

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019
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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM



Gabrielle Jackson, coordinator of the Aggie Source Food Pantry at North Carolina A&T State University, picks grapes at Guilford County Farm on Saturday, Oct. 5. This is the first year the pantry is partnering with the farm.

Guilford County Farm donates thousands of pounds of grapes annually to food-insecure families

Hannah Massen | Elon News Network | @massenhannah

THE 720 ACRES OF woods, fields, streams and pastures of Guilford County Farm border one of North Carolina’s 349 food deserts, where some low-income families lack access to sustainable nutrition. However, Guilford County officials and community members are working to change that by donating fresh produce.

Oct. 5, is donated to local food pantries and distribution services for residents who would otherwise not have access to fresh produce.

John Gladstone, supervisor for Guilford County Farm, said that food pantries are a fantastic resource for non-perishable foods. They typically do not offer fresh produce, which is why access to healthy options is often an issue.

The harvest from the farm’s annual volunteer grape picking event, the Big Pick, which was held on Sept. 28 and

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Anne Cassebaum, former associate professor of English at Elon University, lives next to Guilford County Farm and regularly volunteers to pick grapes.

TEXTILE • PAGE 4

Take a look at sustainable textile initiatives by students and staff



SIERRA • PAGE 5

A student organization takes part in a national movement



SURVEY • PAGE 7

Results of a campus-wide survey shape Elon’s future sustainability goals

SUSTAINABILITY WEEK **EVENTS**

OCT. 9

WEIGH THE WASTE
MCEWEN DINING HALL
11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

Elon Dining, Campus Kitchen and the Office of Sustainability weigh the waste of McEwen Dining Hall to bring awareness to post-consumer food waste.

OCT. 9

CLOTHING SWAP POP-UP
MOSELEY CENTER
4 P.M. TO 6 P.M.

OCT. 9

S'MORES ON OUTDOORS
BECK POOL PATIO
9 P.M.

OCT. 10

AUTHENTICALLY ALAMANCE
FARMER'S MARKET
ELON COMMUNITY CHURCH
3 P.M. TO 6:30 P.M.

OCT. 10

COLLAGE FOR THE EARTH
MAKER HUB COLONNADES
6:30 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

Students can use toxic-free paints to create pictures on upcycled t-shirts that will be collected and turned into a collage of the Earth.

OCT. 10

COFFEE HOUSE SERIES
IRAZU IN MOSELEY CENTER
10 P.M. TO 2 A.M.

OCT. 11

PAINTU
TAPHOUSE
10 P.M. TO 2 A.M.

Dance to the music of a DJ at a party with glow-in-the-dark paint.

FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR



GRAPES | from cover

“People donate and collect canned foods and boxed foods and processed foods, which are shelf-stable, and they do wonders. They’re very inexpensive, and they can feed a lot of people, but there is a lack of fresh produce,” Gladstone said. “The distribution is an issue for a lot of these food pantries because they just can’t keep things that will rot quickly.”

Guilford County Farm partnered with Share the Harvest, Elon University, University of North Carolina Greensboro and North Carolina A&T State University’s Aggie Source Food Pantry to collect and distribute the grapes, Gladstone said. Many Big Pick volunteers were from these organizations.

“We’ve had as many as 40 come out just from Elon, and they have been there consistently every year,” Gladstone said. “Their attitudes are fantastic; they’re good pickers and they get a lot done.”

Several students from Elon’s chapter of the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity were present at the event, including junior Carly Keane. She said she believes the event successfully combats local hunger and she is excited to make a difference in the community.

Sophomores Jason Waldman, Dan Herrick and Chad Spears also came, happy to fulfill their community service requirements outdoors.

“It seems pretty organized, which is good,” Waldman said. “It’s not like they throw us in a field.”

According to Gladstone, other Big Pick volunteers range from families with young children to retired individuals looking to get involved. The turnout for the Sept. 28 event spanned multiple generations and backgrounds.

“It was a great mix of individuals, from A&T, Elon greek life and we had a family that had just moved here from Colorado,” Gladstone said. “They were looking to start a volunteer program in a new place. This was a way for them to meet people, to learn about their community and a way to kind of jump in

and be a helpful part of their new home.”

Gldstone said that NC A&T is usually well-represented at the Big Pick, but according to Gabrielle Jackson, coordinator of the Aggie Source Food Pantry at NC A&T, this is the first year the pantry has directly partnered with Guilford County Farm.

The Aggie Source Food Pantry has been open since February 2019 and is open to all NC A&T students, regardless of enrollment status or income, Jackson said. The pantry is open three days a week and is sustained mostly by donations from the community, which can include fresh produce.

Jackson hopes NC A&T’s involvement with the Big Pick will make a lasting impact on the Guilford County community and on the student volunteers.

“I love muscadines. They’re actually one of my favorite fruits, but I also love the opportunity to expose the students at the university and in the community to something that they might not necessarily be



WE PROBABLY AVERAGE AROUND TWO TO THREE THOUSAND POUNDS PER YEAR, BUT THAT IS TWO TO THREE THOUSAND POUNDS THAT FAMILIES WILL RECEIVE. FOR THOSE THAT DON’T GET FRESH PRODUCE AND THE TASTE OF FRESH FRUIT, WE’RE ABLE TO OFFER THAT AND GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY.

JOHN GLADSTONE
SUPERVISER FOR GUILFORD COUNTY FARM

familiar with,” Jackson said.

According to Anne Cassebaum, former associate professor of English at Elon and a neighbor of Guilford County Farm, much of the public is still unaware that the farm exists.

From 1935 to 2015, the land was known as Guilford County Prison Farm. Inmates worked there, selling grape juice and jelly. Even when the prison closed, the vineyard remained out of the public eye.

“It was something tucked off over there, and unless you had someone involved in some way, it was off your radar,” Cassebaum said. “So, whenever people come out there for the grape picking, they’re kind of stunned by how beautiful this open space is.”

Cassebaum added that local farms play a key role in fighting local hunger.

“It’s an issue everywhere,” Cassebaum said. “We’re trying to shift the economy so more of our food is local.”

Gladstone said he hopes to see more volunteers at the Big Pick in the future to benefit the community.

“We would like several hundred volunteers to come out,” Gladstone said. “If we were to do that, we would be able to pick

Top left: John Gladstone, supervisor for Guilford County Farm picks grapes on Saturday, Oct. 5.

Top middle: Elon University student members of the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity pick grapes at Guilford County Farm on Saturday, Oct. 5.

Top right: Sophomores Jason Waldman, Dan Herrick and Chad Spears, pledges of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, pick grapes at Guilford County Farm on Saturday, Oct. 5.

Middle left and right: Rashmi Kumari and David Thomas, students at North Carolina A&T State University, pick grapes at Guilford County Farm on Saturday, Oct. 5.

Bottom: Gabrielle Jackson, coordinator of the Aggie Source Food Pantry, picks grapes at Guilford County Farm on Saturday, Oct. 5.

the entire vineyard in one event day.”

The fourth annual Big Pick produced approximately 1,500 pounds of grapes, Gladstone said. He said he considers the low-yield to be a result of the dry summer season.

“On our top year, we collected and donated about 5,000 pounds of grapes in one season,” Gladstone said. “We probably average around two to three thousand pounds per year, but that is two to three thousand pounds that families will receive. For those that don’t get fresh produce and the taste of fresh fruit, we’re able to offer that and give back to the community.”

Since the end of the Big Pick on Oct. 5, the vineyard has reopened to the public, meaning community members can now collect free grapes.

Farm officials have decided to host future Big Pick events on the last Saturday in September and the first Saturday in October every year in order to increase participation and give participants advance notice. The next Big Pick will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26 and Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020.

Cassebaum said she hopes that raising awareness about Guilford County Farm will help preserve the land’s natural beauty.

“It’s 800 wonderful acres, and it’s so beautiful,” Cassebaum said. “I want to see it stay that way.”

New textile sustainability initiative

Elon University's Office of Sustainability launches a textile recycling program

Mackenzie Wilkes
Elon News Network | @macwilkes

A new textile recycling program has been launched by Elon University's Office of Sustainability. The recycling initiative allows Elon community members to recycle clothing, carpets, bedspreads and other fabric-like items. Kelly Harer, assistant director of sustainability for education and outreach, said the program was started because the office noticed a large amount of clothing items being thrown out during the move-out program called "Don't Trash It."

"Instead of taking something and just putting it in the ground to contribute to climate change, we can instead donate it to someone and have them get another use out of it, or at least have it be broken down and turned into something new," Harer said.

Sarah Harmon, adjunct instructor in environmental studies, said she believes this program is a step in the right direction.

"By recycling textiles, we are reducing the waste that ends up in our landfills, which means more land and less water contamination," Harmon said.

While Harmon said she thinks the program is a good initiative, she said students should also be mindful of their consumption.

By encouraging students to use this system and to shop at local thrift and consignment stores, Harmon wants students to think differently about where goods come from.

"Think about what materials your goods are made of when you go to purchase things," she said.

Harer also suggested that students should try to make their consumption of materials more environmentally conscious.

"To me, being successful would be not expanding this program, but actually getting through to people to actually buy less clothes," Harer said.

The program is working with a third-party company called Green Zone — a textile recycling company based in Durham — which will sort through the recycled items collected at Elon.

Green Zone pays the university by the pound for the items that are recycled. Then, it sorts through the rest of the clothing items at its Durham warehouse and either resells or shreds them to be turned into insulation or wipers.

Kristin Schillings, a representative of Green Zone, said the most lucrative part of the business doesn't come from shredding.

"Unfortunately, there's not any money in the shred. It's just byproducts," Schillings said. "In order to run the business, these people have to resell, and then what they have left over they tend to outlet to the wiper industry and fiber fill."

Harer said she hopes that people become more conscious of their spending habits to curb the amount of textiles being wasted.

"In my ideal world, we would be consuming less, right?" Harer said. "So, we would be buying less clothes to begin with, and we would have less clothes to donate."

Community members can find textile recycling bins in Moseley Student Center and in their neighborhood offices.



BY RECYCLING TEXTILES, WE ARE REDUCING WASTE THAT ENDS UP IN OUR LANDFILLS.

SARAH HARMON
ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

'WASTE NOT WANT MORE'



LIVI LESCH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Sophomore Madeline Martinson models some of the articles of clothing she "upcycled" from a thrift store.

Online business seeks to provide customers with a sustainable lifestyle and wardrobe

Livi Lesch
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Sophomore Madeline Martinson stood at a local yard sale sliding hangers across a clothing rack. She was close to calling it a day before she found the article of clothing that made the past 20 minutes of shuffling worth it — a vintage denim biker jacket with patches of leather on the front.

This one-dollar purchase that she planned to resell on her business Instagram account is how Martinson practices sustainable living.

Martinson established her business Waste Not Want More, on the principle that thrifting provides people a way to wear clothes that both support a sustainable lifestyle and are one-of-a-kind.

"A lot of the things we buy as consumers from huge name brands end up being cheaper quality because they're mass produced," Martinson said. "We wear it for however long we wear it then it goes in the trash if it breaks. A lot of fabric and clothing material end up in waste, and that's obviously not really helping the environment at all."

Martinson has also learned to be wary of how most fast-fashion clothing is made. Fast fashion is the use of cheap labor to produce clothing on a large scale.

"I felt like it would be a cool opportunity to show people that it's really not that hard to find cool stuff, but also, promote unique and recycled clothing because it's so important that we aren't just buying fast fashion off the internet because it's cheap," Martinson said. "[Fast



I ENJOY OTHER PEOPLE FEELING GOOD ABOUT THEMSELVES AND WHAT THEY PUT ON THEIR BODY. I THINK IT'S COOL THAT I GET TO CREATE THINGS ... THAT PEOPLE LOVE.

MADELINE MARTINSON
SOPHOMORE AND OWNER OF WASTE NOT WANT MORE

fashion] is definitely targeted toward college students because we don't have money, so we want to buy whatever is cheap, but thrifting is just as cheap and is a sustainable option."

However, Martinson does acknowledge that her clothing is priced higher than what

one would buy at a thrift store. This is because she "upcycles," or alters, what she finds to add her own flare to items. She has taken up sewing since the creation of her business this past summer and has gained a wide variety of skills from distressing fabric to painting.

"I enjoy other people feeling good about themselves and what they put on their body," Martinson said. "I think it's cool that I get to create things like that, that people love."

Waste Not Want More allows Martinson to not only find enjoyment from satisfying her customers but also to cultivate the artistic side of her that she doesn't always express in a science lab.

