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THE WAR ON MOLD

Four Elon University residential neighborhoods tackle prevention of mold and mildew buildup

Students in residential halls across Elon University's campus have been combating a persistent foe: mold, a fungus that can cause fatigue, headaches, lack of concentration, chest tightness and chronic coughing. The combination of North Carolina's intense humidity, dramatic weather changes and a

poorly set thermostat can cause moisture to condense inside residence halls, creating the perfect environment for mold and mildew growth.

See **MOLD**
pgs. 8-9

McCrory concedes NC gubernatorial race

Meg Malone
Assistant News Editor
@megretjeane

On Dec. 5, 27 days after the Nov. 8 election, Democrat gubernatorial candidate Roy Cooper was recognized as the North Carolina governor-elect not only his supporters, but also by republican Gov. Pat McCrory and his staff.

Around noon on Monday, McCrory posted a YouTube video officially conceding the race to Cooper.

"During this wonderful season, it's also

Nearly a month after the close Nov. 8 election, McCrory conceded the race to challenger Roy Cooper Dec. 5.

should be answered regarding the voting process, I personally believe that the majority of our citizens have spoken, and we now

time to celebrate our democratic process and respect what I see to be the ultimate outcome of the closest North Carolina governor's race in modern history," McCrory said. "Despite continued questions that

should do everything we can to support the 75th governor of North Carolina, Roy Cooper."

Cooper acknowledged McCrory's concession and thanked him and his wife for agreeing to aid in a smooth transition.

The governor-elect acknowledged the divisiveness of the past election but optimistically looked toward the future.

"I'm proud to have received the support from so many who believe that we can come together to make a North Carolina that works for everyone," Cooper said in a statement Monday afternoon.

The North Carolina State Board of Elections will meet later this week to confirm the results.

A 'hard-fought race'

At 1 a.m. Nov. 9, with 99.56 percent of precincts reporting, Cooper led the race by a slight vote difference of 2,735 according to the State Board of Elections's website, but the final results of the gubernatorial race have

See **GOVERNOR**
pg. 5

NEWS



Department of English program assistant died Dec. 1

11

NEWS



ABSS considers redistricting plan

6-7

SPORTS



Men's basketball reflects on Danieleley's influence

15

THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF

ELON NEWS
NETWORK

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CRIME REPORT

Nov. 29
GREEN STREET
ELON

Burglary, forced entry

At approximately 9:30 a.m. Nov. 29, an officer responded to a report of suspicious activity at a home on Greet Street, according to a Town of Elon Police report. The officer discovered the home had been broken into and multiple items potentially stolen. The silver Honda Civic the suspect was reported leaving in was discovered to be recently stolen out of Graham.

Dec. 2
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS
BURLINGTON

Multiple offenses

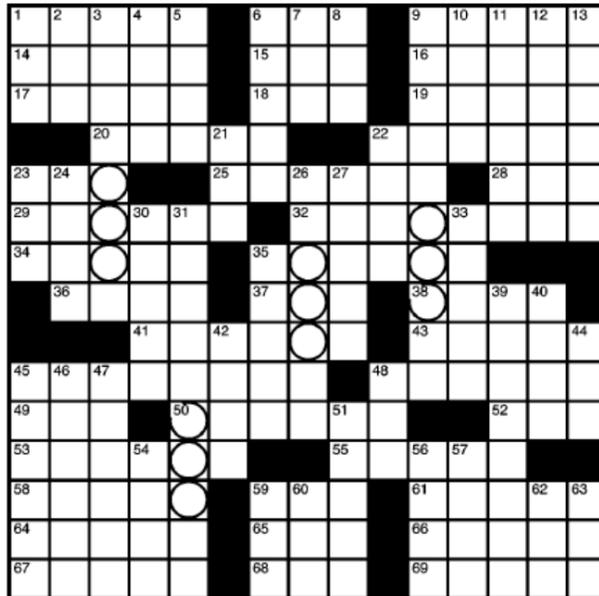
Break-ins were reported throughout the night of Dec. 2 on Dare, McKinney, Whitsett, Pine and Hawkins Streets, Holland, East Webb and Cates Avenues and Morningside Drive, according to a Burlington Police report. Nine cars and businesses were broken into. One car was stolen but has been recovered. Police do not yet know if the break-ins are connected.

