s going on, keep having an opinion and keep voicing it.”



# VOTER TURNOUT SURGES IN ALAMANCE COUNTY

By Election Night there were over 13,500 more voters in Alamance County in 2020 than in 2016

**Anna Terry & Grace Terry**  
Elon News Network

Over 13,500 more Alamance County residents voted in the 2020 presidential election than the 2016 contests as of Election Day, according to the North Carolina Board of Elections. It was estimated that over 98% of votes have been reported in Alamance County by the New York Times.

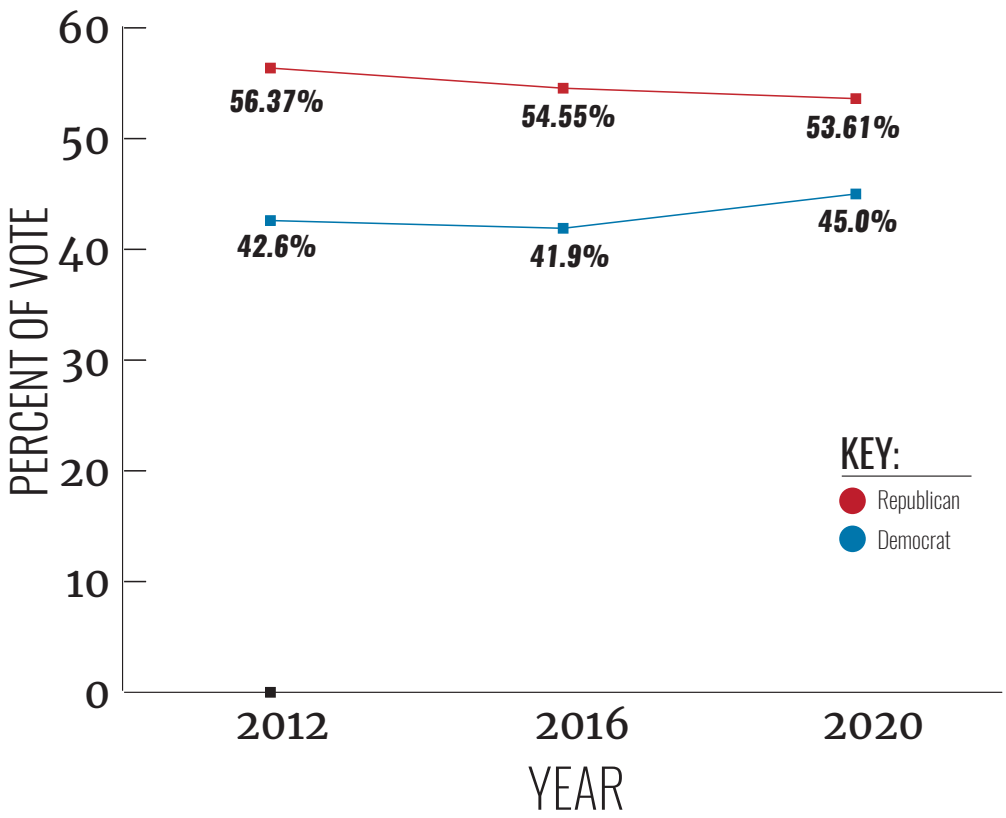
53.61% of Alamance County voters cast their ballot this year for President Donald Trump and 45% of people voted for President-elect Joe Biden, capturing about 3% more of the vote than former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton did in 2016. Trump received about 2% less of the total vote in Alamance

County than he did in 2016. Not only did the number of Alamance County voters increase in 2020 compared to the past two elections, but absentee ballots also increased as a method for voting. In 2020, about 14,500 people voted via absentee mail-in ballots, while in 2016 about 2,700 people voted using this method, a 438% increase. 66.4% of the mail-in voters in the county were affiliated with the Democratic Party as of Nov. 10.