"It challenges me because I'm a science major, and fashion is such a huge interest and passion of mine, so it allows me to think more creatively and challenge that side of my brain," Martinson said. "I feel like I've learned a lot about interacting with people in a business sense but also keeping my personality through the clothes."

Martinson envisions Waste Not Want More affecting her peers by shedding light on the fact that one can be fashionable and environmentally friendly.

"I hope [my business] creates a more sustainable mindset," Martinson said. "It is about expressing myself and showing this passion I have for style, but also it's about sustainability, and I hope it makes others think about that too."

UPCYCLE

The process of buying and altering used clothes and then reselling them

Sierra Student Coalition promotes local engagement

Elon chapter of national organization, with over 700,000 members, advocates locally

Elliott Rivette
Elon News Network | @elliottrivette

The Sierra Student Coalition at Elon University works to forge a better relationship between people and the environment. The Sierra Student Coalition is part of the larger non-profit environmental organization, Sierra Club, which has operated in the U.S. since 1892.

The Sierra Student Coalition is involved in the initiative “Ready for 100”, which represents people across the U.S. who are committed to transitioning to 100% clean, renewable energy.

One member of Elon’s Sierra Student Coalition, freshman Samantha Schwamberger, personally obtained over 30 signatures last week for the initiative.

Schwamberger spoke about the topic at an Elon Town Hall meeting on Oct. 7, where she said the initiative would benefit Elon economically and environmentally.

“We need change for the sake

of our futures,” Schwamberger said.

According to Schwamberger, the most important goal of the Sierra Student Coalition is “creating and implementing policies to protect the environment.”

Schwamberger said the organization usually gets involved through service projects and environmental clean-up but also fosters community involvement with recreational activities such as camping and hiking.

“It’s a lot of working with the government,” Schwamberger said, “to come up with ways to make our energy more sustainable.”

The Sierra Student Coalition also attempts to create awareness and community involvement at Elon by partnering with other on-campus organizations.

Most recently, it teamed up with Environmental Professional

Society, Kappa Alpha Omicron, for Elon sustainability week’s energy reduction competition. Their aim is to record energy use across campus and challenge Elon students to reduce power consumption.

To ensure fairness in the energy reduction competition, campus buildings are measured individually. Each measurement of energy usage will be remeasured



Senior and Sierra Student Coalition President Hannah Naehring and sophomore Daniele Eco-Rep Katie Robinson take energy usage measurements on Friday, Oct. 4.

after a week has passed to reveal which building reduced power consumption the most.

President of the Sierra Student Coalition Hannah Naehring and Daniele Eco-Rep Katie Robinson set out on Oct. 4, to take the first round of energy usage measurements for the competition. Robinson walked to each Daniele building, clipboard

in hand, to record its energy use measured in kilowatt-hours.

The building that clocked in the highest energy use was Daniele N with 26,996 kWh.

The following day, each building had its energy usage remeasured to determine the amount of power used in a 24-hour period. Other Elon neighborhood buildings underwent the same

process.

Additionally, the Sierra Student Coalition promotes sustainability through other events such as the pop-up clothing shop on Wednesday, Oct. 9.

The event will focus on reusing materials to foster a “circular way of thinking” about the way in which we consume products and goods.

National movement gets support from Sierra Student Coalition

#Readyfor100 pushes for the country-wide switch to clean and renewable energy

Molly Healy
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Among the bustling College Coffee crowd sits a bare table with two students and a few papers laid out. The students are a part of the Sierra Student Coalition, a group of Elon students motivated to bring awareness to environmental issues through discussion, activism and service.

The papers are petitions with lines of student signatures, which support #Readyfor100, a nationwide grassroots movement to switch to 100% clean and renewable energy by 2050.

Junior Alicia Bell, secretary of Elon’s Sierra Student Coalition, discussed her goals for sustainability at Elon.

“We’re trying to get Mayor Tolley and the Elon Board of Aldermen to commit Elon to running on 100% renewable energy by 2050 or before then,” she said.

Bell stressed the significance of this movement, which is to ensure that the town of Elon is held accountable in making future changes.

Other North Carolina cities and counties have also started making the pledge. Hillsborough, Orange County and Buncombe County have already made



Student members of the Elon Sierra Student Coalition participate in the Greensboro Climate Strike on Friday, Sept. 20.

SIERRA STUDENT COALITION GOAL

2050

is the year the Sierra Student Coalition wants Elon University to commit to running 100% on clean and renewable energy by.

commitments to #Readyfor100. Areas such as Chapel Hill have taken steps toward clean

energy, moving away from their dependence on fossil fuels.

This petition is part of a series of global initiatives for transitioning from carbon-emitting energy sources, like coal and natural gas, to renewable sources of energy, like wind and solar.

According to sophomore Grace Contino, coalition member of #Readyfor100, there are ample opportunities for student involvement.

“It is really important that [students] sign and share the

petition,” Contino said. “Climate change affects everyone, and we all need to play a role in doing something about it.” There are online and print versions of the #Readyfor100 petition which students can sign.

Both Contino and Bell emphasized the effect students’ involvement can have on the future of Elon.

“Living in a university town, we have a unique opportunity to allow our voices to be heard,” Contino said. “Many of us call Elon home for the majority of the



CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS EVERYONE, AND WE ALL NEED TO PLAY A ROLE IN DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

GRACE CONTINO
SOPHOMORE AND SIERRA STUDENT COALITION MEMBER

year, so if this is an issue we care about, we should take action.”

Elon students can attend weekly Sierra Student Coalition meetings on Thursdays at 7 p.m., in addition to their semester events, which bring awareness to environmental issues. They recently attended the Greensboro Climate Strike in September, where activist groups gathered to protest the changes in environmental policy that demand global reductions in carbon emissions.

This was one of thousands of strikes across the globe, ignited by the recent UN Climate Action Summit. It is estimated that over four million people participated in the strikes, including over a dozen Elon students. Sierra Student Coalition emphasizes that combating climate change requires a united effort that starts at a local level.

The ripple effect of sustainability on Elon's campus

Interfaith Ripple Conference makes effort to improve sustainability

Liz Crouse
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Sophomore Caroline Penfield and junior Catherine Stallsmith attended the Ripple Conference last year. Now, they're co-directors of the conference and have a new goal in mind — sustainability. Elon University's Truitt Center for Religious & Spiritual Life plans the Ripple Conference each year. This year, the conference will take place from Feb. 21 to 23 in the Numen Lumen Pavilion. According to its website, the goal of the conference is to "empower and inspire interfaith student leaders."

"Ripple is an undergraduate interfaith conference that is student led and faculty supported for regional interfaith leaders," Penfield said. "It is for students in all levels of their interfaith journey, whether they're just starting out or whether they have a lot of experience."

Penfield became passionate about sustainability and decided to incorporate it into the conference after hearing recent news about climate change.

"I've realized that there really is a climate crisis going on and that while individual efforts are not going to do everything, it is



Participants of the 2018 Ripple Conference exchange ideas in the Truitt Center.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TRUITT CENTER

something we can all do," Penfield said.

Stallsmith is an office assistant at the Truitt Center and lives in the Sustainability Living and Learning Community. Stallsmith explained that she joined to get involved with others interested in living more sustainably.

She agreed with Penfield that increasing the sustainability of the Ripple Conference is a main concern. Stallsmith wants to decrease waste and hopes to find solutions by meeting with the

Office of Sustainability.

Penfield said they plan to make the "Ripple swag" more sustainable, providing things that people will "actually use" such as canvas bags or reusable straws. They also want to reduce food waste during the conference.

Penfield is a multifaith intern at the Truitt Center. She engages with students and faculty that have different faith traditions from her own and helps plan events and religious celebrations. The cohort of interns work toward gaining

a better understanding of what interfaith is.

"Interfaith is immense effort toward respectfully collaborating with and showing support for other religious, spiritual and non-religious individuals and communities," according to the interfaith definition the interns created. "Interfaith is achieved by seeking knowledge, understanding and common values through vulnerable interactions with the self and others."

Penfield said her favorite



I'VE REALIZED THAT THERE REALLY IS A CLIMATE CRISIS GOING ON AND THAT WHILE INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS ARE NOT GOING TO DO EVERYTHING, IT IS SOMETHING WE CAN ALL DO.

CAROLINE PENFIELD
SOPHOMORE

part of Ripple is getting to meet people from different campus communities as she enjoys "hearing their stories and what made them passionate."

This year's theme is "Interfaith in the Real World: Cultivating Community Cooperation", according to the conference website. A big aspect of the theme discusses practical applications of interfaith and how it exists in everyday life.

The Ripple Conference website offers one lingering question at the bottom of the screen: "Where will your ripples go?"

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MACKENZIE WILKES
SOPHOMORE, ENN RADIO HOST

A photograph of Mackenzie Wilkes, a young woman with glasses and headphones, sitting in a recording studio. She is speaking into a professional microphone mounted on a boom arm. Her hands are gesturing as she speaks.

A university-wide commitment to carbon neutrality

Elon plans to cut transportation and energy emissions by 2037

Quinn Corrigan
Elon News Network | @quinn_corrigan

The Office of Sustainability's next goal for Elon University is to achieve carbon neutrality. This goal comes out of Elon's Climate Action Plan, which aims to see zero carbon dioxide emissions by the university by the year 2037.

According to Elon's 2020-2030 Strategic Plan, "in consideration of our impact locally and abroad, Elon will continue to engage the entire campus community in sustainable practices to reduce our carbon footprint, become carbon neutral by 2037 and prepare students in and out of the classroom to lead lives that build a sustainable future."

In order to reach carbon neutrality, Elon plans to focus on two major emitters of greenhouse gases: energy and transportation.

Energy strategies include using renewable energy and implementing energy conservation practices throughout campus. Some of the ways the Office of Sustainability

wants to achieve energy efficiency are by using carbon-friendly lighting, limiting energy waste in existing buildings and constructing future buildings to emit less carbon.

Transportation strategies include using fuel efficient transportation for faculty, athletics and commuters. Improving the fuel efficiency of the university's transportation fleet by finding alternative ways to travel is a major focus.

Study abroad, which 83% of undergraduate students at Elon participate in according to the Office of Admissions, will not actively seek to reduce program involvement. However, students will be encouraged by the Office of Sustainability to look into ways to offset carbon emissions caused by study abroad travel.

Since the first greenhouse gas inventory in 2008, Elon has seen fluctuating emission levels. As stated in the Climate Action Plan from the years 2008 to 2018, the overall percentage of emissions increased by 10.2%. In contrast, the emissions per 1,000 square feet has decreased by 29.1%, even as campus grows in size.

To continue this trend, Elon has begun finding other ways to decrease energy consumption in classrooms,



LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Office of Sustainability plans to reassess the carbon emissions of older buildings, like Alamance, in an effort to go carbon neutral.

dorms and other buildings across campus.

"Elon is also exploring solar energy options for campus," said Director of Sustainability Elaine Durr. "For emissions that cannot be reduced, possible mitigation strategies for Elon to consider include purchasing renewable energy credits and purchasing verified carbon offsets."

Vice President for Strategic Initiatives Jeff Stein said the experience of shifting to carbon neutrality, so far, has been an exciting experience, but there is still a lot to be done.

For now, he said, it is a matter of educating the university community.

"We believe that, as an institution, we have to be contributing toward carbon neutrality and a sustainable

environment, but we also have to prepare students with knowledge and skills toward sustainability," Stein said.

The Office of Sustainability encourages students and faculty to get involved in the transition to carbon neutrality, a movement that the entire university must commit to in order to see a change.

The majority of Elon's peer institutions are attempting to do the same.

These schools include Ithaca College, Bucknell University, Butler University, College of Charleston, College of William & Mary, Creighton University, Davidson College, Furman University, Lehigh University, Loyola University Maryland, Santa Clara University, Villanova University, Bucknell

University and University of Richmond.

Only three of these universities, Lehigh, Bucknell and Loyola Maryland, plan to achieve carbon neutrality before Elon does.

Additionally, four of these peer institutions have signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, a national effort to promote sustainability and address climate change across college campuses.

Though Elon has not signed this commitment, the university retains the same end goal of neutrality.

"Working toward carbon neutrality positions Elon as a leader in addressing climate change for the campus community and higher education community," Durr said.

WORKING TOWARD CARBON NEUTRALITY POSITIONS ELON AS A LEADER IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE FOR THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY AND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY.