GAMES

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
1 Kind of basin
6 State secrets?
9 Intense dislike
14 Act poorly?
15 Run a tab, say
16 Words between two "thanks"
17 Chef protector
18 See 8-Down
19 Floorboard support
20 Many a Sundance film
22 Rent payer
23 Registered names: Abbr.
25 Action at the front
28 H.S. hurdle
29 Adom
32 Comical punctuation marks from the drummer
34 Marshy lowland
35 Chihuahua, por ejemplo
36 "___ Eyes": Eagles hit
37 '60s campus gp.
38 Hieroglyphics reptiles
41 "Do __, not ..."
43 Work on, as a stubborn squeak
45 Tablets' kin
48 Swingline insert
49 2,170-mi. trail terminus
50 Walk with style
52 Luau music provider
53 Wanting too much
55 Pry
58 Cookie named for its flavor
59 Aromatic necklace
61 Stage performances
64 Words after miss or skip
65 Resting place
66 Down source
67 Singer Bruni married to Nicolas Sarkozy
68 Morning cuppa
69 Amounts to



By Matt Skoczen

12/7/16

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	A	B	A	L	C	O	A	E	L	H	I		
A	H	M	E	L	I	A	R	S	R	I	O	T		
G	R	E	E	N	I	N	V	E	S	T	M	E	N	T
S	U	S	H	I	K	E	G	R	I	S	K	Y		
I	C	E	R	O	M	A	N							
P	R	O	V	E	N	I	N	N	O	C	E	N	T	
L	O	N	E	D	O	S	D	E	S	I	R	E		
A	L	T	T	E	N	L	E	D	T	U	B			
N	E	A	R	E	D	E	E	L	S	T	R	O		
O	P	E	N	I	N	V	I	T	A	T	I	O	N	
K	A	T	I	E	S	M	U							
E	A	T	E	N	C	N	N	O	N	S	E	T		
P	L	A	Y	T	H	E	B	A	C	K	N	I	N	E
I	S	L	E	E	N	E	M	Y	E	R	I	E		
C	O	L	D	M	E	T	E	D	R	I	D	S		

- DOWN**
1 Leaves in a bag

- 2 Prankster
3 "Pillow Talk" actress
4 Lots
5 Provide with for a time
6 Montague lad
7 Blow away
8 With 18-Across, Southwestern cuisine
9 Museum pieces
10 Lucy and Ethel and Thelma and Louise
11 "Indeed!"
12 Oust, in a way
13 Church choral works
21 "Eww!"
22 Tibetan title
23 "Angie Tribeca" channel
24 Weak cry
26 Brand of blended seasonings
27 Itsy-___
30 Inventor Howe
31 Population information
33 Book after Daniel
35 Ulysses threesome?
39 Web irritants ... and what appears in each set of puzzle circles?
40 ___-screen printing
42 Faulkner's "As ___ Dying"
44 Actor Marvin of "Cat Ballou"
45 Courvoisier, e.g.
46 Speedy Gonzales cry
47 Kitchen gadget
48 OED entry
51 Words for the audience
54 Hebrew for "skyward"
56 Oil bloc
57 Hodgepodge
59 Pres. sworn in on Air Force One
60 Job listing ltrs.
62 "Is it soup ___?"
63 Fourth-yr. students

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UPCOMING EVENTS: DECEMBER 7 - 13

