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**VOLUME 55, EDITION 3** 

### Federal disaster relief in North Carolina dries up

Gov. Josh Stein said federal government has only covered 8% of Hurricane Helene's damage

**Miles Hayford** Elon News Network

As North Carolina continues to recover from Hurricane Helene and now responds to the 2025 hurricane season, federal aid has become a point of contention between federal and state officials. With storms such as Tropical Storm Chantal and Hurricane Erin bringing further damage to the state, Gov. Josh Stein has demanded more federal disaster relief.

North Carolina has struggled to get the funding it wants from the federal government in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene in 2024. North Carolina Attorney General Jeff Jackson recently joined 19 other states in a lawsuit against the Federal Emergency Management Administration. The suit was in response to FEMA canceling a grant program, which provides over \$200 million to protect North Carolina infrastructure, including preventative measures for water and sewer services that could be damaged by storms.

Gov. Josh Stein also expressed concern with the federal government's response recently, saying that the federal government "has not met the moment." According to Stein, the federal government has only covered 8% of Helene's damage to North Carolina — which is about \$5 billion in relief compared to roughly \$60 billion in damages. The state legislature has passed multiple Helene relief bills, but they only amount to about 3% of the total damage the state incurred from the storm. Following Stein's remarks, FEMA approved \$96 million in Helene relief — less than 1% of the total damage costs.

North Carolina has had to deal with further damage from Tropical Storm Chantal in early July, which killed six people, left more than 100 roads impassable across the state and left over 5,000 homes in Alamance County without power.

In early August, Gov. Josh Stein wrote to President Donald Trump requesting that



Furniture, appliances and debris are left washing down a flooded stream July 7 in a Mebane neighborhood after heavy rainfall the night before. Tropical Storm Chantal killed six people, left more than 100 roads impassable across the state and over 5,000 homes in Alamance County without power.

he declare a major disaster due to damages from Chantal.

It is important to note that disaster response is primarily a state responsibility according to North Carolina State professor Tom Birkland, a political scientist who has studied natural disaster policy for over 30 years. The federal government exists to support the states and local governments, but doesn't replace them, Birkland said.

"There is a popular belief that if the insurance companies don't come through, and if others don't come through, that Uncle Sam is going to come through and make folks whole again, and that's just not the way disaster response and relief happens in the United States," Birkland said.

The Stafford Act, passed in 1988, established that the federal government covers 75% of eligible disaster costs and the state covers 25%.

Federal relief only comes into play when disasters surpass what local and state governments think they can manage, and then the governor requests a presidential disaster declaration which activates FEMA

and federal aid, according to University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, professor Miyuki Hino.

Hino, who is a professor in the environment, ecology and energy program at UNC, said FEMA and federal funding is typically allocated toward getting roads passable and clearing debris. FEMA also often reimburses local and state governments for relief spending.

See FEMA | pg. 5

### Kappa Sigma returns to campus after 6 years

Chapter is on track to rejoin Elon's Interfraternity Council this year

Anjolina Fantaroni

Elon News Network

Elon University's Kappa Sigma chapter will officially return to Elon's Interfraternity Council six years after being removed from

The Kappa Sigma chapter was removed from Elon's IFC in 2019 after the chapter was found responsible for multiple Honor Code violations, including incidents of disorderly conduct, unauthorized use of alcohol, compromising the well-being and academics of new members, and destruction and defacement of property.

In a statement to Elon News Network from Kappa Sigma national, Senior Vice-President and Chief Recruitment Officer Leo J. Brown IV wrote that the fraternity is collaborating with local alumni and Elon's Student Involvement office to "ensure a strong and successful return.

"The Kappa Sigma Fraternity is excited to announce the reorganization of the Lambda-Lambda Chapter at Elon University during this academic year," Brown wrote. "We look forward to meeting Elon students interested in becoming re-founding fathers of this historic chapter."

Aniya Jerkins, assistant director of Student Involvement, declined an interview but sent a statement to Elon News Network.