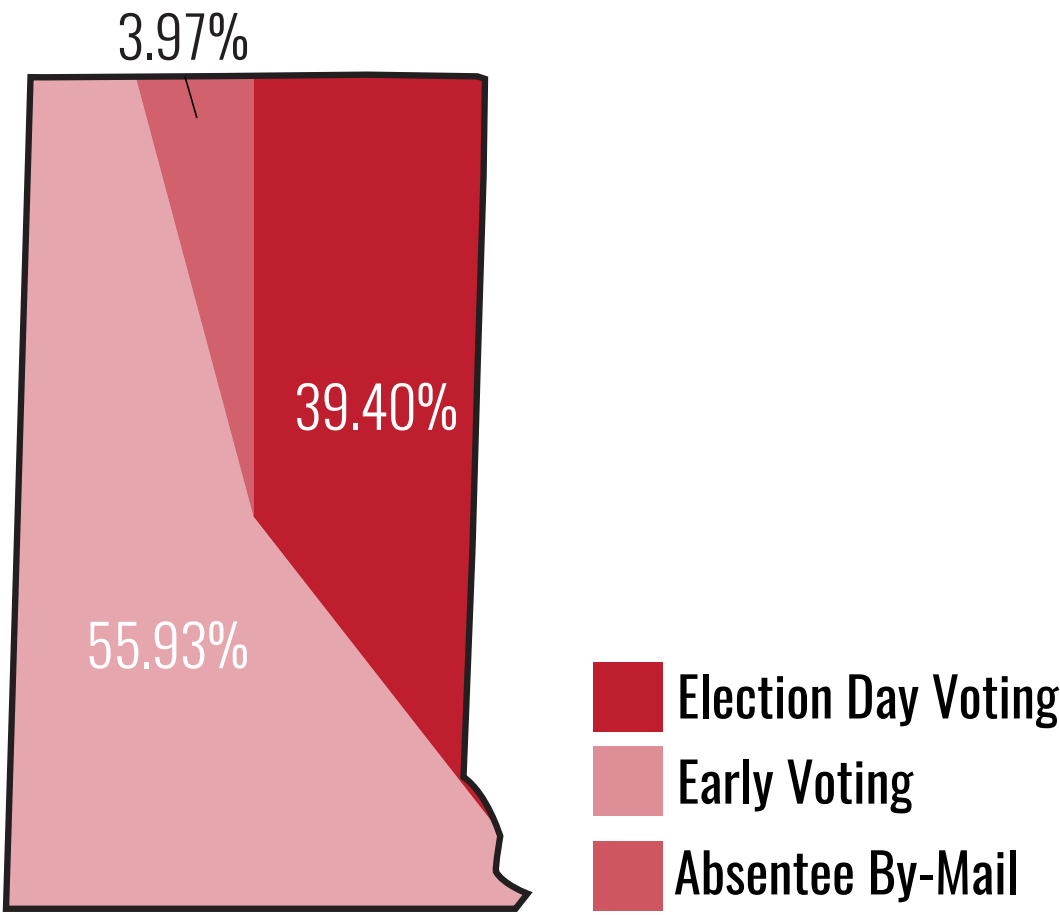
When looking at the state as a whole, 49.92% of North Carolina residents voted for Trump and less than 2% of votes separated Trump from Biden, who received 48.60% of votes.

With a more politically charged election, over 700,000 more North Carolinians voted in the 2020 election compared to the 2016 election. Counties have until Nov. 13 to finish counting ballots, however the results will not be final until Nov. 24.