7:30 P.M. | Fall Songwriter Showcase

7

7:30 P.M. | A Celebration of Music in Film

8

ALL DAY | Fall Classes End

9

ALL DAY | Reading Day

10

10 A.M. | Second Sunday Zen Gathering

11

ALL DAY | First day of Final Exams

12

7 P.M. | Alamance County's Science Cafe

13

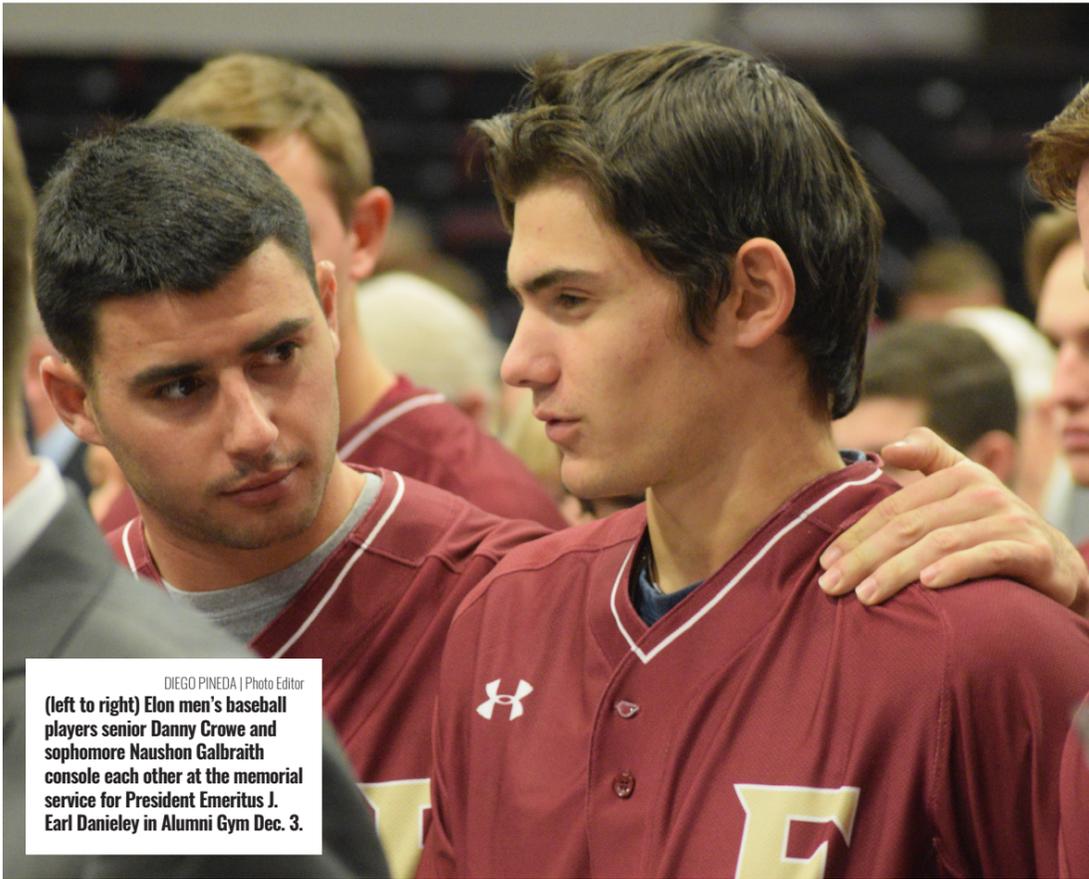
TOP PHOTOS



AJ MANDELL | Staff Photographer
(left to right) Freshmen Konnor Porro and Julia Field gather outside of Alamance Building for the Festival of Holiday Lights Dec. 1.



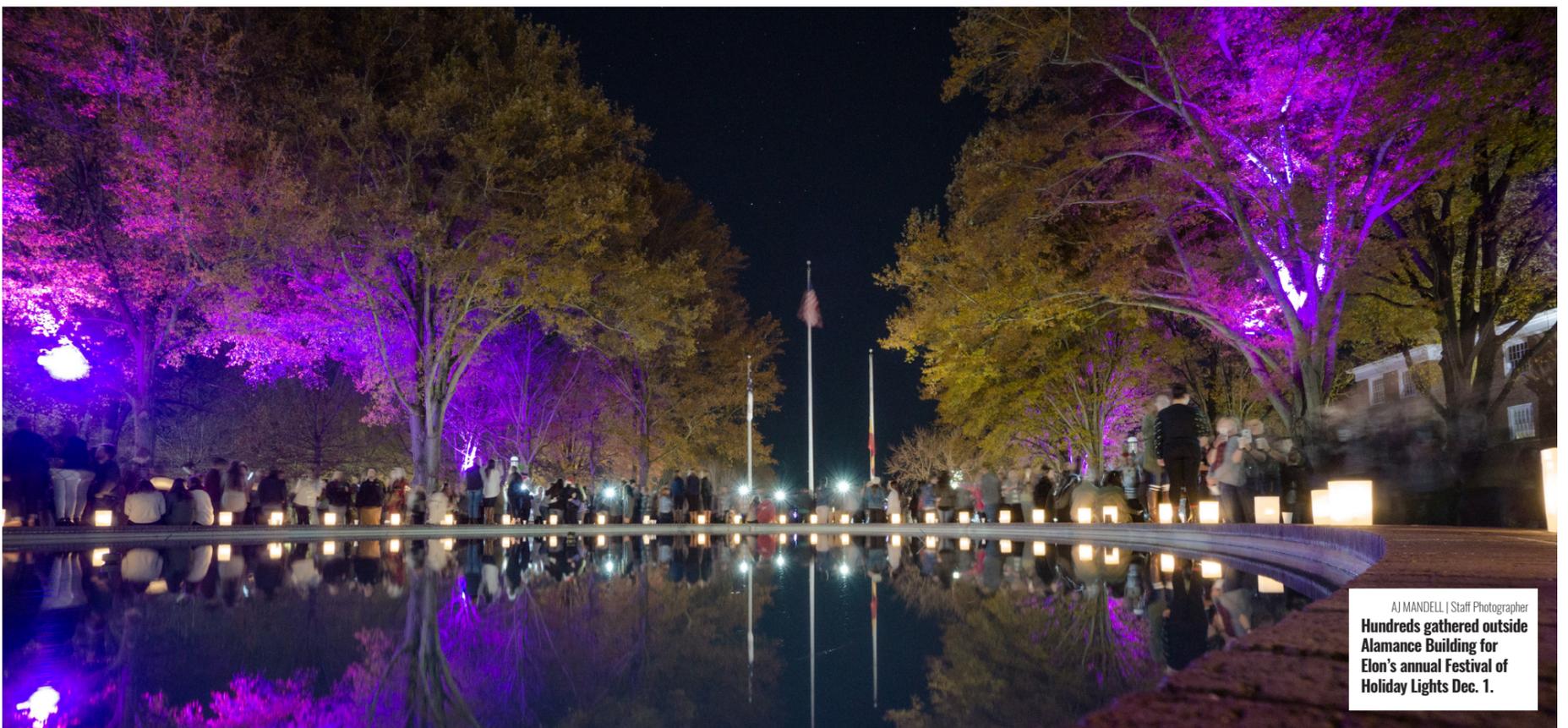
DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor
Junior Adria Gunter performs during the Twisted Measure Fall Concert in Whitley Auditorium Dec. 3.



DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor
(left to right) Elon men's baseball players senior Danny Crowe and sophomore Naushon Galbraith console each other at the memorial service for President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley in Alumni Gym Dec. 3.



DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor
Students from Elon Elementary visited Lakeside Dining Hall for the Elon Dining program "Spice it Up" Dec. 1.



AJ MANDELL | Staff Photographer
Hundreds gathered outside Alamance Building for Elon's annual Festival of Holiday Lights Dec. 1.



DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor
Members of the Elon University community deliver thoughts about J. Earl Danieley at his memorial service in Alumni Gym Dec. 3.

Danieley commemoration continues

“Two words I believe were the essence of him were ‘integrity’ and ‘love.’ To put it simply, Earl Danieley made the Elon today possible.”

LEO LAMBERT
Elon University President

Sonya Walker
Contributor
@elonnewsnetwork

Alumni Gym was filled with love as friends, family, students and staff all gathered to celebrate the life of Elon University President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley at his memorial service Dec. 3. The screens throughout the gym displayed iconic images of Danieley and his big smile, warming the hearts of the guests trickling in.

Danieley was a graduate, teacher, dean and president at Elon, but many at the service remembered him most as a dear friend.

“Two words I believe were the essence of him were ‘integrity’ and ‘love,’” said President Leo Lambert in his opening address. “To put it simply, Earl Danieley made the Elon today possible.”

Lambert’s sentiments were echoed by other members of the community, including faculty, alumni and current students.

“His love for Elon was legendary, and his bond with students unprecedented,” said Powell Professor of Philosophy Emeritus John G. Sullivan. “I shall count [him] always as my friend.”

Joe Magyar ’05 came back to his alma mater for the service and recalled how Danieley was always there for his students.

“He was the face of Elon,” Magyar said.

Many student athletes attended the memorial in honor of Danieley, some in uniform. In his time as Elon president, Danieley oversaw many expansions in the athletic department, especially for the women’s sports teams.

“He was always a huge supporter of women’s sports,” said junior softball player Hannah Olson. “He brought us in as a family and made us feel like we were truly a part of Elon.”

Danieley was also known for his appearances and towel-waving at basketball games.

He even had a special seat, which was draped in both a towel and roses at the memorial.

“The thing I remember most is always chanting the ‘Dr. Danieley’ chant for him to stand up, and every time, everyone lights up,” said senior Jeanine Grabowski. “And when we got the Dr. Danieley towels and we got to do it with him, that was very special.”

The memorial service highlighted just how legendary Danieley was for Elon and the people whose hearts he touched. The task now is keeping his memory alive at the school he loved so passionately.

In honoring Danieley, flowers have been left at his parking spot outside of the McMichael Science center and the hashtag #DanieleyLegacy has spread on social media.

Adam Constantine ’10, social media manager of Elon, has been vocal of his admiration of Danieley. He said it was extremely hard to separate his personal feelings from doing his job.

“I don’t say this for pity, I say this because I was forced to focus on high priority crisis communications during a time of personal loss,” Constantine wrote on Facebook. “I had to learn quickly, how to separate my emotions from my job and put out the best possible information. I think, knowing the educator Dr. Danieley was his entire life, he would appreciate the lesson I learned from this.”

“It was a great honor speaking at his memorial on Saturday. I’m thankful for the legacy he left with so many others.”