"The Office of Student Involvement is currently working with representatives from Kappa Sigma's national office to create a road map for the return of the chapter to Elon's campus," Jerkins wrote. "The plan will reduce off campus activities falsely associated with Kappa Sigma and create space for national representatives to visit the campus and share more about the organization."

Jerkins wrote that representatives from Kappa Sigma will host an information table in



Moseley during September, giving students a chance to learn more about the fraternity.

Senior Zach Honig, president of Elon's IFC, declined Elon News Network's request

Elon News Network reached out to several Kappa Sigma Lambda-Lambda chapter alumni but did not receive comments.

### **Organizations on probation**

Delta Delta: disciplinary probation from spring 2024 to March 9, 2026

### Suspended or unrecognized organizations

Pi Kappa Phi: chapter closed spring 2020 Lambda Chi Alpha: chapter suspended fall

Sourced from Elon's Student Organization Disciplinary Status and Campus Hazing Transparency Report.

Kappa Sigma letters were removed from the chapter's house on campus Sept. 17, 2019, in Loy Center Neighborhood.



Elon transitions to Moodle 4.5 at start of semester





Local business raises \$1,400 for flood victims PAGE 6 LIFESTYLE



Staff prepare Rhodes Stadium for home games

PAGE 7 SPORTS

### THE **PENDULUM**

A PUBLICATION OF

#### **ELON NEWS** NETWORK

#### **ESTABLISHED 1974 | VOLUME 55, EDITION 1**

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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### **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.

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### CORRECTIONS

In a photo caption on page 3 in the Aug. 27 edition of The Pendulum, Lauren Dolman was listed with the incorrect class standing. She is a sophomore. The Pendulum regrets this error.

### Student performance group auditions

To learn more about auditions for performance groups on campus, visit PhoenixConnect online or attend the Fall Organization Fair from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sept. 4 at Young Commons.







**Auditions** 

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### **SCAN THE OR**





MILES HAYFORD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Dan Frederick gets upended by a defender during Elon's season opener against Duke on Aug. 28. The Phoenix lost the away game 45-17 and will have its first home game of the season Sept. 6.



VENUS SOTO CASTANEDA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of Zeta Phi Beta perform a stroll during the Black Student Union's first event of the semester, the Welcome B(l)ack Cookout, on Aug. 30 at Phi Beta Kappa Commons.



VENUS SOTO CASTANEDA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Attendees line dance at the Welcome B(l)ack Cookout on Aug. 30 at Phi Beta Kappa Commons. The Black Student Union hosts the event each fall to celebrate the new academic year. Senior Maleah Proctor, BSU president, said it was rewarding to see how many new students attended. "It can be kind of intimidating trying to find your people, but coming to this event I see so many new connections being made," Proctor said. "It's a really beautiful thing to experience."



RACHEL HOLLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

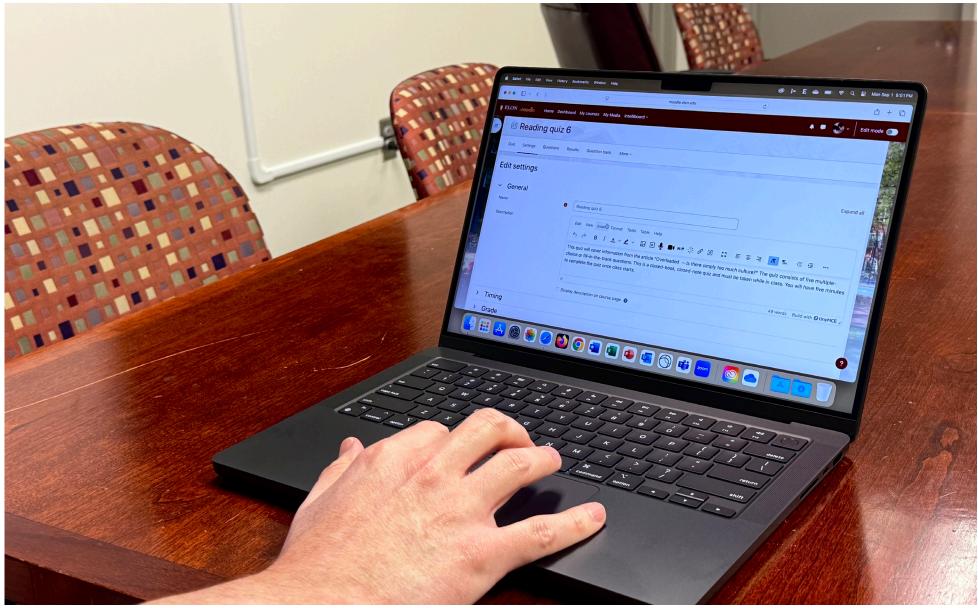
Students participate in milk-themed games at "Cownival" — Late Night Elon's carnival event with Milk Club — on Aug. 29 at Young Commons. The event had more than 150 attendees and a variety of activities and vendors. Junior Jacob Bradshaw is the president of Milk Club and said the organization has become a core part of his Elon experience. "I'm enjoying my time in Elon a lot more thanks to being a part of this club, and I'm very grateful for the community that we have put together," Bradshaw said.