ELAINE DURR
DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability survey shapes future campus initiatives

Results from survey show students' attitudes toward sustainability on campus

Emilia Muniz
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

The results of a sustainability survey assessing attitudes and behaviors of Elon University students, faculty and staff, guide the design of future goals for the Office of Sustainability.

In the past, the survey has had a 10% response rate. The office, which is in the process of calculating its reach, hopes to exceed the rate this year. The responses are used to help determine progress in participation and awareness regarding sustainability. They also shape sustainability programming while promoting sustainable behavior at Elon.

The Office of Sustainability oversees and coordinates sustainability programs and initiatives with different departments around campus, from increasing energy conservation efforts with Physical Plant to encouraging sustainable living through Residence Life.

In collaboration with the Environmental Advisory Council — a council of faculty, students and staff who work with the administration and make recommendations to Elon President Connie Book on new



JAKOB RUETER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A student places a sticker on his water bottle at the sticker-making table during an Office of Sustainability event on Tuesday, Oct. 8.

sustainability initiatives — the Office of Sustainability hopes to raise awareness on campus about environmental issues and ways to participate more actively in community efforts towards sustainability and conservation.

Elaine Durr, director of sustainability, believes "the positive impact of our collective community actions can be quite significant." She said she is dedicated to providing opportunities and events such as Sustainability Week, volunteer programs and the Sustainability Pledge which allow students

to work toward a collective sustainable goal.

Senior Taylor McFadden, a student representative for the EAC, hopes the survey response rate will improve from previous years, predicting that the results will show Elon as a community with a "good understanding of sustainability and the behaviors that contribute to a sustainable lifestyle."

McFadden commented on a survey question regarding a "green fee" which would be included as a part of students' tuition and would go toward sustainability efforts

on campus. She hopes that "most students will show their support for this fee," which can help move Elon closer to carbon neutrality.

Junior Matthew Mitten, a student representative for the EAC, takes a hopeful attitude regarding the survey, stating that "students' awareness about sustainability has gone up over the past couple of years." He said that even by simply sending out an email regarding sustainability, students' levels of awareness will continue to rise.

"There are always cool things that Elon has going on," Mitten said. "The struggle is getting

PAST SURVEYS

10%

is the response rate of past surveys from the Office of Sustainability, which is in the process of calculating its most recent reach and hopes to exceed this.

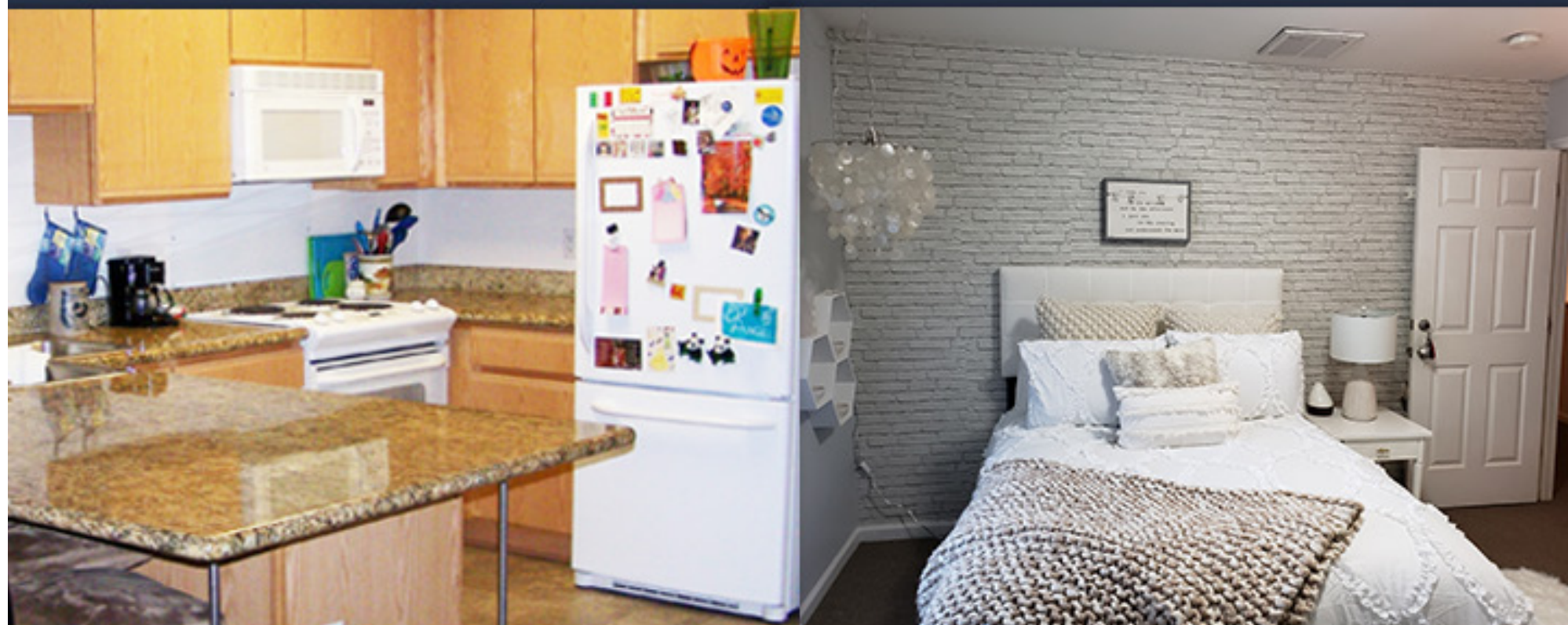
people to learn about them."

Mitten said he does not describe Elon students as the most "environmentally conscious" people and hopes that students' relatively "privileged" backgrounds won't inhibit them from thinking consciously about sustainability and Elon's efforts.

He said he hopes these types of students take action by filling out the survey and participating in on-campus sustainability events. He said he expects a lot of students to "frankly not care" about sustainability but hopes that can be changed. He said he believes the time to start solving dire issues such as climate change is now.

"Reuse bags if you can; buy foods that source sustainably; accept the facts of climate change as a thing that's happening. Don't ignore it or tell people that it's not true since most science points to the fact that it is," Mitten said.

The survey was closed on Oct. 8, and the summary of the results will be shared with the public in the spring.

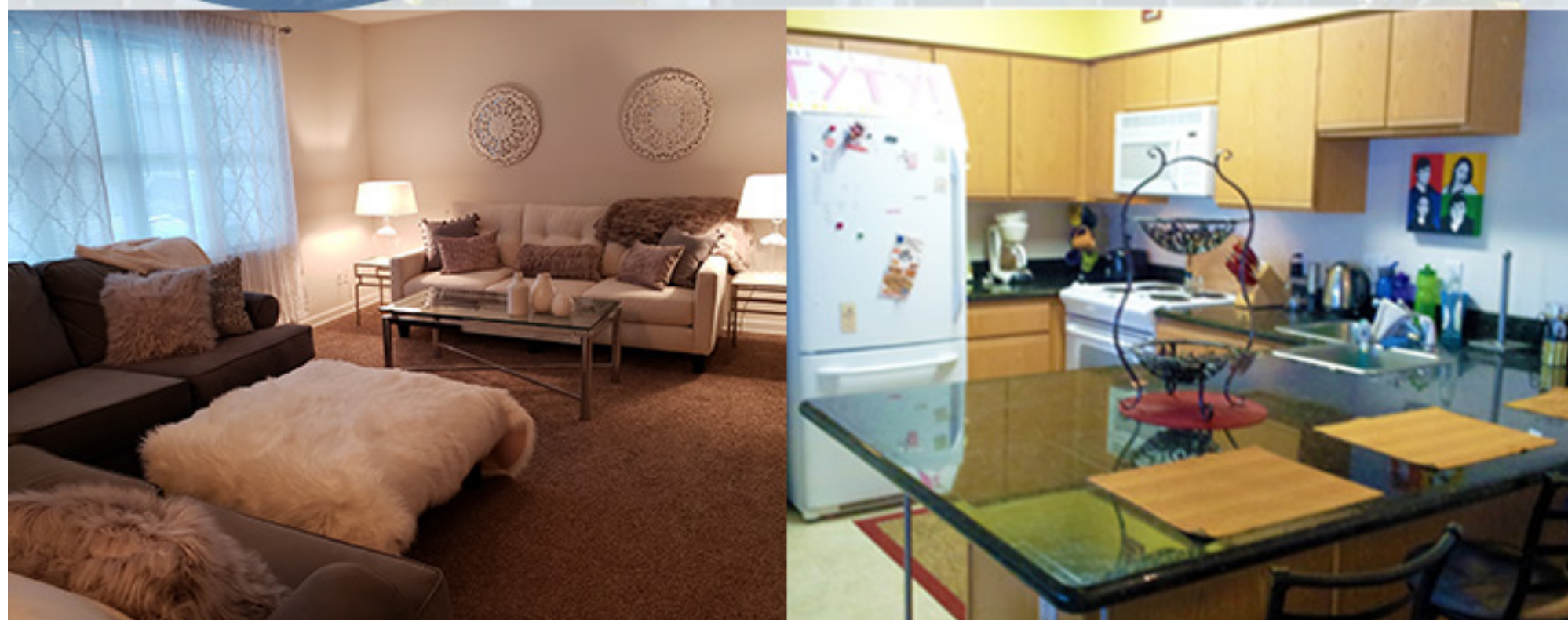


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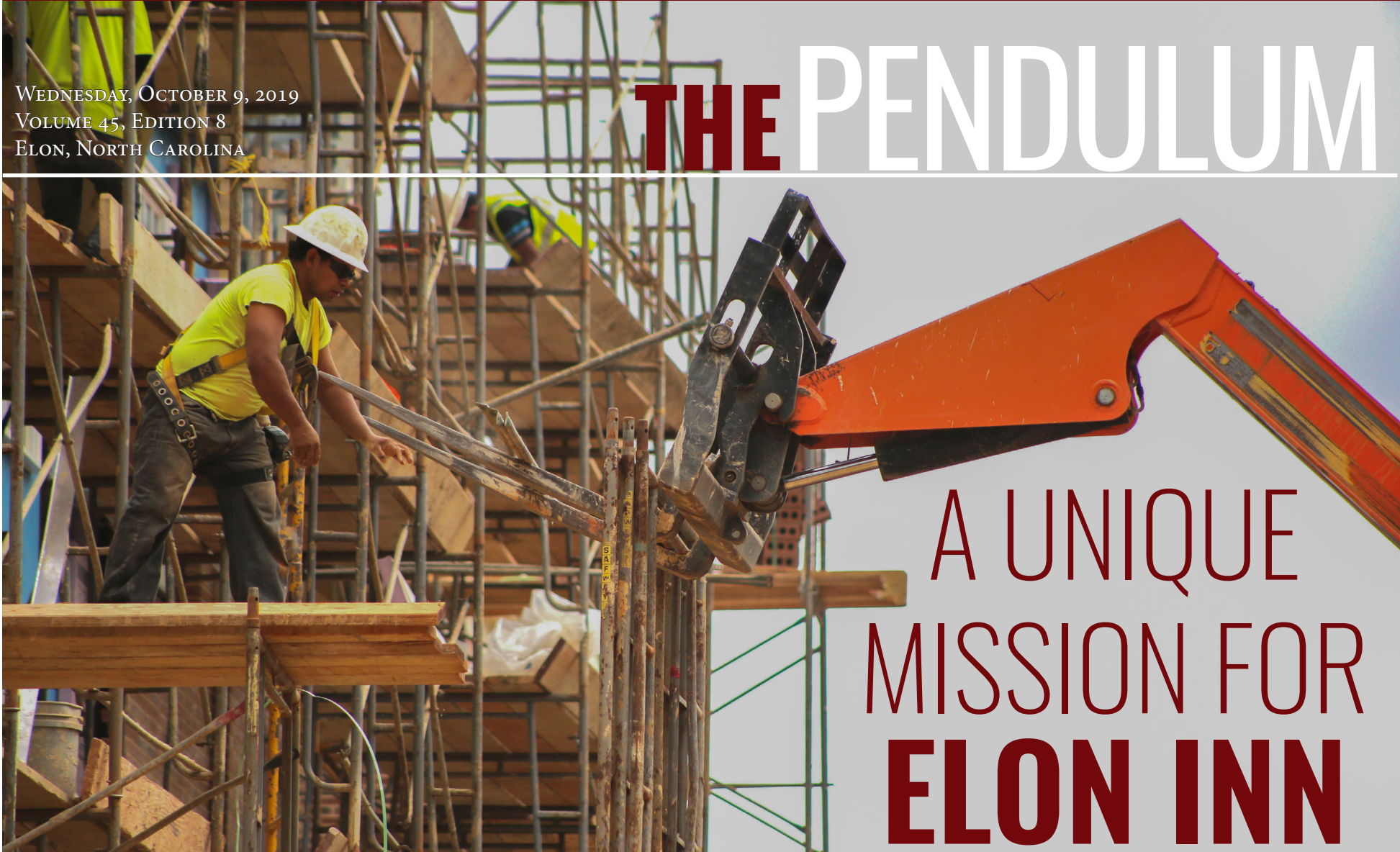
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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019
VOLUME 45, EDITION 8
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

A UNIQUE MISSION FOR ELON INN

ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

The Inn at Elon, which is set to open in January 2020, is in the midst of construction — the inn is accepting reservations. The establishment’s predicted revenue will fund student scholarships.