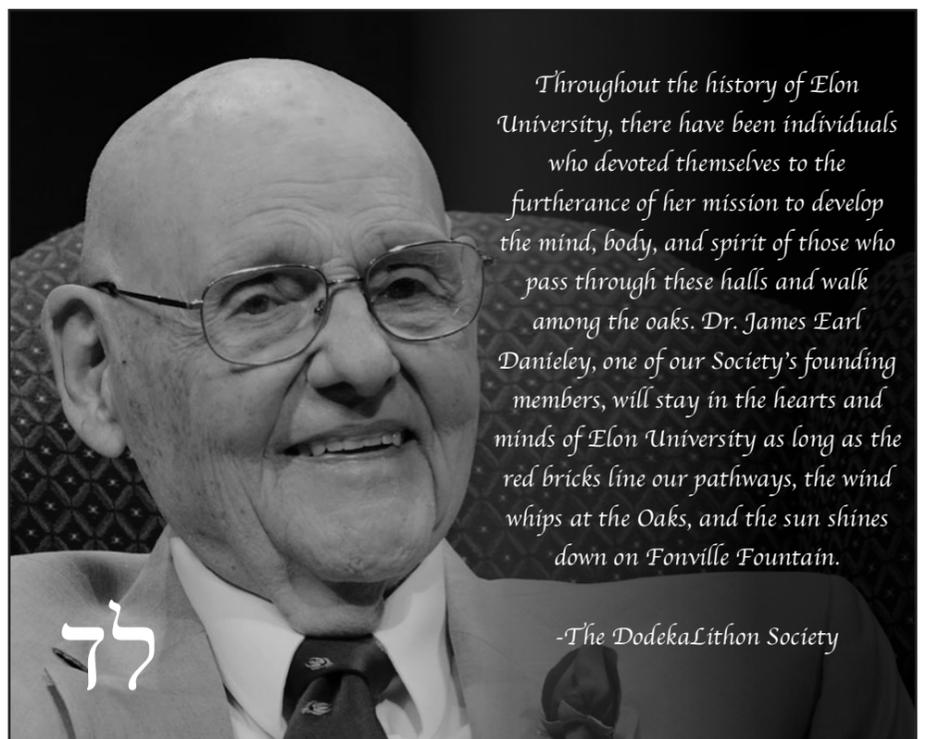
A special College Coffee was held in the Moseley center after the memorial service to foster conversations about Danieley and the Elon he helped create. Community members talked about how to keep Danieley’s legacy going.

“Appreciating the school, from where it started and to now,” said senior Jocelyn Smith. “I think that people need to learn more — that was something he was really trying to do — share the story of Elon.”



Speakers at J. Earl Danieley’s memorial service reflect before their time to speak.

DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor



Throughout the history of Elon University, there have been individuals who devoted themselves to the furtherance of her mission to develop the mind, body, and spirit of those who pass through these halls and walk among the oaks. Dr. James Earl Danieley, one of our Society’s founding members, will stay in the hearts and minds of Elon University as long as the red bricks line our pathways, the wind whips at the Oaks, and the sun shines down on Fonville Fountain.

-The DodekaLithon Society



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

North Carolina Republican Gov. Pat McCrory and Democratic challenger Roy Cooper debated HB2 and other topics at the gubernatorial debate Oct. 18 in Raleigh.

GOVERNOR

from cover

hung in the air because of repeated challenges by McCrory and other members of the GOP.

Twenty-two days after the election, on Nov. 30, Cooper finally attained a lead in excess of 10,000 votes ahead of his opponent.

McCrory said to a crowd of anxious but energized supporters that due to inconclusive results, “The democratic process is going to proceed in North Carolina for a while.”

“We’re going to check everything. We’re going to make sure that every vote counts in North Carolina,” he said. “We’ve got to respect the election system because no one respects democracy more than Gov. Pat McCrory and [his wife] Ann McCrory.”

Cooper’s team, it would seem, had almost made up their minds. Just before 2 a.m., Cooper addressed his assembled supporters and announced a victory for the Democrats.

“It’s been a long journey to get to this point,” Cooper said. “This has been a hard-fought race, but the people of North Carolina have spoken, and they want a change in leadership. We are confident that these results will be certified, and that they will confirm victory.”

On Nov. 10, Team McCrory tweeted, “We are filing paperwork with State Board of Elections to establish legal defense fund in prep of extended contest,” citing voter fraud as one of many reasons for needing a recount.