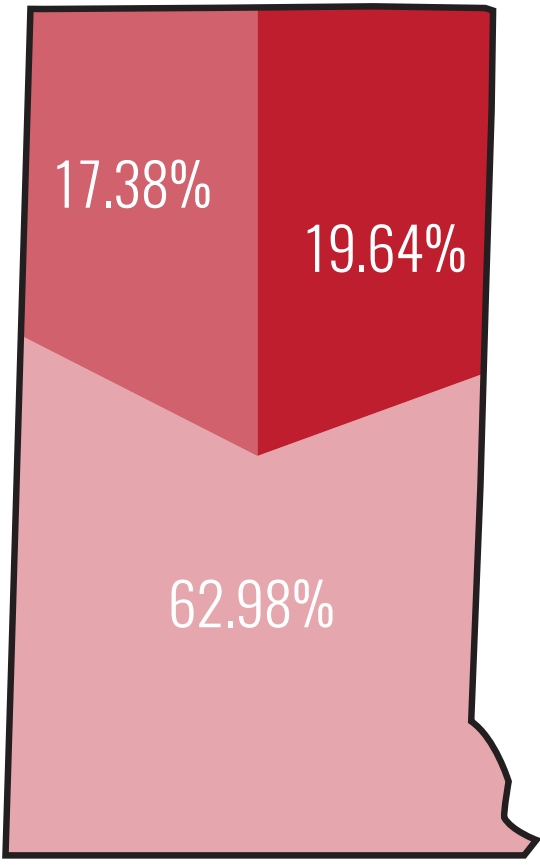
PERCENT OF TOTAL VOTE FOR MAJOR PARTY CANDIDATES IN ALAMANCE COUNTY SINCE 2012



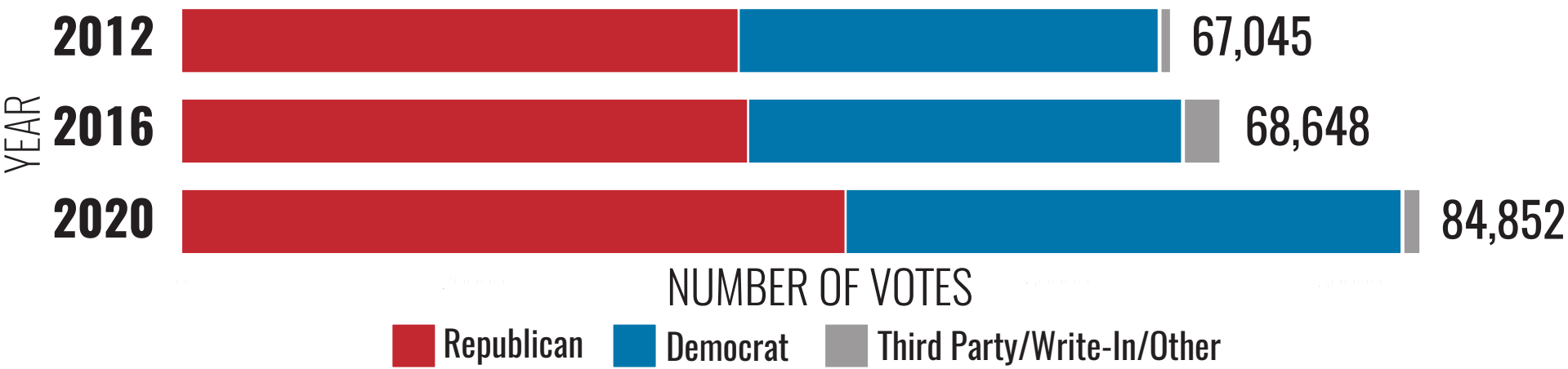
METHODS ALAMANCE COUNTY RESIDENTS USED TO VOTE IN 2016



METHODS ALAMANCE COUNTY RESIDENTS USED TO VOTE IN 2020



NUMBER OF VOTES IN ALAMANCE COUNTY BY YEAR



TED THOMAS | DESIGNER

\*All 2020 results are reported as of Nov. 3 at 10:27 p.m. Results in North Carolina will be finalized by the State Board of Elections on Nov. 24. The New York Times has estimated that over 98% of votes have been counted in Alamance County.