MILES HAYFORD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redshirt freshman Landen Clark runs in for a touchdown in the second quarter against Duke on

### Students, faculty adjust to updated Moodle interface



LILLY MOLINA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A photo illustration of a professor's view of Moodle on Sept. 1. Moodle 4.5 launched at the end of the 2024-25 academic year.

Website gets 'user-friendly' update, sees crashes at start of semester

### **Evan Cooper**

Elon News Network

As fall semester classes start at Elon University, students and professors are getting their first look at Moodle 4.5, the latest update to the learning platform. Kelly Reimer, senior director of Teaching and Learning Technologies, declined an interview but wrote in an email statement to Elon News Network that the new update improves accessibility, modernizes the text editor and improves the user interface also known as UI.

According to Reimer, Moodle 4.5 refined workflows for instructors to better manage their courses.

"Students will benefit from a more consistent, user-friendly experience that's easier to navigate, especially as courses evolve with new learning tools," Reimer

The update rolled out fully May 30, after the end of the 2024-25 academic year, though preparation began long before that. Reimer wrote that Teaching and Learning Technologies began testing 4.5 in the fall of 2024 to make the transition as smooth as possible for students and faculty.

"Some upgrades are minimal and low impact, while some are felt more broadly and have high impact," Reimer wrote. "We are attentive and thoughtful in understanding how transitions impact our campus community."

For students who did not take summer courses, the first week of the fall semester has been their first exposure to the update. Elon senior Liam Dupas said he's glad the update wasn't extreme, and that the new look doesn't impact its usability.

"I know it's gotten a different interface and slightly different UI, but I haven't really felt like it's been changed too much," Dupas

In the first few days of mass usage, Moodle has been experiencing slowdowns and crashes across campus. Reimer wrote in

that these performance issues are not due to the Moodle update, but are a result of increased website traffic on Elon IT systems.

SOME UPGRADES ARE MINIMAL AND LOW IMPACT, WHILE SOME ARE FELT MORE BROADLY AND HAVE HIGH IMPACT

### **KELLY REIMER**

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES

"Teaching and Learning Technologies staff have been working very closely with our Moodle hosting provider throughout the week," Reimer wrote. "We know that an email statement to Elon News Network systems like Moodle play a critical role in on the course's page.

teaching and learning, so our attention has been focused on resolving these problems as quickly as possible."

According to Reimer, those experiencing issues should call or submit a ticket to the Technology Service Desk.

For new students, the platform might be different than what they're used to. Freshman Luke Morris said Moodle is different from his experience with Google Classroom and Canvas, two other classroom management platforms. Morris said with help from his professors, he's figuring out how to use Moodle.

"I think once I get pretty good at it, I'm going to enjoy it a lot," Morris said. "It's simple, it has all my classes and it provides a calendar, so it seems like it will be pretty nice."