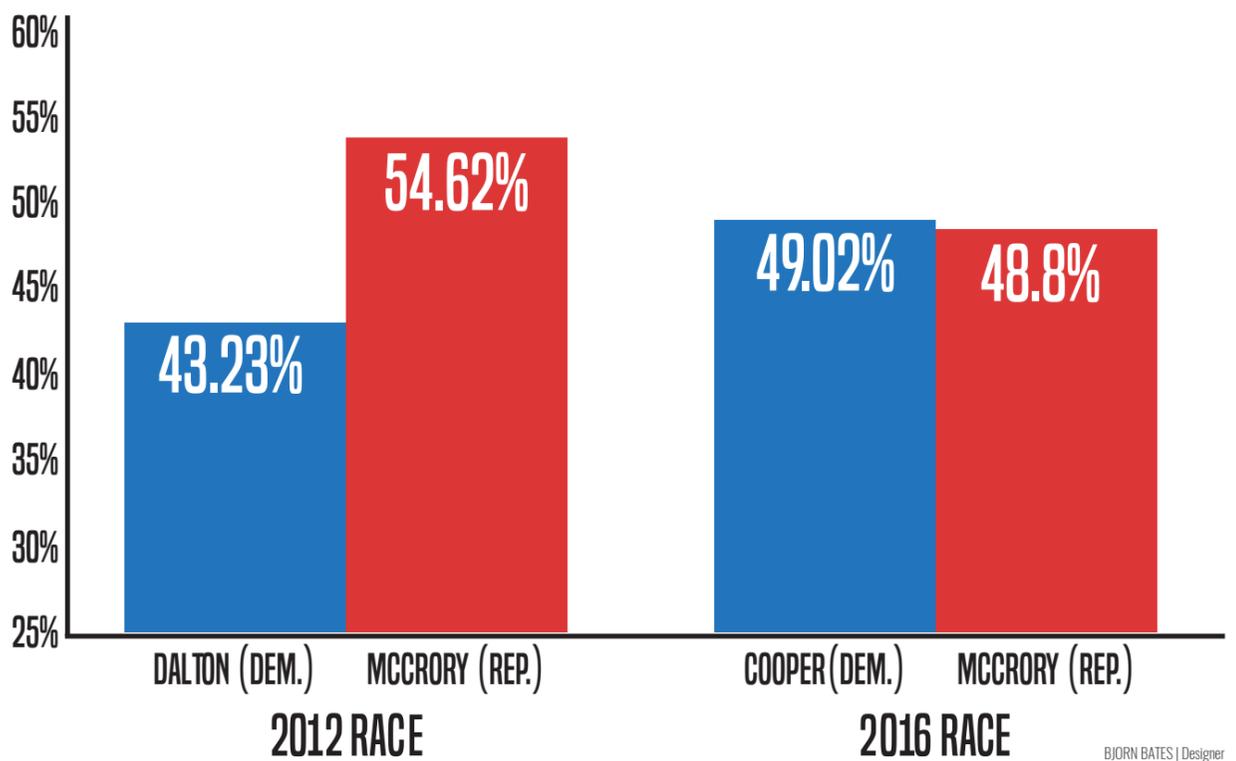
Elon University senior Ashlyn Vogelsang lives in Sanford, North Carolina. She said she disliked the way McCrory was treating the opinions of North Carolinians.

“I just think it’s really un-American of him to not allow the person who his state voted for to assume the position already,” she said. “If he thinks that he’s about true American values, he’s wrong.”

Twenty-two days after the election, on Nov. 30, after the tabulation of provisional ballots and recounts in some individual counties, Cooper finally attained a lead in excess of 10,000 votes ahead of his opponent.

After Cooper passed this threshold, McCrory’s request for a statewide recount could not be granted — according to North Carolina laws — unless he was able to close the gap.

PERCENTAGE
OF VOTES IN
NORTH
CAROLINA



BJORN BATES | Designer

Cooper’s plans for HB2

House Bill 2, also known as HB2, is a primary reason for Cooper’s success in a state won by Donald Trump during the presidential election, according to a number of reputable sources such as The Washington Times and U.S. News & World Report.

Cooper’s election doesn’t mean an immediate repeal of HB2 because of the Republican majority in the North Carolina House of Representatives and state senate — but he has been an outspoken opponent of the law since McCrory signed it in March.

“With politics, a lot of people will sell what the people want to hear in order to get elected,” said sophomore Janay Tyson. “But when they’re actually in office, they do a much different job than what they said they were going to do.”

“My hope is that things will get better and turn around and that laws like this won’t get passed in the future, but you never know.”

HB2 prohibits local governments from passing laws that protect members of the LGBTQIA community and requires that transgender individuals use the restrooms

corresponding with their gender listed at birth.

When Tyson first heard about the bill, she said she initially realized it was discriminatory toward members of the LGBTQIA community. But she said as she learned more “it definitely got worse.”

Tyson said, “I realized how much broader the bill was and what it encompassed, especially toward ... women, as far as discrimination towards jobs and employment, housing, etc.”

Vogelsang said she can’t understand why McCrory would sign such a law into order.

“I think a lot of people would stand by me in saying it’s a ridiculous law,” she said. “It sets us back many years and it’s time to be progressive and it’s time to let people move us forward.”

In March, Cooper quickly responded to McCrory’s decision to not repeal HB2.

“Not only is this new law a national embarrassment, it will set North Carolina’s economy back if we don’t repeal it,” Cooper said in a statement.

In April, Bruce Springsteen canceled a show in Greensboro in opposition to the law. This was one of many notable show and business cancellings, the 2017 NBA All Star

game being one of the most recognizable. The Charlotte Regional Visitor’s Authority estimated the city could lose up to \$100 million in potential revenue because of the game’s removal. PayPal also announced it would not be expanding its operations in Charlotte, which the company said would have created 400 jobs.

“It’s sad that ... this one bill, it’s affecting ultimately economies and peoples’ financials as well, not just the lives of individuals,” Tyson said.