Income from the upcoming inn, set to open in January 2020, is to be used for student scholarships

Lauren Singles
Elon News Network | @lauren_singles

Starting in early October, the university has begun taking reservations to fill Elon University’s new hotel for next year. Raising money for financial aid is the main mission for The Inn at Elon, which is currently under construction.

“All of the profits from this inn beyond

the operating expense will go towards Elon scholarships,” President Connie Book said. “Part of the endowment that is designated for scholarships provides 5% off of the investment annually for scholarships. The goal of this inn is to beat that 5%.”

The original investment for the hotel came out of the university’s endowment — specifically from members of Elon’s board of trustees — the lead gift being \$2.5 million.

According to Book, other college campuses often use on-campus hotels as learning experiences for students in hospitality-related majors. The Inn at Elon, however, will focus on generating revenue to fund scholarships.

“This one is designed to generate reve-

ELON’S LEADING GIFT

\$2.5M

million dollars was the original investment for the hotel from the university’s endowment, specifically from members or Elon’s board of trustees.

nue,” Book said. “We will not run it, because we do not and do not plan to have a hospitality major.”

Charlestowne Hotels is the third-party hospitality management company that will operate the inn.

According to Dan Anderson, vice president of university communications, Charlestowne Hotels will also manage staffing. Anderson said students will be able to work at the establishment, but since Elon is not running the inn, students will not receive a university paycheck.

See **INN** | pg. 4

Referrals and arrests at Elon rise from past years

Elon is the only school, among its peers, to show a percentage increase in all liquor, drug arrests and referrals categories

Anton L. Delgado
Managing Editor | @antonldelgado

Arrests and referrals for drug and liquor related violations jumped at Elon University from 2016 to 2018. Elon is the only school among its peer institutions to see a percentage increase in all four drug and liquor categories, according to data from campus police departments, published in federally required reports.

There were 43 liquor arrests in 2018 and 29 drug arrests that same year, according to Elon’s annual fire and safety report. Two years earlier, there were 16 liquor arrests and eight drug arrests.

The report also details rises in drug- and alcohol-related referrals, in which offenders are not arrested but instead referred to the Office of Student Conduct. In the same time span, the number of liquor-related referrals has steadily increased from 230 to 275, in addition to a growing number of drug-related referrals — increasing from 75 to 96 incidents.



ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

When a liquor or drug law is violated, Elon University’s campus police officers have the choice to arrest a student or refer them to the Office of Student Conduct.

Sgt. Joel Thomas, a community liaison officer with campus police, said this increase is caused by the substance abuse initiatives at Elon that preach the “see something, say something” phrase on campus.

“Some of the increase is going to be due to students calling. It’s not us getting out ... trying to catch people doing wrong,” Thomas said. “It’s students calling on other students and reporting this.”

Elon’s report, released Oct. 1, includes only aggregate data. It does not provide details on individual cases or whether students were involved.

From 2016 to 2018, there was a 12% total increase across all crime categories the university is federally mandated to report.

Last year, campus police reported no cases of crimes such as manslaughter, arson, aggravated assault, robbery and incest — however, it saw three cases of burglary, two cases of rape and fondling and one case of motor vehicle theft.

The same report shows that from 2016 to 2018, drug arrests jumped by 262%, and liquor arrests rose by nearly 169%. Drug referrals increased by 28%, and liquor referrals rose by 19%.

See **CRIME** | pg. 4



PRIDE • PAGE 6
Alamance Pride brings LGBTQIA communities together



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 9
Creative writers continue to thrive on campus



SPORTS • PAGE 11
Junior midfielder on pace for best season

THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF
**ELON NEWS
NETWORK**

Established 1974
Volume 45, Edition 8

Elon News Network is a daily news organization that includes a newspaper, website, broadcasts and podcasts. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to enn@elon.edu as Word documents. ENN reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of ENN and will not be returned.

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Meghan Kimberling, Ted Thomas, Olivia Parks, Emily Jacobs, Taylor Truitt and Nyah Phengsitthy contributed to the design of this edition.

Matt Reichenbach, April Roberts, Nina Crocco, Thomas Denome and Madison Foster contributed to the copy editing of this edition.

EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

CORRECTIONS POLICY:

ENN is committed to accurate coverage. When factual errors are made, we correct them promptly and in full, both online and in print. Online corrections state the error and the change at the top of the article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page.

Contact
corrections@elonnewsnetwork.com
to report a correction or a concern.

WHEN WE PUBLISH:

The Pendulum
publishes weekly on Wednesdays

Elon Local News
broadcasts Mondays at 6 p.m.

ELN Morning
broadcasts Thursdays at 10 a.m.

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

ENN Radio Podcast
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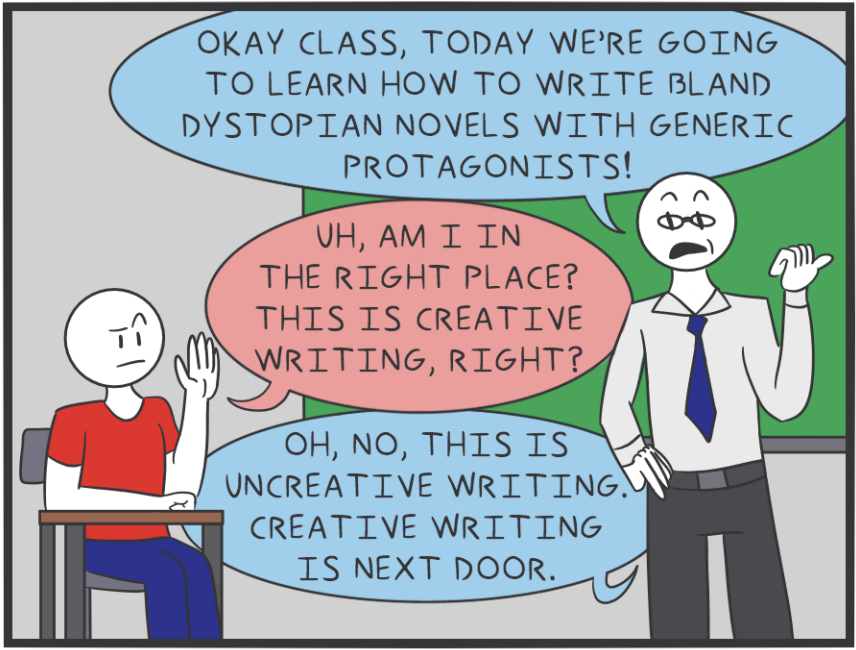
CORRECTIONS

NEWS

In the article “Muslim Students Build a space for community,” the name of one of the photographers is misspelled. Elle Fiedler took the photo of Noor Irshaidat. Elon News Network regrets the mistake.

COMIC

CREATIVE WRITING



COMIC SAMS – SAM POROZOK

GAMES

How to Play: Guess the missing word in the five clues, then find them in the word search below. Words can be found backward, diagonal, etc.

1. The Office of _____ oversees and coordinates environmental programs and initiatives with different departments around campus. *See Page 7A for answer.*
2. Guilford County Farm donates thousands of pounds of _____. *See Page 1A or 3A for answer.*
3. Alamance _____ Festival brings LGBTQIA communities and allies together to celebrate fifth anniversary. *See Page 6B or 7B for answer.*
4. Elon University’s Office of Sustainability has launched a new _____ recycling program. *See Page 4A for answer.*
5. Worldwide _____ continue affecting ecosystems and sustainability. *See Page 5B for answer.*

F U N S C Y N A V R T H L J I L B S
H S E R I F D L I W N K I M V I T U
R T U R E J U Z C V Z J T E I Z R U
R A T N P B K Q Z E W D X K O P T Y
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V B U C E Z I I U L O B R S J Y V Y
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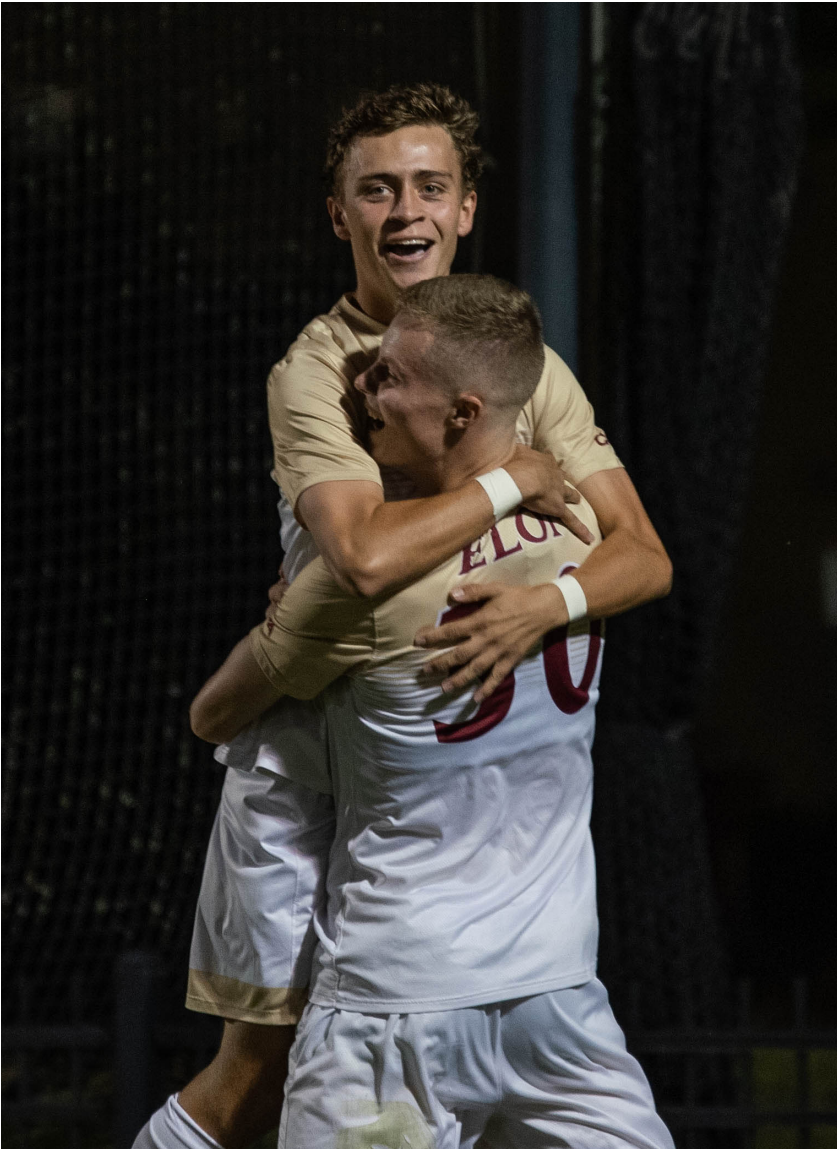
CALENDAR: OCT. 9 TO 15

YOM KIPPUR DAY SERVICES 10 A.M. to 12 P.M. Numen Lumen Sacred Space 9	DODGE FOR A CAUSE 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Moseley Center Table 2 9	ECO POP-UP SHOP 4 P.M. to 6 P.M. Moseley Student Center 9	CLOWN BAR 7:30 P.M. to 10 P.M. Scott Studio Roberts Theatre 9	FOOD TRUCK 10 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. Historic Neighborhood Basketball Court 1 9
INTERNATIONAL CHEESE FESTIVAL 4 P.M. to 6 P.M. Global Basketball Court 1 10	FALL PRIDE FEST & FUNDAY FRIDAY 4 P.M. to 6 P.M. Lakeside Plaza 11	PAINTU 10 P.M. to 2 A.M. Taphouse Annual “GlowRage” party 11	FOOTBALL: ELON VS DELAWARE 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. Rhodes Stadium 12	MAGIC IN MCKINNON 10 P.M. to 2 A.M. Thompson Terrace, Moseley Center 12

The Student Union Board hosted “OAKtober” fest on Saturday, Oct. 5 under the Oaks. Hot apple cider and donuts were served with pumpkin painting to start off the month.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon University forward Burl Shepherd celebrates with defender Lewis Green after scoring a goal against Drexel University on Rudd Field on Saturday, Oct. 5. The Phoenix lost 2-1.



THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Zachary Wood, author of “Uncensored,” gives a speech in McCrary Theatre on Tuesday, Oct. 1.



AUDREY RAPHAELS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon community members gathered at Arts West on Monday, Oct. 7, to attend the university’s biennial faculty art exhibit.



THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Irina Romanova performs ariel silk act at the Wellness Fair hosted by Campus Recreation & Wellness on Tuesday, Oct. 8, at Young Commons.

Scholarships to be funded by inn profits



ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR
Brickmason William Leak uses mortar as he lays bricks on the second floor of the Inn at Elon on Monday, Oct. 7.

INN | from cover

“Students would be employed separately. It’s not work-study,” Anderson said.

Anderson declined to comment on the total projected cost for The Inn at Elon and the prospective profits for its first year of operation.

Carrie Ryan, director of auxiliary services, is working as the liaison between the university and Charlestowne Hotels. The company manages inns for approximately eight universities, three of which have hospitality-related majors.

“Elon is unique, but not alone, in that 100% of the revenue above operating expenses will be used to fund student scholarships,” Ryan said.

Planning this next stage of campus growth has taken years.

“An on-campus hotel and conference center is an idea Elon has been considering for close to two decades,” Ryan said. “The idea was generated by the university’s board of trustees and senior leadership to create a place that will attract alumni,



ELON IS UNIQUE, BUT NOT ALONE, IN THAT 100% OF THE REVENUE ABOVE OPERATING EXPENSES WILL BE USED TO FUND STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS.

CARRIE RYAN
DIRECTOR OF AUXILIARY SERVICES

parents and friends who visit Elon for a wide variety of events.”

Ryan said the inn’s mission is to provide more financial aid and focus on giving guests a more engaging Elon experience which will make the school more accessible, while also providing a luxury experience for guests.

According to Elon’s website, Francine Boissonneault began her position on as the general manager of the inn on Sept. 11. Boissonneault will oversee the day-to-day operations, including handling financial matters and staff members. Previously the general manager for the DoubleTree Hotel in Raleigh, Boissonneault holds the first major management position at the university’s inn.

Boissonneault declined to comment on the inn and her position.

The inn will provide a place for the public to stay on campus and is geared towards families of students and prospective applicants to Elon. The inn will also be open for events such as weddings and conferences, opening up the campus to the public.

The inn will feature 80 rooms and is expected to open on Jan. 6, 2020.

Fire and safety report shows rise in crime

CRIME | from cover

When compared to its 15 peer institutions, listed by the Office of Institutional Research, Elon is the only school to show a percentage increase in all four drug- and liquor-related categories.

Percentage change is used as a measure when comparing schools because raw numbers can be heavily influenced by schools’ location or student body size.

According to Thomas, the majority of incidents officers respond to are calls from residential assistants and anonymous tips from LiveSafe, a two-way communication app that puts a user directly in contact with campus police.

“I don’t see a concern in the rise of the numbers,” Thomas said. “I actually think it’s good because you are seeing students holding other students accountable for their actions. It’s a good thing that students, faculty and staff are taking advantage of all the different ways to keep this campus safe.”

Arrests and referrals

In situations where drug and liquor laws are being violated, campus police officers at Elon and other peer institutions have the choice to arrest the individual or refer them for disciplinary action.

“What comes into play is the number of times we have to respond to a certain individual,” Thomas said. “If it’s the first offense, it’s usually a referral. But the more we go out there and the more there is an issue with that one person, things can change.”

Thomas says other influencing factors are the attitudes of individuals when officers arrive and the severity of the incident.

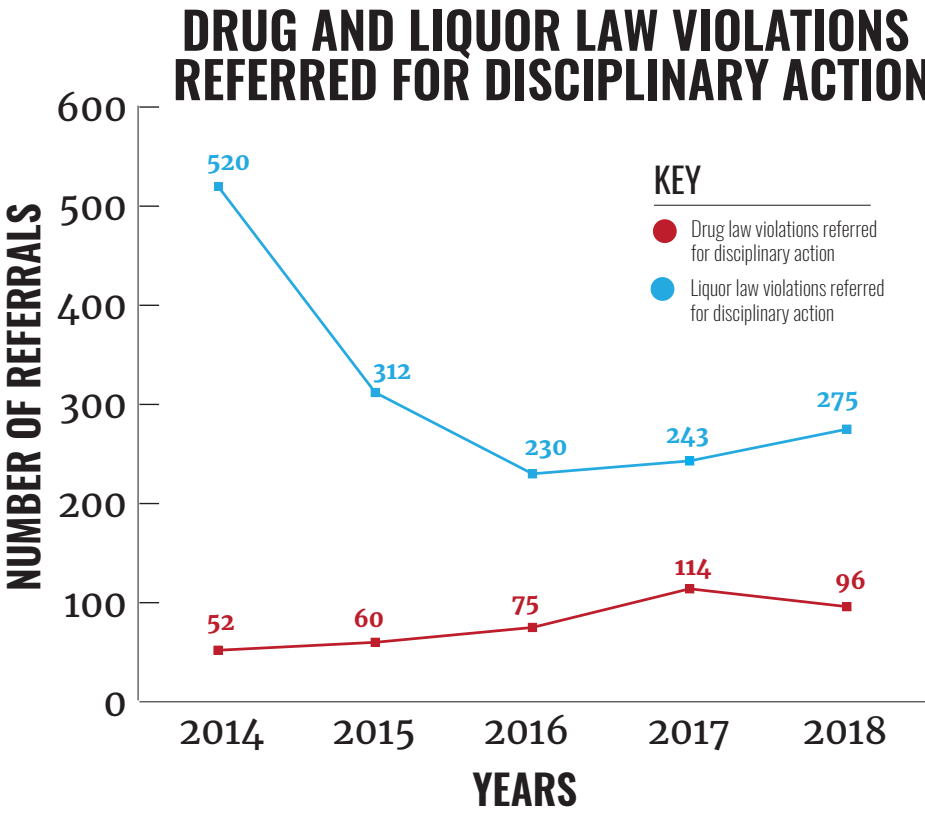
“Personally, I like to sit down and talk to them,” Thomas said. “Sometimes it helps because mom and dad aren’t always here. I’m not trying to be a mom or dad, but sometimes it helps for another person to sit down and explain, ‘Hey, you might be headed down the wrong path.’”

According to Thomas, the “majority, if not all” incidents in the arrest category end in citations, meaning there is no “physical arrest being made.” Either way, the incident would become part of both the individual’s criminal and academic record.

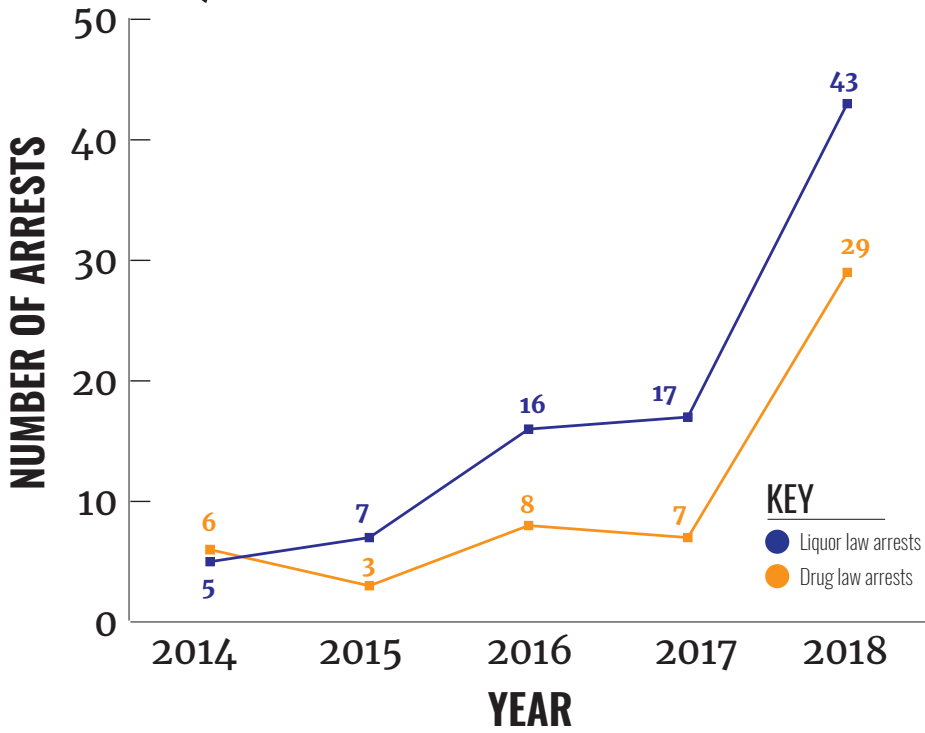
When students are arrested by campus police, they are also automatically referred to the Office of Student Conduct. The incident would become part of the student’s academic record, as opposed to their criminal one.

“Character development and personal responsibility are two aspects of the honor code. Students are expected to uphold the values in the honor system,” said Jenni Spangenberg, director of student conduct. “The legal system is separate from the university honor code and values.”

The reported number of



LIQUOR AND DRUG LAW ARRESTS



referrals includes the number of arrests.

“When the Office of Student Conduct receives



I DON'T SEE A CONCERN IN THE RISE OF THE NUMBERS ... IT'S A GOOD THING THAT STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ALL THE DIFFERENT WAYS TO KEEP THIS CAMPUS SAFE.

JOEL THOMAS
CAMPUS POLICE SERGEANT

a report, we review and assess charges for potential policy violations, which can include alcohol or drug policy violations,” Spangenberg said. “The process remains consistent regardless [of] the

initial charges of potential policy violations.”

In most cases, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act requires schools to have written permission from a student over the age of 18 before releasing any information from their academic record.

Another federal law, the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act, requires the publishing of the Fire and Safety Report. The U.S. Department of Education mandates “colleges and universities participating in federal financial aid programs to maintain and disclose campus crime statistics and security information.”

“The rise and fall of numbers doesn’t dictate what we do. It doesn’t change our policies,” Thomas said. “We continue to do our job, day-in and day-out, no matter what the numbers look like.”

Elon’s next Fire and Safety Report, which will include data from 2019, is expected to be released in October 2020. Thomas says future trends are “all up in the air.”

Substance education

Elon’s Student Health & Wellness requires all incoming undergraduate students to complete AlcoholEdu, a two-to-three-hour program designed to encourage students to make low-risk choices.

The program is either required or recommended by 12 of Elon’s 15 peer institutions.

According to EverFi, the organization that runs AlcoholEdu, over 230,000 college students in the U.S. took the course this fall.

To continue substance education beyond freshman year, Elon supports Students Promoting Awareness, Responsibility, Knowledge and Success, a student-run organization that focuses on different health and wellness topics — including substance education.

Callie Kelly, coordinator for student wellness, was unavailable for comment.

From Oct. 21 to 24, SPARKS will be hosting events for National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week, a countrywide promotional campaign for substance education.

Worldwide wildfires continue affecting ecosystems

Changing climates continue to spread wildfires across continents

Keiarra Bray
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

With temperatures constantly changing throughout the world, there has been an increase in wildfires, making it harder to control these continuous disasters. Each year, fires in California leave homes and the environment destroyed. Currently, forest fires in Indonesia are producing thick black smog, which contains harmful chemicals that make it difficult for individuals to breathe.



Jerry Dorsett

Jerry Dorsett, adjunct instructor in environmental studies, currently teaches three courses, one of which is Community Agriculture Fall Harvest. Dorsett discusses the effects of wildfires and why he believes they are increasing. He also highlights actions individuals can take to assist in decreasing wildfires.

Q: What is your insight on the rapid increase in wildfires?



Flames from a wildfire burn through a patch of woods in South Walton, Florida.

A: The increase in wildfires is definitely an adjustment for our world because vegetation is constantly burning. Wildfires are occurring at a more rapid rate, but wildfires are also a natural process in the ecosystem. The sudden increase in wildfires could be due to coverage of stories in media or natural phenomena such as thunderstorms or drier grounds.