According to Reimer, students in need of help navigating should use the "Navigating Moodle for Students" Moodle course. The course provides help with how to access course materials and assignments. Students can self-enroll in the course by searching for the course on Moodle and clicking "enroll"

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ETHAN WU | PHOTO EDITOR

Alamance County went into a Local State of Emergency following storm damage caused by Tropical Storm Chantal on July 6. Many cars in a repair shop were flooded and left covered in debris and sediment on July 7 after heavy rain in Mebane.

### FEMA | from cover

This comes amid an era of uncertainty at FEMA, which has seen millions of dollars worth of cuts and thousands of employees lose their jobs. Additionally, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem - who oversees FEMA — has required her personal approval for any requests over \$100,000, slowing the process down. President Trump has also said that following the 2025 hurricane season, he wants to disband FEMA altogether. The Trump administration aims to limit federal spending and shift more of the responsibility for disaster response to the states. Hino said these cuts might be playing a role in the lack of a federal response to Helene in North Carolina.

"FEMA has lost a lot of staff in the past seven or eight months, and a lot of this does come down to paperwork being filed and processed and payments going out," Hino said. "It may just be taking a really long time to process some of these things because they're so understaffed."



A LOT OF WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FEMA UNDERMINES THE EXISTENCE OF FEMA. UNDERMINES THE VISION THAT CONGRESS HAD FOR IT IN THE POST-KATRINA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REFORM ACT

### **MIYUKI HINO**

PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL

Around 180 FEMA employees wrote to Congress last week, warning legislators that the changes to FEMA in recent months have undermined the agency's ability to respond to large-scale disasters like Hurricane Katrina. They also said its leaders are unqualified. The following day, some of thoseemployees were placed on administrative leave, according to the Washington Post.

FEMA has had a long and turbulent history that took a sharp turn following 9/11, which caused FEMA to be put under the umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security. Birkland said this caused FEMA to be buried within the organization and led to a lack of proper response to Katrina in 2005 — which killed more than 1,300 people. Much of the blame was placed on FEMA in the days after Katrina as it took days for federal help to reach New Orleans. Then FEMA director Michael Brown resigned two weeks after the storm.

Following Katrina, the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act was passed, which gave FEMA more autonomy and power. One of the key changes the act made was the requirement that FEMA had to be led by a professional, trained emergency manager. Every FEMA administrator since then has followed this rule until the current acting administrator David Richardson, who has no emergency management experience. Birkland said the cuts to FEMA are now reversing the progress FEMA made after Katrina.

"A lot of what's happening at FEMA undermines the existence of FEMA. undermines the vision that Congress had for it in the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act," Birkland said.

Hino said she trusts the FEMA workers who wrote the letter to Congress.

"These are civil service folks. These are people who got in it because they saw how terrible disasters can be and they wanted to make them less bad," Hino said. "So if they're concerned, then I'm concerned."

Birkland believes that if the Trump administration were to eliminate FEMA, there would still be federal aid in some form such as a replacement emergency management organization, especially because members of Congress find it politically advantageous to respond to people's pleas for aid. He said there is bound to be a "catastrophic disaster" that states can't handle on their own.

Hino said it is almost impossible to consider the implications of a future without FEMA because it is so hard to figure out how federal aid would work without it.

Birkland said that although federal disaster relief can be politically advantageous, Trump's decisions to make cuts to FEMA has a political undertone to it.

"I don't understand why the president

doesn't understand what most of his predecessors did, which was having a good, well-run FEMA pays political benefits if you could be shown to be compassionate and helpful to local communities," Birkland said. "This president, by and large, doesn't like to aid states that he considered to be blue states or states that are against him politically, and it perhaps is a little bit more sympathetic to states that he seems to think are more aligned with his politics."

North Carolina now faces an uncertain future and hurricane season that, according to Birkland, will see states like North Carolina on their own unless the federal government says otherwise. Birkland said that North Carolina might have the resources to handle disasters on their own, but it would likely require borrowing money from the operating budgets of local governments or raising taxes.