# OPINIONS



## ‘I AM CHANGE’ MARCH SHIFTS MY VIEW OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

A demonstrator at the “I Am Change” march lays on the ground during the 8 minutes and 46 seconds in silence in honor of George Floyd on Oct. 31.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

### CAMPUS VOICES



Alex Covello  
Senior

About 60 years ago, the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s was in full swing. Giants like the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., John Lewis and Angela Davis led the country through protest and civil disobedience, trying to make a necessary change to help end systemic racism.

They gave speeches about reaching their dreams. They crossed bridges hand-in-hand, awaiting their inevitable arrests, with police officers standing by with dogs, hoses and guns. They rode buses Ku Klux Klan members waited to burn. They spoke out against governors and American politics and policies. They boycotted. They protested. They used their First Amendment rights to freedom of assembly, petition and speech to try and change the future for all.

Now here we are 60 years later. I am currently a 21-year-old Elon student and a leadership fellow. My fellows program has studied in depth the civil rights movement through our mandatory courses over the last four years.

During Winter Term my sophomore year, the Elon leadership fellows took a course — Disarming Injustice — in which we traveled to both Georgia and Alabama visiting major landmark locations of the civil rights movement. We also visited museums dedicated to history and education about civil rights. We walked the bridge in Selma, Alabama with a woman who herself first did the walk. We met Martin Luther King Jr.’s sister while attending the church where he once was a pastor. We toured countless museums and saw the unseen photos from the assassination of King.

We cried. We discussed. We saw the past. We talked about the future. We became inspired, hoping to continue to make a change.

The following year, I took a course pursuing my studies in a sociology class explicitly dedicated to the protests of the 1960s, especially those of the civil rights movement. We studied the methods of how the activists practiced civil disobedience, their mindset, their motive, their outcomes and how we can apply those to protesting today.



FOR THE FIRST TIME, I SAW A SMALL GLIMPSE INTO WHAT IT CAN BE LIKE TO BE A PERSON OF COLOR. MOST PEOPLE LIKE ME, DON’T EVER FEEL THIS FEAR, AND EVEN SO, I KNOW WHAT I FELT DOES NOT HAVE ANY COMPARISON.

ALEX COVELLO  
SENIOR

And that’s exactly what I hoped to do last week when my friends and I attended a “March to the Polls” protest in Graham. On Oct. 31, my friends and I set out to exercise our rights of freedom of expression and assembly under the First Amendment. We began our march walking into downtown Graham, past crepe shops and vintage stores en route to Alamance County’s Historic

Courthouse.

As we marched, we chanted the names of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd — whose family was in attendance — and the many others who were victims of racial injustice. We were a united force walking peacefully, overwhelmed with emotion and feelings, hoping for change and surrounded by those who felt the same.

Once we arrived at the courthouse, we stopped right in front of the Confederate monument that sits in the middle of the town square. Leaders of the march began to speak, and we all together knelt in silence for 8 minutes and 46 seconds in honor of George Floyd’s memory. I looked around and saw people crying, holding each other, laying completely on the floor, praying, thinking and taking it all in. We sat together, in peace, until it was time to get up and continue our march. As we stood and began to disburse to the sidewalks, chaos quickly erupted.

Pepper spray was deployed by the police — and soon my friends and I, along with the rest of the crowd, were running. It seemed as though we had been gassed for no reason. I could not stop coughing. My throat felt like I was not getting air into it.

An older woman came up to my friends, crying, asking for water and medical help. We helped her until a trained professional arrived while little children in their Halloween costumes were crying from the spray.

But the crowd persevered. We stayed there. And things just got worse. The protest stayed peaceful as we followed police order and remained on the sidewalk. We listened to the speakers, we heard from elected officials, we stood in solidarity, we prayed and we asked to be heard. Our peaceful protest was met with Alamance County

Sheriff officers standing like a wall in front of us with guns in their hands.