Following the NBA’s announcement in July, McCrory released a statement that said, “The sports and entertainment elite, Attorney General Roy Cooper and the liberal media have for months misrepresented our laws and maligned the people of North Carolina simply because most people believe boys and girls should be able to use school bathrooms, locker rooms and showers without the opposite sex present.”

When HB2 was discussed during the gubernatorial debate Oct. 12, McCrory once again shifted the blame to numerous Charlotte leaders.

“It wasn’t needed,” he said. “It wasn’t called for. It was the liberals who brought this up.”

ABSS EXAMINES REDISTRICTING PLAN

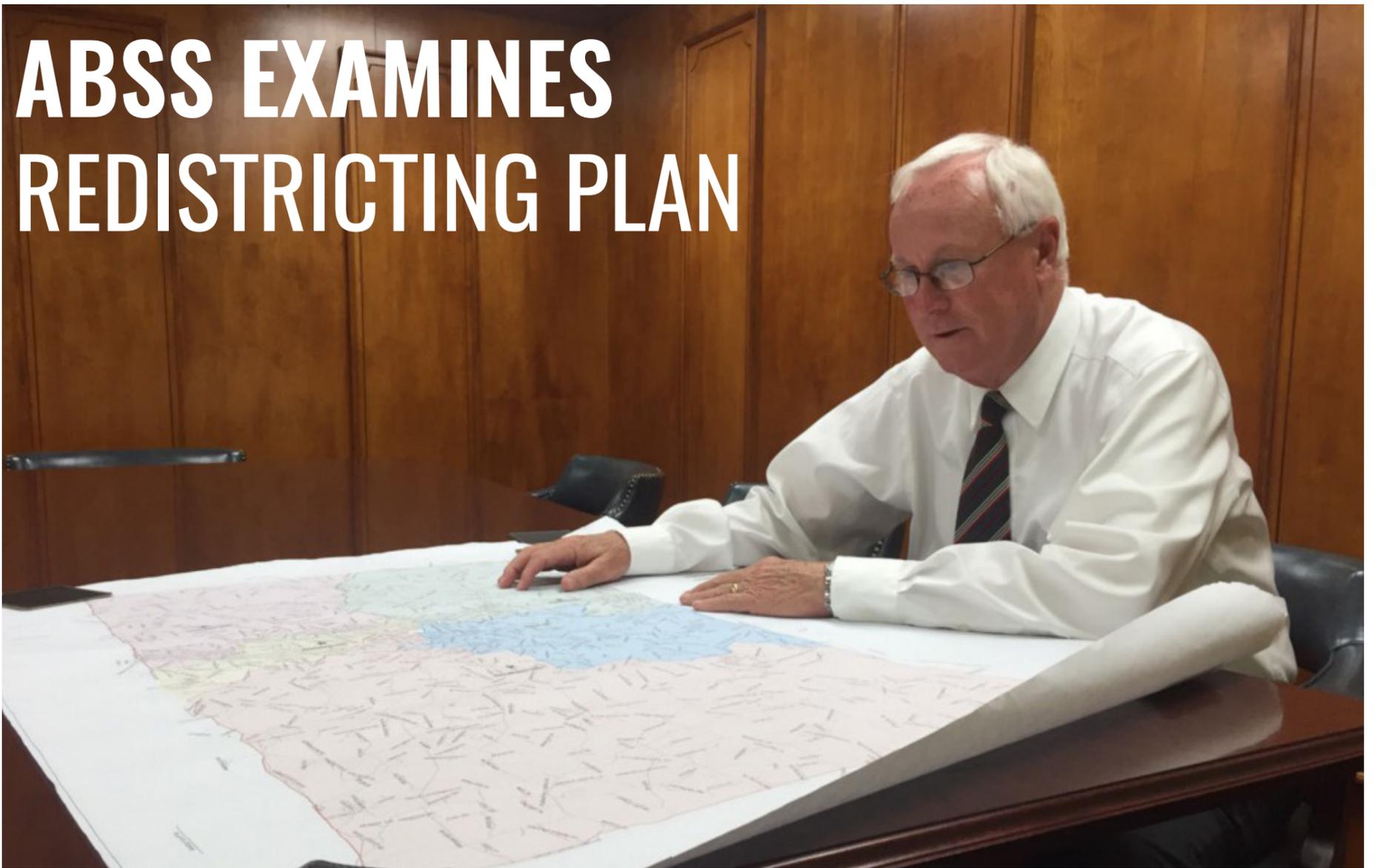


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CAROLINE FERNANDEZ

Board of Education to vote on plan in January

Caroline Fernandez
Senior Reporter
@CHFernandez17

Walking through the main hallway of Cummings High School, Athletic Director Kyle Pycraft stopped and looked at the trophy cases that lined the path.

Indented in two long walls near the entrance are modest wooden shelves with protective glass, where years of county and state championship trophies stand shoulder to shoulder.