This hurricane season, which recently saw Hurricane Erin cause coastal flooding, has even more uncertainty as North Carolina's disaster savings fund has been depleted from about \$700 million to \$110 million with the lack of a new state budget replenishing this

fund, according to reporting from WRAL. "You combine the fact that the feds aren't spending money very quickly and that their management is not particularly expert in disasters, and combine that with a lack of a budget, that means that the recovery from this, from Chantal in particular, is likely to be very slow compared to some other disasters we've had in the state," Birkland said.

Birkland said he believes the future of disaster policy could be shaped by the next big disaster. He said that if the U.S. faces a Katrina-size disaster in the next few years, the response would be even worse than Katrina. He said it would have severe political consequences that could finally force a change in the trend of partisan disagreements holding federal disaster relief up and make it a bipartisan issue.

As the 20th anniversary of Katrina passes, Birkland is concerned for the future of natural disasters in America.

"We thought we learned the lesson of Katrina, but we are rapidly unlearning what we learned in Katrina, which means the future of disaster relief in this country is very much up in the air," Birkland said.



ANJOLINA FANTARONI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The outside of Asheville Community Movement Gymnastics was covered in mud and water damage on Oct. 2, 2024, in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Co-owner Rebecca Hall said that the flooding lifted up the flooring of the gymnasium. Asheville, Boone, Canton, Lake Lure and Rutherford Counties experienced extreme flooding from the French Broad River, with water levels rising over 20 feet. The flooding caused water to run through many buildings.

### Local business organizes fundraiser for flood victims

Owner of Lemon Ninjas collects donations, raises \$1,400

Lilly Molina

Elon News Network

Lemon Ninjas, a lemonade company owned and operated by a local family in Alamance County, hosted a flood fundraiser to help raise funds and donations for those affected by Tropical Storm Chantal. From vintage cars to a pygmy goat named Oliver, the fundraiser at Straightway Baptist Church included gospel performances, car shows, a petting zoo, vendors and, of course, lemonade.

Christian Jordan, owner of Lemon Ninjas and coordinator of the event, is no stranger to giving a helping hand. Last September, when Hurricane Helene hit Western North Carolina, Jordan and her husband, Josh, volunteered to help those in need.

"We wanted to give back to the people that were closer to us too," Jordan said.

On July 6, Tropical Storm Chantal hit parts of North Carolina including Alamance County, which caused flash flooding of over 12 inches of rain and was responsible for killing at least six people. Nearly a month later, on Aug. 5, North Carolina Gov. Josh Stein declared a type 1 state disaster, calling for federal help that was denied. A type 1 state disaster is usually a state-funded recovery relief initiative that only impacts a small number of counties. Following Tropical Storm Chantal, Alamance County is one of the regions receiving recovery relief.

Out of the six deaths, two were reported within Alamance County and more than 150 people lost their homes in central North Carolina. Jordan's goal was not only to fill the back of a pick-up truck with donations, but to also raise up to \$1,500 for those impacted by the storm.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Flood Insurance Program, only 0.4% of Alamance County households have flood insurance. In order to help those families,



LILLY MOLINA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Christian Jordan and her family prepare her lemonade stand for the fundraiser on Aug. 30. Jordan was the fundraiser's main coordinator.

Jordan required every vendor, car displayer and entertainment group to donate a small portion to be able to set up at the event. Jordan said she had to invest her own money to get this event up and running.

"There's actually times I wanted to give up because it was just so stressful," Jordan said. "But my family is what kept me up and going."

Jordan's entire family, including her 91-year-old grandmother, was at the event helping. With no previous experience planning fundraisers, Jordan said this one came with its fair share of challenges. For example, Jordan experienced painful

migraines during the planning period. Despite this, she said the support from her family helped her make this day happen.

"I've been happy all day," Jordan said. Patty Ross, owner of Stitches Custom Made, got to the venue at 7:30 a.m. to lay out her custom-made bags, hats, bookmarks and more. Ross said she wasn't sure if those who lost their homes had flood insurance or had anything to cover the recovery costs, so events like this could help the victims without them even having to be present.

"It's up to the community to help them," Ross said. "It's not just their neighbors or family members, it's the whole community."