Soon, things again turned violent. Young protesters, journalists and members of the community were arrested. Protest leaders and children were pepper-sprayed. Disabled people were pepper-sprayed and so much more. Officers put on face masks before continually spraying the crowd with gas again. All of these actions were taking place unprovoked while peace was being preached.

Things at the march continued to escalate while my friends and I were told by officers we have to leave. It was 1 p.m. The protest was supposed to last until 2 p.m. The marches never made it to the polls.

During the car ride home, my friends and I were all processing and reacting differently. Some of us sat silently, taking in what we had just experienced. Some were crying over the injustices. And some were talking about their feelings and trying to understand. As for me, I sat there, shocked, horrified; trying to comprehend what just happened.

I am a white 21-year old blonde, blue-eyed middle-class white girl from New Jersey. I attend a private university. I have rarely ever been afraid for my safety, but that day, I was terrified.

I sat there and I thought, this is it. This sums it all up. I was afraid today of the people whose jobs are to protect me. For the first time, I saw a small glimpse into what it can be like to be a person of color. Most people like me don’t ever feel this fear.

George Floyd lived with this fear every second of every minute of his life, as did Breonna Taylor and Trayvon Martin. But, they shared those fears with those giants of the civil rights movement. They felt that fear every second of their lives and not just for one hour.



# LIFESTYLE

## ELON UNIVERSITY REENVISIONS FESTIVAL OF HOLIDAY LIGHTS



BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students watch the lights turn on at last year’s Festival of Holiday Lights on Dec. 3, 2019. This year’s festival will have a different format due to the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Elon University’s annual Festival of Lights event has been moved to Nov. 17 with modifications

**Jinger Callwood**  
Elon News Network | @jingerccallwood

With shining lights, holiday music and warm drinks, the Festival of Holiday Lights is a tradition that gets people in the holiday spirit by gathering the Elon community to kick off the holiday season.

Typically, students assemble in front of Alamance Building for an evening of live music, hot chocolate, apple cider, snacks and an appearance from Santa Claus. This year, students will have access to a virtual component including QR codes to help guide them to different stations set up throughout the Academic Village.

Chaplain Jan Fuller said in an email the festival has been moved due to the chance of rain on the original date Nov. 12. The event is now expected to be held on Nov. 17.

The festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. Luminaries containing small lanterns will be lined throughout campus and lights will decorate the trees on Scott Plaza.

According to Fuller, Festival of Holiday Lights coordinators partnered with various campus organizations and will incorporate spread-out stations focusing on religious holidays and how they celebrate light. The stations will highlight Kwanzaa, secular identities, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism and Diwali, as well as the LGBTQIA community.

The event will reportedly not host live performances this year to minimize crowding. In years past, a capella and other musical groups across campus performed throughout the night. This year, prerecorded music from the a capella groups going off the theme of enlightenment will be incorporated into the event.

“I am also very happy to report that all of our a capella groups have worked together, under the leadership of Liam O’Connor, to



BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Luminaries line the walkways honoring alumni and students from years past at the 2019 Festival of Holiday Lights.

record an album that is scheduled to drop on the 17th,” Fuller said.

Sophomore Caroline DiGrande — an interfaith intern with the Truitt Center — is co-leading the event this year. DiGrande said the community aspect of the event is one of the reasons she got involved with the planning.

“I just thought it was so cool to have such a big event that brought so many community members together,” DiGrande said. “[It’s] a really beautiful time for us to celebrate before we leave for our winter vacation, so I really wanted to be a part of planning.”

Sophomore Katie Norman — an interfaith intern and Festival of Holiday Lights co-leader — said she is looking forward to the event because it will provide a space for students and faculty to unite.

“We want it to be a place where Elon students can kind of take a break from the stress of finals and work and enjoy a little semblance of community,” Norman said. “We just want people to know that, yes, it will still be happening this year, and we are very excited for what will be in store.”