Climate change is something that is always occurring and something that will continue to occur. As human beings, we are most likely having a negative effect on the environment with our use of materials and overuse of natural

resources.

As individuals continue to have a negative relationship with the Earth ... the amount of wildfire sightings will continue to increase because the relationship with natural resources and man has constantly been exasperated. We definitely need to improve on our stewardship of the world.

Q: What is the difference in wildfires started by individuals versus ones that occur naturally?

A: My viewpoint is that they all have negative and positive impacts.

A lot of the factors that we see go back to how we are managing our natural resources. There have been several studies that show that we are not properly using forest and areas. Managing them better will eliminate the catastrophic damage of wildfires we see.

All factors of wildfires whether started by individuals or naturally, are all a problem, and other devices such as Mother Nature and the world, eventually we regenerate self and reestablish ... What really matters is what ways are individuals utilizing their natural resources and becoming more aware of their human footprint on

the environment?

Q: What effect are climate change and global warming having on the ability to control wildfires?

A: I prefer to go with the term climate change because there is evidence of warming and cooling air in areas. There is a lot of thought in the world about how much climate change is affecting the environment ... All factors ... of global warming and climate change are increasing the damage and frequency of wildfires that are occurring.

FOR MORE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Take a look at this week's Sustainability Special Edition of The Pendulum

Q: What are the steps individuals can take to help lessen the effects of wildfires?

A: It goes down to the basics of how we use natural resources ... such as water, use of paper and lumber products, technology, electricity ... The legislative standpoint of how we use forests are managed and our national park ... is an important factor to look at ... How do we as the U.S. and United Nations interact with other countries with these issues in terms of are we being supportive, or are we getting on them for doing the same things that we are doing?

The process and implications of a presidential impeachment

An Elon professor offers insight into the ongoing presidential impeachment inquiry

Miranda Ferrante
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

With recent allegations that President Donald Trump has betrayed his oath and the nation's security, Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, announced on Tuesday, Sept. 24 that the U.S. House would initiate a formal impeachment inquiry against him. Pelosi noted that the "president must be held accountable." This marks the fourth time in American history a president has faced the possible threat of impeachment. Jill Auditori, instructor in political science and policy studies, gives her thoughts on the situation.



Jill Auditori

Auditori refers to Article 2, Section 4 of the Constitution which states that the conviction of treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors result in the removal from office.

Q: What's going to happen now that Speaker Nancy Pelosi has endorsed an impeachment inquiry?

A: There are six House committees that have been investigating Trump for some time, so she has basically instructed those committees to further investigate if there are grounds for impeachment. The committee chairs will present their case to the House judiciary committee, who will either decide that they one, have enough



President Donald Trump claps as he lands in Los Angeles International Airport in California.

information to move forward and take findings to the full House and present articles of impeachment. Two, they decide the information is inadequate to move forward which is not likely, or three, decide to investigate further.

Q: Could you explain the impeachment process?

A: If the House judiciary committee decides to take the articles of impeachment to the House of Representatives, the full House will vote on it. Impeachment is basically like an indictment. In order for a president to be impeached, a simple majority is needed, 218 votes of 435. That does not remove a president from office. If the impeachment passes, it goes to the senate, and two-thirds of the senate, 67 of

the 100, must vote. If they get two-thirds, the president will be removed from office.

Q: What insight do previous impeachment inquiries offer us?

A: It has only happened twice in our history and both cases differed from each other and are very different from today.

We have a procedural guideline, however, the piece that is very different about this one is the whistleblower component; the president is being accused by the whistleblower. Whistleblowers report to the Department of Justice, headed by the attorney general, whose boss is the president.

Q: Is Trump going to be impeached?

A: I don't have a looking glass, but my best guess is that he is going to be impeached. In part, I say that because of the makeup of the House of Representatives. I said earlier, you need 218 votes to impeach. There are 235 current democrats in the House and 200 republicans. That alone lends favor to the likelihood of impeachment.

Q: Will Trump be removed from office?

A: I would guess that this is less likely to happen. If you look at the makeup of the Senate, there are 47 Democrats and 53 Republicans, so removal from office would mean 47 Democrats would vote to remove Trump while 20 Republicans would also need to convict him in the Senate. So, with that being a large number of votes, it is not likely.

Q: What does the Constitution have to say about impeachment and removal from office?

A: For someone — president, vice president, judges — being considered for impeachment, the Constitution does not lay out specifically what constitutes impeachment. ... While there are arguments already that he may have broken some federal criminal laws, that is not what the House of Representatives is deciding. Their question should be: has he upheld his constitutional duties? Now, there are cases for treason and bribery which might come into play. However, the Constitution is generally vague regarding removal from office. I hope that we all understand the historical significance of what's happening right now. It has only happened twice in our nation's history, and I hope we can be intrigued and amazed by the domestic political activity that's unfolding right before our eyes.

SHARING PERSONAL P R I D E

Alamance Pride Festival brings LGBTQIA communities and allies together to celebrate its fifth anniversary

Anton L. Delgado
Managing Editor | @antonldelgado

BURLINGTON — The question “will you marry me?” was followed by a chorus of support from the audience. Storm Chamberlin held her breath as Ashley McAvoy lowered her hands from her mouth and said the word that made Chamberlin the “happiest woman in the world.”

The proposal was a part of the fifth annual Alamance Pride Festival. The organizing committee estimates nearly 5,000 people stopped by the five-hour event on Saturday, Oct. 5.

“Alamance Pride represents a true coming together of community for people who are not generally seen and heard,” said Ken Smith, president of Alamance Pride. “It is a wonderful opportunity to bring folks together and continue to build a strong community and make it easier for LGBTQ folks who are coming along.”

To support young people in the community, Alamance Pride sponsors funded a new \$25,000 scholarship for LGBTQIA students in the county.

“[Alamance] Pride represents a sense of family and homecoming, particularly for folks who grew up in the area not feeling this was a very LGBTQ-positive place to grow up,” Smith said. “People have their chosen family here.”

Elon University is one of festival’s oldest sponsors.

“We have a really prominent queer community on campus, and there’s a lot of queer people in Alamance. It’s our responsibility to bridge that gap and make sure the people in the community feel just as supported as the people on campus,” said sophomore Kate Lengyel, a student assistant at the Gender & LGBTQIA Center.

According to Lengyel, attending the festival is one of the most “affirming experiences.”

“Every year I go to Alamance Pride, I feel like I am doing my job. I feel like I am doing the right thing. I feel like it’s okay to be who I am,” Lengyel said. “That’s all we ever want for anybody at Elon or in the community.”



Storm Chamberlin embraces her now-fiancee, Ashley McAvoy, moments after asking McAvoy to marry her during the Alamance Pride Festival on Saturday, Oct. 5.



Wiley Kylie Coyote gasps as a boy holds out a one dollar bill during the drag queen performances at the Alamance Pride Festival on Saturday, Oct. 5.



Drag King Ben Ether reads “Jamie is Jamie” to a group of children and parents during the annual drag storytime event at the fifth annual Alamance Pride Festival on Saturday, Oct. 5.



JUSTUS EVANS



MILES HERNANDEZ



JAKE LEW



RUBI PACHECO



KAYLA MCLAMB



Photos by Anton L. Delgado & Grace Terry

THESE ARE THE FACES of some of the nearly 5,000 members of LGBTQIA communities and allies who attended the Alamance Pride Festival to celebrate the diversity of sexuality in the county.

“Think about what gives you pride” was the prompt given to each person

before the photo was taken. Several of the individuals photographed preferred to use the names that gave them pride, rather than the names given to them at birth. Elon University students and staff are among the faces.

The sixth Alamance Pride Festival is scheduled for Oct. 3, 2020.



STORMIEST DAIE



WILEY KYLIE COYOTE



GEORGIA THORPE



LEE HOLLAND



ERICA MACADOO



LUIS GARAY



DA'SHAUN WILMORE



DESIREE CORBETT



SERRA IWANIEC



CRISTIAN ALBEE



ASHLEY JOHNSON

GET THE LEAD OUT



Jean
Luc-Duvall
Contributor

North Carolina should pass HB 386 so schools have to test water for lead

By now, school children in North Carolina have brought markers, scissors, folders and other supplies to class. However, there is one key supply that many of them lack as they begin a new school year: safe, lead-free water at school.

Lead in drinking water is a serious threat that often goes unrecognized. Despite federal action to limit public exposure to lead, it continues to endanger the health and well-being of North Carolinians, especially children. Of the few North Carolina school districts that have tested water for lead, the results are alarming.

Only two counties in North Carolina have voluntarily tested their schools’ drinking water, and they found unsafe levels of lead in the fixtures of its oldest schools. With these confirmed cases of lead in schools’ water, it would be a stretch to suggest that schools in other counties are free from contamination.

While these results are news to many of us, they should not be surprising. Until 2014, significant amounts of lead were used in faucets and fountains. Current state and federal law is not adequate enough to protect children because it does not require schools to test for lead in water. The state should be doing everything in its power to limit childhood exposure to lead, and that begins with identifying sources of exposure at schools.

Lead is highly toxic and especially damaging to children, impairing how they learn, grow and behave. It only takes a tiny amount of lead to do harm.

In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notes that “in

children, low levels of [lead] exposure have been linked to damage to the central and peripheral nervous system, learning disabilities, and impaired formation and function of blood cells.” Medical researchers estimate that more than 24 million children in America today risk losing IQ points due to low levels of lead.

Fortunately, we also know how to solve this problem. Quite simply, we need to “get the lead out.” That means replacing faucets, fountains and other lead-bearing parts that can contaminate the water children drink.

Until we can ensure that our school’s water delivery systems are entirely lead-free, we will need to

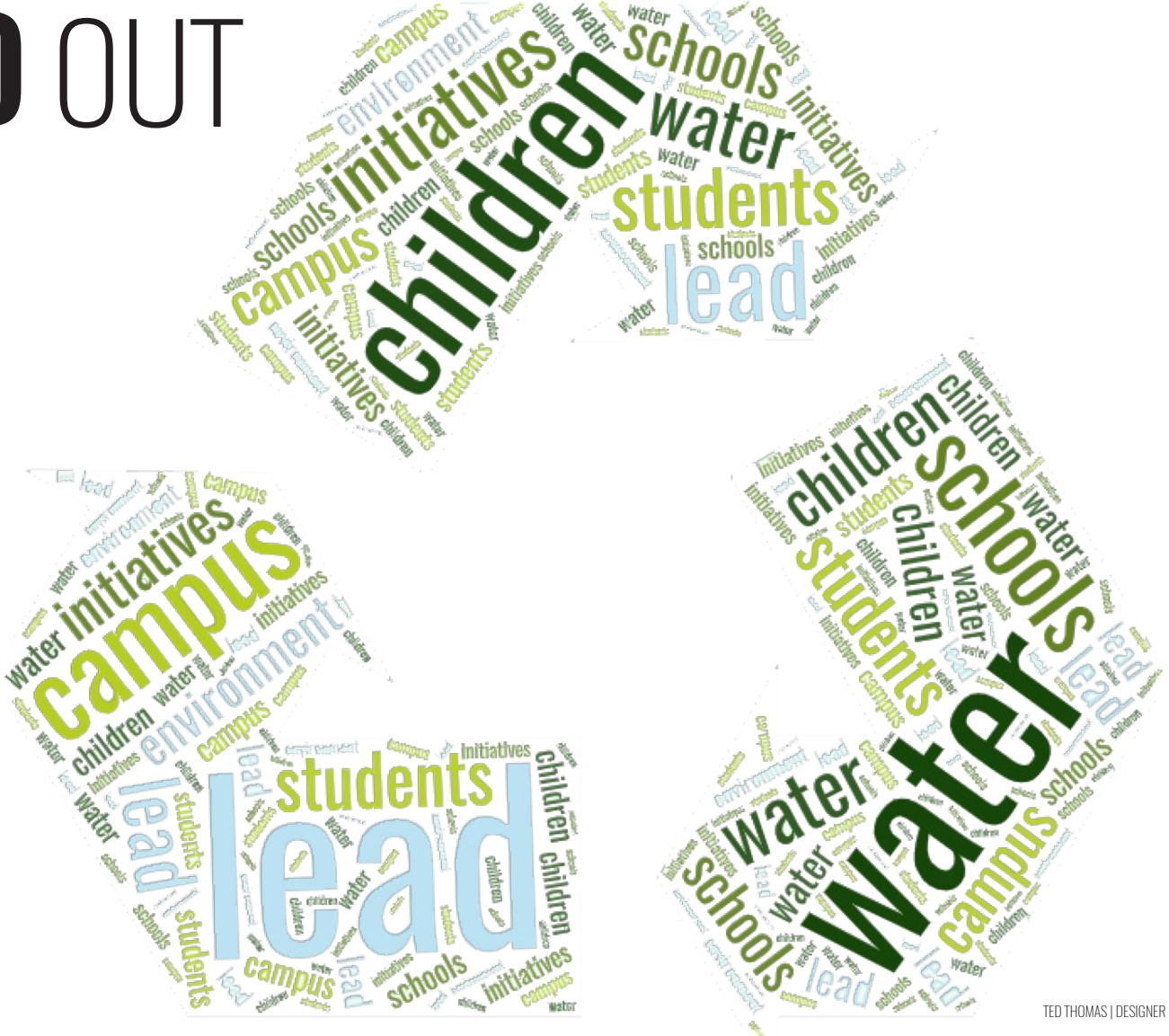
install filters certified to remove lead. Lastly, we will need follow-up testing to ensure that lead levels in school’s do not exceed one part per billion, the limit recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

No doubt, this “get the lead out” regimen might seem daunting at first. So, let’s think of what we tell our kids when they are facing a big homework assignment. We tell them it’s important to get started - piece by piece tackling the problem until the job is done. Some school districts have already started to do what they can on their own.