Member of Straightway Baptist and fundraiser attendee Kathy Lewis felt grateful that she had the opportunity to not worry about her own home, but instead come out and support those who do.

"I just hope this turns out to be a wonderful thing today, but the way it's looking, I believe it's gonna be a good one," Lewis said with a smile.

The fundraiser ended at 3 p.m. and Jordan raised a total of \$1,400 and filled up four giant boxes with donations.

"Even if I don't have anything, I want to give," Jordan said. "I've always been that way. I have a caring heart."

### Students, faculty lend advice on navigating roommate conflict

Roommate agreements, student mediators can help manage tension

**Alex Nettles** 

Elon News Network

Many Elon University freshmen start the year living with a stranger. The university has policies in place to ensure ground rules, but disagreements still happen.

Students living on campus are required to fill out roommate agreements during the first week. The documents clarify some contentious aspects of roommate life, such as sleeping times, dishes and guests. While many students find the agreements helpful, it doesn't stop freshman roommate horror stories from existing.

Assistant Dean and Director of Residence Life Kristen Carrier said a roommate agreement serves as a tool to quickly resolve disagreements. If an agreement is not understood after discussing the roommate agreement, Carrier recommended reaching out to a residence administrator.

Carrier said freshmen don't commonly raise issues to Residence Life because they might be worried about social stigmas or being considered a "complaining roommate."

"If you live with someone, you need to be able to agree with them about things and express your feelings, because otherwise you are not going to have it," Carrier said.

### Tips from a student mediator

Michael Romano is a senior at Elon and a certified student mediator. Romano said he was trained to handle roommate disagreements by the Peace and Conflict Studies department. He hasn't overseen a conflict mediation yet, but he said he learned how disagreements build as part of his training.

"It will start to grow, like a resentment between the two roommates, and then at some point they will eventually come to us," Romano said.

Dishes and sleeping schedules are common causes of roommate disagreements, Romano said. The disagreement might escalate when the roommates start avoiding each other altogether. When roommates avoid speaking they become even more hostile, Romano said.

Romano hasn't worked a mediation yet himself, but he said more

If someone wants to have a visitor, they will.

When issues/concerns arise, what is your preferred

How will we keep the temperature in the room?

Are we okay with the TV being on/music playing while we

If someone wants to use another's possession(s), we will...

If the room is too loud and someone is going to sleep, we

If someone has left for the night, can their bed be used?

When should visitors leave for the night?

How will we divide chores for the room?

How often will we clean the room?

communication style?

are both in the room?

Questions to ask your roommate

often than not, roommates remain friends after their disagreements. Most disputants just need a space to communicate openly, Romano said.

### Relationship exile

Senior Lauren Fosegan said she had a uniquely difficult rooming situation as a freshman. Her roommate kicked her out of the dorm to spend time with her boyfriend for days at a time. Fosegan said she created a rotating schedule of friends' places to spend her weekends.

"Part of this is on me because I didn't vocalize that, but he would get the room and I wouldn't get the room," Fosegan said.

This was a point in time where Fosegan said she was "crashing beds." Fosegan

said she was "crashing beds." Fosegan said she even spent one night of exile on a bean bag in LaRose Student Commons.

Fosegan said she wanted to avoid conflict, since it was her first time living with someone else. She said it was hard for her to bring it up because her roommate was clean and polite. The problem stretched for a month. Learning from her experiences, Fosegan said freshmen should communicate with each other right away when they see a problem.

### Annoying slippers, sleeping habits

It's been three years, but senior Jack Bull still remembers his roommate in the Virginia dorm.

"He started playing heavy metal, like max volume, on his computer," Bull said, "I think that he — just to spite me — opened a picture of a white background and turned his screen brightness up so it kind of felt like the daytime at two in the morning."

Bull said he had early classes and his roommate had later classes. Their different sleep schedules caused a rift in their relationship. His roommate also had slippers that made lots of noise when he walked around their room. Bull purchased a sleeping mask and earplugs. One night, Bull said he tried talking with his roommate.