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### PARTNERS WITH THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

- THE CENTER FOR RACE, ETHNICITY & DIVERSITY EDUCATION
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- KAPPA DELTA
- LUTHERANS, EPISCOPALIANS AND FRIENDS
- CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRIES
- ELON HILLEL
- EMPRESS PAN-ASIAN WOMEN’S CLUB
- IRON TREE BLOOMING
- SPIRIT & PRIDE
- OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY
- ELON MUSLIM SOCIETY



# WRAPPED UP IN A Reusable bow

Tips on how to be sustainable during the holiday season in the COVID-19 pandemic

Rebecca Betterton | Elon News Network

AS THE LEAVES CHANGE and students prepare for finals to begin, it marks the beginning of the upcoming holiday season. Kaitlynn Dixon, Elon University senior and the eco-rep for the school's sustainability program, is preparing to celebrate — sustainably.

In a typical year, students are likely to see Dixon and other eco-reps educating students across campus and handing out sustainable gift supplies, but due to physical distancing regulations, their approach to the holidays had to shift. They have been providing virtual advice and giving smaller

tours regarding green initiatives around campus. Overall, their event schedule has been less feasible.

Dixon — who serves as the student coordinator for the organization — is passionate about educating students on sustainable practices and notes that these actions cannot be forgotten during the holiday season.

“Sustainability, at the root of it, is about preserving future generations and keeping our Earth here for the future,” Dixon said.

As Dixon noted, with an increase in the consumption of single-use items due to the

COVID-19 pandemic, it is a crucial time to be aware of the amount of waste being created. Not only will practicing sustainable methods during the holiday season help future generations, but it can also benefit people financially. It is much more cost-effective to use things already around people's homes when it comes to wrapping and giving gifts, according to Dixon.

If interested in learning more about sustainable practices on Elon's campus, eco-reps are available by email at [sustainability@elon.edu](mailto:sustainability@elon.edu) or on their Instagram page @elonsustainability.

## REUSE MATERIALS

Use fabric, newspaper or old shopping bags to wrap any holiday gifts



Americans throw away 25% more trash between Thanksgiving and New Years

## AVOID PLASTIC

Avoid the use of single-use plastic at any meals or gatherings



COVID-19 has led to a major increase in the amount of single-use plastics items

## WASTE LESS

Only cook food that will be actually eaten



By only preparing what will actually be eaten, less food waste will be created



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

# Hong Kong Chinese: a rebound for Burlington Chinese food



Jack Chambers  
Senior

This week, I wanted to redeem the Burlington Chinese scene and try somewhere new. I had Hong Kong Chinese, a restaurant near Harris Teeter, and was not disappointed by my meal. This was also a recommendation from reader Melody Harter, so thank you to her for that.

I changed up my order this time after doing General Tso's Chicken from Peking House. I opted for some chicken and cashews and steamed dumplings, and I was very happy with my choice.

I picked up the food this time, and it stayed fresh until I got home, which was great for a take-out meal. The dumplings were tremendous. Steamed dumplings are very hard to get right between filling-to-wrapper ratios and cooking them correctly. Let me say definitively that these dumplings got it all right. They were soft to the touch, yet held their shape under pressure, and the filling was utterly delightful. The meat was well-seasoned and juicy when I bit into it, and the dipping sauce was strong and added a flavor instead of watering them down. The wrappers were soft and sticky without falling apart and added a new dimension to the dumplings.

The chicken and cashews were great too. The chicken was crispy and tasty in a way that did not require them to be coated in sugar and MSG. The warm chicken was balanced nicely with a light sauce that glazed both the chicken and nuts in the dish. Not only that, there was a generous amount of cashews, which allowed me to have some the whole way through the dish, not just the first couple bites.

JACK'S SCORE  
**6.5 of 10**  
Every week the restaurant reviewed is given a score out of 10

Finally, the sleeping giant were the vegetables in the dish. They retained the snap and crunch of a raw vegetable but had a brilliant sheen with the sauce as well that kept me looking for more. The celery was good for texture, the carrots were light and sweet and the mushrooms added a funkiness that really tied it all together.