The state can help, and our representatives are tackling this issue. House Bill 386, titled “Ensure Safety of School Drinking Water,” would

regulate lead testing at schools, enforce a tougher standard for legal lead levels and create remediation funds for schools. State representatives, including Dennis Riddell from Alamance County, are taking this direct action to protect children in North Carolina.

Lead is a threat to North Carolinians, regardless of their politics. Now is the time for our leaders to declare their commitment to get the lead out of our schools’ water. The bill sponsors know this, and with their leadership, a future where families know that they can send their kids to school and have clean water to drink is possible. Protecting our childrens’ brains should be a no-brainer.



TED THOMAS | DESIGNER

Elon needs to strengthen sustainability promotion



Annemarie
Bonner
Columnist

Initiatives to protect the environment are in place, but Elon students need to be more aware in order for them to be effective

Not knowing much about sustainability myself, I began to wonder what it means to be sustainable on a college campus, particularly here at Elon University. From daily observations and research, it has struck me that sustainability initiatives are present; however, students might not always follow them or care enough to partake in them.

At Elon, sustainability is considered to be of high importance. Elon has a Sustainability Living Learning Community on campus, which according to the school’s website, “brings together students from any major who are interested in learning how to personally live in a manner that supports ecologically, socially and economically healthy environments and communities.” This is especially resourceful for students interested in this topic; however, it’s apparent that the number of students who care enough about the environ-

ment is slim. As someone who had never been interested in sustainability, I now realize how many of the things I do can hurt the environment, such as wasting food. However, I have noticed several initiatives at Elon that I did not have in high school.

Eco-friendly cups at all retail dining locations and reusable to-go containers reduce waste and provide eco-friendly alternatives. Another thing I have observed are compost waste bins located across campus, something I had not seen before coming to Elon.

The reusable to-go containers are a hot topic of discussion around campus with students questioning whether or not they are actually helpful. To me, this addition is beneficial to the environment because it is Elon’s attempt to reduce waste. Whether or not this is statistically beneficial, it is the effect that matters.

Besides these two initiatives, Elon has launched other campus-wide sustainability movements. There are various categories on the sustainability website, including, but not limited to, buildings, climate, dining services, energy use and technol-

ogy. While there are many initiatives, it almost does not feel like they’re there.

Even though these initiatives are listed on Elon’s website, they do not seem to be advertised at all around campus. Elon may be doing enough, but why is it that I only knew about the obvious initiatives? This lack of promotion has resulted in students not caring and questioning whether or not the initiatives in place like the to-go containers, are truly effective.

Even if we are still trying to navigate our place in helping the environment, the attempt and thought is what matters. While I am only a freshman and may not know a lot about campus and the school itself just yet, the fact that we’re trying is what I believe is important. Solving environmental issues is not something that can happen overnight, but with baby steps like the ones we’re taking, the school can contribute greatly to protecting the environment.

Due to the lack of promotion, students are unaware as to how the university’s efforts have affected the environment. In order to keep doing enough to protect the environment, Elon needs to advertise their efforts more clearly to the stu-



Concentrating on CREATIVE WRITING

There is so much more to creative writing than meets the eye, and it can open the door to new possibilities

Borghild Kvaeven
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Creative writing, one of the concentrations in Elon's English major, might not seem like the most conventional career path to pursue in college. A question English majors may encounter is: What can you do even do with that?

"A good piece of writing should leave you not being able to go about your day the way you started before you read it," said senior Chloe Ekberg, executive board editor for Colonnades, the student-run literary and art magazine at Elon University.

While there's been an overall decline in English majors, going from 100 in 2017 to 86 in 2019, creative writing has held steady over the past years, showing that it is still valued.

One of the four main professors teaching creative writing at Elon University, professor of English Cassie Kircher, explains that creative writing usually involves "poetry, creative nonfiction and fiction, and is far more playful and subjective than academic writing." Kircher is not only a professor; she also published a creative nonfiction book.

Finding the time to read a book, or read and write anything beyond what is required for classes, can be hard for students with overfilled schedules.

However, Ekberg said she believes creative writing is something that should be important, not only to her, but to everyone, and that it has a crucial role in our lives.

Coming to Elon, she planned to major in communications, but that plan changed once she discovered creative writing.

"From there I was going to be a minor, and then from there I just ended up being a major," Ekberg said.

Ekberg has always had a passion for reading and writing, something that started from an early age, influenced by a childhood filled with books lining the walls of her father's home.

She said her passion for creative writing continued to grow because "It's just a really good form of self-expression," she said.

Taking the path of creative writing was not an easy choice for Ekberg, as she said she believes it is often viewed as the riskier major choice with no clear career path. This hesitation, however, did not stop her from choosing to follow her passion.

"I'm not going to do something just because it's safe. If there's something I love that's right in front of me, why not challenge yourself?" Ekberg said.

Some may think finding internships as an English major can be a challenge, but



Ekberg said that as long as you are confident in your ability to write and are able to sell your skill set, you can do anything. She said she got internships over both business and marketing applicants because of her writing and communication skills.

Concentrating in creative writing is not a hopeless path; it's quite the opposite, Ekberg said. "You really can do anything with an English major, you just have to be confident in saying it," she said.

This is also something Kircher emphasizes.

"Creative writing might sound daunting, but it can be used in many avenues, such as writing, publishing, editing and teaching," Kircher said.

Taking ENG 213: Intro to Creative Writing is something both Ekberg and Kircher highly recommend. The classes are fun, explore different genres and cultivate a community that values creativity.

Ekberg said the class fosters an open and welcoming community with professors who are all serious writers themselves, ready to

LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Top: Senior Chloe Ekberg got her journal when her creative writing professor gave them a journaling assignment. Tuesday, Oct. 1.
LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Above: Senior Chloe Ekberg likes to write outside in Historic Neighborhood. Tuesday, Oct. 1.
CORY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Bottom: Professor Cassie Kircher helps a student in her office. Friday, Oct. 4.

help, advise and challenge their students.

"If writing is something that makes you passionate, go for it, 100%," Ekberg said.

Classes are one way to explore creative writing, but it's not the only opportunity at Elon. Colonnades provides students with the opportunity to get involved with editorial work in addition to encouraging student submissions. The literary and art magazine is published once a year and features students work in genres such as poetry, short stories and essays.

The English department also hosts several events throughout the year such as visits from professional writers which give students a chance to interact with them. During poet Allison Joseph's visit to Elon last week, she

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A GOOD PIECE OF WRITING SHOULD LEAVE YOU NOT BEING ABLE TO GO ABOUT YOUR DAY THE WAY YOU STARTED BEFORE YOU READ IT.

CHLOE EKBERG
EXECUTIVE BOARD EDITOR FOR COLONNADES

attended classes and invited students to her reading.

"We don't all know how to play the violin, but we already know how to write, so I think it's an easy way for people to tap into their artistic desires," Kircher said.

Kircher said creative writing not only makes current event issues a lot more accessible but also exists as a "way to find out what it means to be human."

Even though finding time to read can be hard, Kircher said that people will not stop reading. Instead, she suggests that the growing role of technology in daily life is something that will affect what and how people read.

"We, as writers, have to become a little more creative," Ekberg said. "Why not challenge yourself?"

ELON WATCHES

Turner Theatre: lion cubs, sharks and a family secret

Every week, the on-campus theater plays movies and documentaries for the community

Miranda Ferrante
Elon News Network | @reporter'stwitter

Turner Theatre is a 220-seat auditorium located in Elon University's School of Communications. Since 2016, the theater has shown movies and documentaries for students and community members free of charge. While attendees are encouraged to bring their own food, candy and popcorn are usually provided. Here is what is playing this week:

The Farewell

This 2019 American comedy-drama was written and directed by Lulu Wang. "The Farewell" focuses on the life of aspiring Chinese American writer, Billi, who maintains a tight-knit relationship with her grandmother, Nai Nai, who lives in Changchun, China.

After receiving a rejection letter from a prestigious fellowship, Billi's parents tell her that Nai Nai has been diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. The doctors estimate that she has only a few months to live. In light of the news about Nai Nai, the family plans a wedding to bring the family together one last time.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY DISNEY ENTERPRISES.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY DREAMWORKS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY P&F PRODUCTIONS

Wang's film depicts her own life experiences, turning her misadventures into a comical, tender story of a woman battling a fatal illness and the distress that comes along with saying goodbye to a loved one.

The Lion King

"The Lion King" is a 2019 American musical. The photorealistic, computer-animated remake of Disney's traditionally animated film from 1994 includes a star-studded voice cast: Donald Glover, Seth Rogen, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Alfre Woodard, Billy Eichner, John Kani, John Oliver and Beyoncé. James Earl Jones is

also featured, reprising his role as Mufasa from the original film.

"The Lion King" follows young Simba, a lion cub, who becomes the lawful ruler of his kingdom following the death of his father, Mufasa, who is killed by his uncle, Scar. Simba deeply admires his father and takes to heart his own royal destiny but not everyone in

Left: Simba, Timon and Pumbaa interact together in a scene of The Lion King.

Right: Oscar, played by Will Smith, yells at Angie, played by Renée Zellweger, in a scene of Shark Tale.

Bottom: Billi, played by Awkwafina, gathers with her family around a table in The Farewell.

the kingdom praises the arrival of the young cub.

Shark Tale

When the son of a mob-connected shark is accidentally killed while on the chase, his budding prey and his vegetarian brother decide to use the incident to their own advantage. In the 2004 adventure comedy, Oscar (Will Smith) is a pint-sized fish with high ambitions, despite being an underachiever. When Frankie (Michael Imperioli), who has ties to the mob, is suddenly killed, Oscar contrives a story with Frankie's peace-loving brother, Lenny (Jack Black), that it was Oscar who killed the shark.

After being deemed the "Sharkslayer" by his fellow aquatic friends, Oscar becomes trapped in his own lie when his friends encourage him to deal with the mob boss. Meanwhile, the mob boss, Don Lino (Robert De Niro) sends his loyal followers to locate his son's killer.

ELON EATS

Da Vinci's Table brings the best of Italy to Burlington

Restaurant provides customers authentic Italian food with both meat and vegetarian options

Emery Eisner
Elon News Network | @eisneremery

Only nine minutes from Elon University, nestled snugly between a law office and a realtor, lies da Vinci's Table. The Italian restaurant serves up classic dishes, including vegetarian ones, lending itself to a more inclusive dining experience than many other southern restaurants. For those looking to have a date night without meat and hassle, da Vinci's Table could be an option.

The restaurant, which opened in 2010, boasts "fresh, locally sourced ingredients when available," according to its website. The restaurant's owner, Lynn Heller, considers this a source of pride.

"We're extremely reasonably priced," Heller said. "It's a lovely atmosphere, it's great service [and] the food is very good."

This food, which includes Italian staples such as various pizzas, subs and pasta dishes, has no shortage of options for any meat lover. However, there are also a variety of options for vegetarians.

Meatless dishes, such as the fettuccini alfredo and pesto tortellini, are available. There is also the option to substitute the restaurant's meat sauce with marinara sauce in several dishes such as spaghetti, cheese ravioli, lasagna and eggplant parmigiana.