"He refused to not be in his slippers," Bull

Bull's roommate left his dorm early, but he wished he spoke to his resident assistant sooner. Bull said his advice to freshmen is speaking directly with their roommates and talking with their RA.

### **Specialist advice**

Linda Dunn is an adjunct professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at Elon. She specializes in the analysis of conflict, and imparted some roommate resolution tips to the freshmen class.

Before approaching your roommate, Dunn said you should calm yourself in order to avoid defensiveness in the conversation. Then you need to find a scheduled time to talk, a time when the problems can be discussed openly.

"You don't want to catch them on the way out the door. Be ready to listen and know what your needs are," Dunn said.

Dunn said a critical point is determining "the bother." Once the peeve is discovered, you are able to have a communicative conversation that focuses on the problem and not the person themselves. Disagreements, Dunn said, come from the judgment that your way of thinking is superior.

"There is no one way," Dunn said.

DESIGN BY SARAH T. MOORE

Examples of questions to ask new roommates based on Residence Life's roommate agreement form.

# Preparation for Rhodes Stadium takes 'team effort' ahead of home games



MILES HAYFORD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rhodes Stadium on Sept. 1. Facilities Management has been preparing the stadium for the upcoming football season for months, according to Senior Associate Athletics Director for Finance and Administration Margaret Laws.

Stadium preparation includes resodding field, pressure washing

### **Benjamin Berfield**

Elon News Network

As the Elon University football team prepares to host Davidson College on Sept. 6, the process of preparing Rhodes Stadium has already been in full effect for the last few months. According to Margaret Laws, the senior associate athletics director for finance and administration, the preparation process for sporting venues such as Rhodes Stadium occurs on a team-wide scale before the summer starts.

Laws said the main reason for this is to get a head start on everything so that when the season does start, there will be multiple tasks completed.

She said the work mostly starts with setting up the field. One of the responsibilities include resodding the field in different areas.

'Whether it's resodding, pressure washing, anything that we need to address before we start the season is taken care of well ahead of time from a facility standpoint," Laws said.

Outside of those responsibilities, Laws said there's more work that goes into the preparation of Rhodes Stadium. She noted that there is lots of planning over time that goes into organizing the stadium.

Laws also said Facilities Management will often evaluate multiple questions that need to be addressed before the season, such as the summer plans for the field, and the grass condition for the turf.

"We are thinking about it months in advance," Laws said. "It's a long-term planning process when we're talking about opening our football season. That's something we're talking about in the spring."

In addition, Elon will contact other management crews in the region throughout the planning stage. Laws said that staff members across institutions will share ideas and timelines of what they're doing to get their facilities ready by the season's beginning. She described the ongoing communication as beneficial toward preparing Rhodes Stadium.

As for the people at Elon who are a part of the process, Laws said there are many people who specialize in multiple components.

"You have to look at it from a top down approach," Laws said. "Our athletic director

is informed on the preparations going into football season, we have a crew of turf managers around our fields and then we have an athletics facilities crew of three folks. We're all thinking about preparation for the football season."

Once a game ends, everyone involved with Facilities Management usually goes through a checklist. They will evaluate everything throughout the stadium, including the kids zone, their concessions and areas such as the locker room. Laws said the process finally ends once the stadium lights are turned off.

However, the job doesn't come without its challenges. Laws said that with all the people involved, there is a lot of work to make sure everyone is on the same page. But Laws said there are also plenty of aspects about the job that she loves. She said one of her favorite components is the relationships with other people.

She said she enjoys the collaborative process that takes place because there are so many people who have a critical role in preparing Rhodes Stadium for game days. Laws described the completion of everything as very satisfying.

"The teamwork that it takes to get ready

for a football game day stretches all the way from what we do in athletics," Laws said. "It's a huge team effort and to see it come together

### **FALL HOME GAMES**

VS. DAVIDSON

is my favorite part of the job."

**SEPT. 27** 2 P.M. VS. Hampton

OCT. 11 2 p.m. vs. villanova

2 P.M. VS. RHODE ISLAND

**NOV. 22** 

2 P.M. VS. North Carolina A&T

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