As far as the rice is concerned, it was good, not great. But that is about all you can ask of plain rice. It was done well, and it stayed in the background to do its basic job of adding a starch to the meal. However, try adding the leftover dipping sauce from the dumplings to really bring it to life.

As far as Chinese food is concerned, this was top notch, and I was very impressed. I thought there were a lot of good elements that created a product worth more than the sum of its components. One unfortunate side note was that I ordered crab rangoons that they forgot to place in the bag, but that is not a demerit for the rest of the food. Overall, I would score Hong Kong Chinese a strong 6.5 out of 10.

If you have any recommendations for reviews please feel free to contact me at [jchambers5@elon.edu](mailto:jchambers5@elon.edu).



JACK CHAMBERS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Chicken and cashews and white rice from Hong Kong Chinese in Burlington.

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# SPORTS



Members of the Elon women’s cross country team compete in a meet during the fall of 2019. The team would go on to win the CAA championship later that year.

THOMAS DENOME | CHIEF COPY EDITOR

## LOOKING FORWARD TO FINISHING STRONG

The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed the women’s cross country team, but they are still running hard

**Hope Suire and Caitlin Rundle**  
Elon News Network

Bridget Kanaley and Kelley McCarten, seniors on Elon University women’s cross country team, had the news broken to them in the summer that their season would be delayed. Although tough to accept, Kanaley and McCarten put in perspective that there were bigger issues regarding the COVID-19 pandemic than their season getting delayed. “With how things ended up in the spring, it was definitely something we’ve been thinking about just because we knew in the grand scheme of things ... our cross country season wasn’t as important as people’s health and safety,” she said. “But again, as seniors, it was upsetting, and it took some adjustments.”

As seniors, Kanaley said they’ve had lots of positive experiences in the past four years. She said that the biggest challenge has been accepting the fact that this season is going to be different than the others, despite their hope that their last year would be the best year.

“Once we kind of got over that, and were happy with what we have right now, it was fine,” Kanaley said.

McCarten’s biggest challenge has been re-understand “what is acceptable” and how their situation can play out.

“I feel like now that we’re moving forward with the year, it’s definitely gotten easier. We’re heading home and we’re excited for what’s to come with cross country,” McCarten said.

Cross country is one of the least contact-driven sports at Elon, so the COVID-19 protocols have been easy to adapt with. Members of the cross country team are placed into small groups — usually with the

women they live with or spend the majority of their time with. When in these groups, they are allowed to remove their masks while training. However, when the team comes together, the masks go back on.

“All of our large team interactions are masked up,” McCarten said. “When we are in the weight room or any type of activity like that, we are masked up so it doesn’t really feel like we are together or a team.”

However, because cross country is such a low-contact sport, Kanaley and McCarten said they feel lucky because they can easily train alone.

“

EVEN WHEN THINGS ARE IN THE VERY WORST, YOU CAN ALWAYS GO OUT ALONE AND GO FOR A RUN AND GET YOUR TRAINING.

**BRIDGET KANALEY**  
SENIOR

“Even when things are in the very worst, you can always go out alone and go for a run and get your training,” Kanaley said. “So that’s been really nice.”

Kanaley also said that communication between the team and athletics administration since the postponement of the season has been good, especially with regard to what they could and couldn’t do with regulations set forth by the Colonial

Athletic Association.

“Something we’ve talked a lot about is kind of post-winter break and our upcoming season,” she said. “The administration among athletics, like, they would love to see us compete in the sport that we love.”

Kanaley said the team has been able to bond together through practices, and once they are at practices, they try not to think about anything else. McCarten said the hardest part about this season is doing things differently than in previous seasons. She said the team has been able to bond over adjusting to their new normal together.