The cheese ravioli is served in a "generous portion," according to the restaurant's website. The dish is comprised of six large raviolis covered in sauce and topped with melted mozzarella cheese.

Cooked slightly less than al dente, which is the state of pasta's firmness, the ravioli features a moist cheese filling.

The accompanying garlic bread is lightly toasted and brushed with oil, leaving the slice crunchy while maintaining a softness on the inside.

The eggplant parmigiana, comprised of thinly sliced deep-fried eggplant topped with sauce, mozzarella and parmesan cheese, is also served with a side of garlic bread and what is described as a "generous portion" of spaghetti.

The breeding on the eggplant creates a crunch in contrast to the creaminess of the cooked vegetable.

Da Vinci's Table's cheese ravioli costs slightly more at



CAROLINE BUNDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ravioli ordered from da Vinci's Table comes with meat sauce and pieces of toast.

\$12 compared to chain restaurants such as Olive Garden, whose Burlington location charges \$8.99 for their version of the dish. However, their eggplant parmigiana costs slightly less than their chain competitors, at \$13, compared to Olive Garden's \$14.29.

Regardless of price, da Vinci's Table's food provides an upscale experience that isn't always available at large chain restaurants.

"We're locally owned," Heller said. "I've been in the restaurant business since I was 18 years old, so that makes me in the business more than 40 years. It's something that I have a passion for, the people that I work with here every day love what they do, they love to cook just like I love to cook and serve people."

IF YOU GO

Location: 2260 S Church St. Burlington
Hours:
Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Thursday: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday: 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Server Hallie Davis, who was recently hired at the restaurant, said she agrees that the atmosphere sets da Vinci's Table apart.

"I love working here. Everybody's so helpful, everybody's super nice, and

even in rushes like this everyone's kind of catty, but they're still ... at the end of the day we really love each other and it's like a family," Davis said of her experience with Table so far. "Usually it takes me a while to get warmed up in places, but I jumped right in, everyone's so welcoming, Lynn's really nice ... she's really sweet, and I actually really like it here."

While this family atmosphere is a draw for many of da Vinci's Table's patrons, James Kirkpatrick, a regular of the restaurant, said there are plenty of other reasons he keeps coming back.

"It's convenient and the food's really good," he said. "The specials are great."

ONLINE:
Go to elonnewsnetwork.com for more photos of Carson Jones playing

SPORTS

INFLUENCING

THE

GAME



Elon University midfielder Carson Jones chases down Drexel University forward Isabel Kuzy during a home game on Oct. 6 at Rudd Field. The Phoenix tied the game 1-1.

THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior midfielder Carson Jones sets her career high and rises to the occasion in the midst of her career year

Jon Sarver Jr.
Elon News Network | @sarver_jon

Entering the final month of the regular season, the Elon University women's soccer team sits at 8-3-2 on the season, with a 2-1-1 conference record. A big contributor to the Phoenix's success is junior midfielder Carson Jones.

Jones has already set a careerhigh for goals, scoring five this season, which ranks her second on the team. Her season started with a bang when she scored her first goal, a game-winner, against High Point University in the second game of the year.

Jones said that she has struggled with change throughout her life, and the transition from high school to college soccer was no different. Jones said being around her team has helped with that adjustment.

"The biggest thing that helped was living with your teammates because it kind of gives you that automatic friend group," Jones said.

Jones has started 40 games in her time at Elon. As an experienced team member, Jones said it is important for team leaders to make sure that younger players feel appreciated.

"The biggest part is just keeping the standards high, especially for the freshmen, but also making sure everyone feels as part of a team," Jones said.

Neil Payne is in his second year as head coach of the women's soccer team. Going into this season, Payne said that he set out goals for Jones.

"I felt like she's good enough to influence more moments of more games because she's capable of that," Payne said. "In talking with her, one of the challenges this year is to not let anyone else steal the limelight."

In the midst of a career season, Payne

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WE NEED HER ON THE BALL. WE NEED HER INFLUENCE IN THE GAME. WHAT'S BEEN IMPORTANT THIS YEAR IS THAT SHE'S BEEN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WINNING AND LOSING.

NEIL PAYNE
ELON WOMEN'S SOCCER HEAD COACH

ELON WOMEN'S SOCCER RECORD

8-3-2

is the team's regular season record

2-1-1

is the team's conference record



THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon University women's soccer players celebrate during a game against Drexel University on Oct. 6 at Rudd Field.

said that Jones' impact on games has been key to the team's success.

"We need her on the ball. We need her influence in the game," Payne said. "What's been important this year is that she's been the difference between winning and losing."

Payne also said Jones is well-liked among her teammates, and it is important to let her work ethic serve as a model for the rest of the team as "nobody outworks her."

"Her standards are very high in terms of her preparation before the season starts," Payne said. "She's always one of our fittest players when she reports to training. So, she's very professional. In that sense, she's very disciplined."

In 2018, the Phoenix went 1-7-1 in conference play, but are sitting at 2-1 this year. Jones said she likes the team chemistry

this season and that this season could be a big opportunity for the soccer program.

"I think everybody's goal is to make it into conference and kind of just prove ourselves," Jones said. "We didn't do so hot last year, so I think this year is our year to improve the program in general."

With the end of the season rapidly approaching, only conference games remain on the schedule. After going 6-2-1 in non-conference play, Payne said Jones and the team are prepared for what is ahead.

"She's had a great start to the season," Payne said. "We've had some comparable teams in the non-conference schedule, but this will be a more difficult stretch for us, and she will prove that she's good enough to win these games as well."

Throwing coach reaches world class stage

Assistant track and field coach Laura Igaune competes in world championship, raising standard at Elon

Alex Reynolds
Sports Director | @reynolds14

The throwers of Elon's track and field team can now say they are coached by one of the top 30 throwers in the world.

Assistant track and field coach Laura Igaune competed in the 2019 IAAF World Athletic Championship in Doha, Qatar on Sep. 27. Igaune finished 12th in the Group B qualifier. Her 67.77-meter hammer throw was the 22nd best mark in the qualifying group of 30 athletes.

“When you're a student athlete, or even athlete on any level, you're not going to be satisfied with the result, ever. It's just you striving for more wanting more,” Igaune said. “I would have liked to finish a little better, but I'm satisfied with [the] experience...”

Igaune is not new to international competitions. In her home country of Latvia, she grew up watching track on TV and from a young age determined that was the crowd she wanted to be part of.

Igaune competed as a member of the Latvian junior and national team and still holds the national record for the hammer throw at 71.61 meters. However, even the most seasoned veteran felt intimidated by competing at the world championship.

“It was phenomenal. It was completely

unique. It's something that I've never done before,” Igaune said. “Obviously, it was the biggest championship the biggest meet of my career so far. So, it was a steep learning curve for me to go there and compete. And it's obviously it's not your local Phoenix invitational.”

Igaune traveled around 16 hours by plane from Elon to Philadelphia to Madrid and finally to Qatar. Once she landed, she not only had to prepare to compete against the world's best hammer throwers but also against the conditions of Qatar itself; Doha is seven hours ahead of Elon, with average temperatures reaching over 100 degrees during her time there.

The trip to Qatar was also at a different time in her career. Prior to the 2019 World Championship, it had been nine years since Igaune had represented Estonia.

“When I started competing on [the] national team, people were older, so they have retired. And now I'm the one that's now older and I'm seeing new people coming in,” Igaune said. “The new ones you kind of welcome them

because, you know, they can be following your footsteps and stuff like that. So, it was kind of refreshing.”

A big difference this time around for the Latvia native was training. Igaune had to fit time in for a world-class training regimen between her full-time job as an Elon coach, a job that isn't a traditional 9-to-5 to begin with. Her training often took place at the crack of dawn before Elon's 7 a.m. practices or after a full day of work.

“She's probably one of the hardest working people I've ever seen,” said fellow track and field assistant coach Kevin Jermyn. “She's practicing by herself in the dark before everybody else even comes to practice. And we practice early before the rest of this campus gets up. So, she deserves everything she gets based on her work ethic.”

For Igaune, this opportunity to compete at a world-class level was not only a chance to represent her home nation, but Elon as well. She also said the world championship was a unique opportunity to network with coaches from other U.S. colleges and institutions.

Igaune believes that by competing internationally, she improves the reputation of Elon athletics, especially track and field.

Ultimately, the accomplishments of Igaune come back to Elon's track and field team. The success of their coach raises the “standard of excellence” at Elon.

“It helps me and student athletes a lot that I have competed, and I'm still competing in a ... higher level. They see the path to success... If you do it, you will succeed,” Igaune said.

Transfer student unlocks her potential

Scolasticah Kemei tears up the cross country circuit in first fall with Phoenix

Jimmy Fitzpatrick
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Senior Scolasticah Kemei is one of the top cross-country runners for the Elon University Phoenix. Though Kemei's run through the competition has seemed effortless, her path to get to this point was anything but that.

Originally from Kenya, Kemei started her collegiate career at Mississippi Valley State University where she was the school's top runner. Kemei won back-to-back Southwestern Athletic Conference cross country championships in 2017 and 2018. Despite her success, Kemei knew that to keep pushing herself, she would need a change in scenery.

“WE HAVE COACHES WHO ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING US, FACILITIES AND EVERYTHING. AND I FEEL LIKE THERE'S NOTHING THAT'S GOING TO HINDER US FROM WINNING THE CHAMPIONSHIP.”

SCOLASTICAH KEMEI
SENIOR

“When I was in Mississippi, I was the best player, and I felt like there was no competition,” Kemei said. “I was always leading, and I felt like it was getting boring, because I needed to do much better. And it's very hard to do better when you have nobody to compete.”

Kevin Jermyn, track and field coach, found Kemei while searching through the NCAA transfer portal ahead of the fall 2018 season. His research on the runner revealed her impressive results, but what was more striking to him was the lack of support Kemei had at MVSU.

Jermyn said that in the last year Kemei was at MVSU, her coach was removed from the position, leading Kemei to run without a coach for most of the season.

“This is a kid that looked like she was running pretty well. But it seemed like this is not a normal situation where this person is getting high-level, advanced support on a day-to-day [basis],” Jermyn said. “They're just out there doing the best they can on our own.”

The transition to Elon was not easy. Kemei had to get used to a new American school for the second time in three years while also adapting to a much more intense running program.

Kemei recalled her first time lifting with the Elon team.

“When it comes to strength training at the gym, I was really weak. It was very hard for me even to lift ... the lightest weight,” Kemei said with a chuckle.

Kemei competed in the 2018-19 indoor season for the Phoenix and put her raw talent on display. She won the 3,000-meter race at the Virginia Tech Challenge and was a part of the 4x800-meter team that posted the second fastest time in Elon history at the ECAC Indoor Championships.

Despite Kemei's success in the winter, Jermyn made the decision to hold her out of the spring outdoor season. Jermyn said that though she had successes, they were not consistent, so he wanted her to take



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED TROY SAYLES | ELON ATHLETICS

Senior Scolasticah Kemei runs in the Panorama Farms Invitational in Virginia where she set the new school record for the 6-kilometer race.

BY THE NUMBERS

2017-2018

Southwestern Athletic Conference cross country championship title was won by senior Scholastica Kemei while she ran at Mississippi Valley State University.

20:44

is the new school record for the 6k as of Septemeber 27 when senior Scholastica Kemei beat the record during a race at the Panorama Farms Invitational.

time to build up consistency.

“She probably [could have] helped us in the mix to contend for a conference championship in track, but I really I had a feeling that there's a superstar potential in there. And we were only seeing good at that time,” Jermyn said.

Kemei is off to a fast start in the fall. The women's cross-country team placed fourth at the Panorama Farms Invitational on Sept. 27. Kemei won the 6k for the Phoenix with a time of 20:44, a new school record.

Kemei has also been named Colonial Athletic Association Women's Cross-Country Runner of the Week three times this season, on Sept. 3, Sept. 17 and Oct. 1.

Kemei and the Phoenix are rolling through the cross-country schedule. The team is currently ranked eighth in Southeast Region, according to the most recent poll by the U.S. Track and Field Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFC-CCA), but Kemei and the Phoenix have higher aspirations.

“We have a very strong team we have coaches who are committed to helping us, facilities and everything. And I feel like there's nothing that's going to hinder us from winning the championship,” Kemei said.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY GUNTIS BERZINS

Elon University track and field throwing coach Laura Igaune prepares to hammer toss for Latvia at the 2019 World Athletic Championships in Qatar.