“We’re working together and being positive for each other. In terms of the freshman, you definitely feel bad for them. And we kind of just remind them that like this isn’t normal and we’ve had success in the past and, like, we will get that back,” she said.

### A winter season

The women’s cross country team was officially told that their season will be happening from January to March. McCarten said the season will be brief, with not as many chances for meets. Since joining the CAA, the team has competed in five to seven meets per year, including the CAA Championships meet and NCAA regional Championships. They are still unsure as to what the policies will be at the meets as well. Kanaley said that the only concrete meet right now is a conference meet, with the possibility of one or two smaller meets with local teams.

Kanaley said the team is excited for the chance to compete once again. The team looks strong right now, something she said is impressive considering what they have had to go through.

“Coming off of last year, we’re really confident, and having that set date in mind and knowing we’re going to get our chance is super motivating,” she said. “We just have to keep reminding ourselves that this is going to happen.”



# MEN’S CROSS COUNTRY HOLDS STRONG DESPITE PANDEMIC



Elon University’s men cross country begins a meet in their fall 2019 season. They have continued to practice despite not being able to compete in CAA competitions during the fall of 2020.

THOMAS DENOME | CHIEF COPY EDITOR

The men’s cross country team continues practice as COVID-19 restrictions stop sports competitions

**Max Crider**  
Elon News Network | @mcrider9161

Normally, around this time of year, the Elon University men’s cross country team would be past the Colonial Athletic Association Championships and would be preparing for the NCAA Southeast Regional Championships. COVID-19 had other plans, however.

The pandemic has delayed the start of the season for many fall athletes, stopping players from practicing with each other. Despite this, the cross country team has been able to get back on its feet without a normal season.

They are looking to build on a third-place finish at the CAA Championships last fall and a 25th-place finish at the NCAA Southeast Regional Championships. The training regimen does not slow down for Andrew Miller, junior and newly-minted captain of the men’s team.

“We’ve still been doing all our running. It’s still a time commitment,” Miller said.

Miller, a member of the team since he first set foot on campus, battled through injuries to earn the title of captain, and even though this is not his final season, he still felt stung by not getting to finish last season because he suffered an injury. He likened the situation to “a slap in the face.”

The team has not had any university-sanctioned practices since the COVID-19 pandemic forced Elon to restrict campus

activities, yet cross country, because it consists solely of running, is not as hard to keep in shape for, according to Miller. He said he and his teammates have still been able to train by running long routes.

“Even though we haven’t had the official practice with [coach] Kevin [Jermyn] the entire time, nothing has really changed fundamentally in our training. We’re still progressing the way we normally would throughout a season,” he said. “We’ve had a couple of time trials, we make sure we get our workouts in twice a week, plus a long run every week.”

There is, however, a side to Miller that wanted a break. The other silver lining in this delay of the season aside from still being able to enter races is the opening in his schedule.

“It’s been really nice to just sleep in, make sure I get all my work done, still get all my miles, but not be stressed out about when exactly it happens,” Miller said.

Beyond being captain, he has made the All-CAA team in both seasons he has run for Elon. Despite his success, he is taking a more “wait and see” approach to whether he will make a living out of running. He said he plans to complete his major in exercise science, but if he becomes a good enough runner to garner sponsors, he would go down the path of professional running instead.

“I am not planning on stopping running. At this point, I don’t see a path forward towards a professional career right now. There will have to be some serious breakthroughs,” he said.

One final upside Miller pointed out was the opportunities that are still out there to stay in shape despite there not being a

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**ANDREW MILLER**  
JUNIOR

season. Even though Elon is not competing in any official events under their own banner, Miller said he and a few other runners have still been entering races and said he will be taking part in one next week.

The team itself will remain fully intact next season. There are no seniors on the team, leaving the future, albeit seemingly bleak for the short term, bright for the long term. Even with the pandemic faltering their progress, the team is still running toward the light at the end of the tunnel.

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