“Strong and successful athletics are a big part of Cummings’ history and culture,” Pycraft said. “We actually ran out of room and have boxes of trophies from recent years down in the office until we can make more room.”

In a proposed redistricting of Alamance Burlington School System (ABSS), Cummings would be turned into a School of the Arts, which could change the 45-year-old school’s consistent and long history of athletic success. According to ABSS Superintendent William Harrison, there will still be some presence of athletics at Cummings, and currently no plans to cut the program.

The transition of Cummings is just one facet of the estimated \$150 million redistricting plan, which includes building an additional high school between the Eastern and Southern zones, as well as renovations and additions to current facilities.

Alamance County is projected to grow from the current population of about 160,000 people to an estimated 200,000 in 2030, which ABSS was forced to consider when looking at its already overcrowded district.

That expected growth combined with a lack of resources, older facilities that needed updating and overcrowding — the worst cases being at Southern and Eastern — were factors that led the board to the idea of building an additional high school, which is currently being referred to as New High School. The high school is estimated to cost around

\$50 million and will be able to support more than 1,000 students.

Eastern, Western and Southern high schools will undergo about \$2 million worth of additions and renovations each, while Graham High School — similar to what is being done at Cummings — will be transitioned into a skilled trades school.

With a price tag of close to \$150 million, construction and renovations would last until 2021, the first year of students effected by redistricting being current fifth-graders.

But all these changes come with a cost that’s more than monetary, even if it isn’t the most ideal situation for students, parents, teachers and administrators.

“Schools right now are bulging at the seams,” Pycraft said. “I get that something needs to be done. Maybe it’s just me being selfish because I love Cummings High School, and I would love to see it stay the way it is.”

The road to redistricting

Before Harrison joined ABSS, the community and school board came together in 2013 and adopted what Harrison referred to as a “bold vision for public education in the county,” followed by the creation of a strategic plan to help make the vision a reality.

When Harrison arrived in July 2014, not much action had been taken on the strategic plan, which included a five-year master plan for facilities and a master plan for specialized programs such as language immersion programs, career technical education centers and a cultural arts theme in some elementary

Superintendent William Harrison takes a closer look at the sixth and most recent iteration of the redistricting map.

schools.

So later that year, on a few packed and purposeful afternoons, members of an ABSS task force on facilities divided and conquered the district, ensuring that every school was visited, observed and noted.

Once on site, members had a check-list of major points to take note of — presence or lack of overcrowding, the status of the building, potential needed repairs and possible safety issues.

According to Harrison, the task force found

that there were a lot of needs, especially with issues of overcrowding, that were too big for a simple redistricting to solve.

“After we looked at the task force results was when we formed the idea to build a new high school between Eastern and Southern,” Harrison said.

Harrison said that after

the City of Burlington schools - Williams and Cummings - and county schools (Western, Eastern, Southern and Graham) merged to become one district in 1996, the locations of the schools in relation to each other didn’t make any sense.

Cummings and Williams, centrally located in close proximity to each other because of their former ties to Burlington and Graham, were clustered together right on top of each other.

“If I could start all over again I would simply cut the almost perfect rectangle of Alamance County into quarters and have Western, Eastern, Southern and the new school location [between Eastern and Southern] and simply do away with the other three schools,” Harrison said. “But you can’t close three schools. So then we started looking at it more and it made sense to say, ‘Let’s keep doing what we’re do-

ing with Cummings and Graham [and make them non-zoned, specialized schools that any student could attend].”

“What we’ve tried to do is ensure we have equitable programs at all schools.”

The idea of redrawing district lines and shuffling students around was first introduced to the public in 2015.

When he was sworn into his role as the leader of a district of more than 400 square miles, approximately 22,000 students and close to 30 schools, he was also sworn in as a pioneer to redistrict and expand. Having done so twice in previous roles, Harrison came with the experience and background to lead the charge.

More than two years in the making, the most recent redistricting outline and sixth map iteration was laid out Sept. 8 during an open forum at Williams High School, the first of four forums held during the month of September in an effort for ABSS to be transparent with parents and students, as well as provide time for people to voice opinions, complaints or questions.

At the forum’s information session about the district’s strategic plan, School of the Arts, Skilled Trades Academy and future renovations were also presented to parents and community members voiced their opinions on everything from socioeconomic diversity to academic rigor to transportation options.

For some, the forums opened their eyes to the plan and left them with a change of heart from previous, possibly negative, viewpoints.

“I was not happy when I first heard about this plan last year,” said Laura Dunn, a parent who attended the Western High School public forum Sept. 15. “But now that I’ve seen the proposals and heard more about it, I believe it’s really coming together.”

In a random survey distributed to parents in Alamance county, nearly 50 percent of the 73 respondents said they “strongly do not support” the plan. Results were mixed with regard to both the School of Arts and Skilled Trades Academy additions.

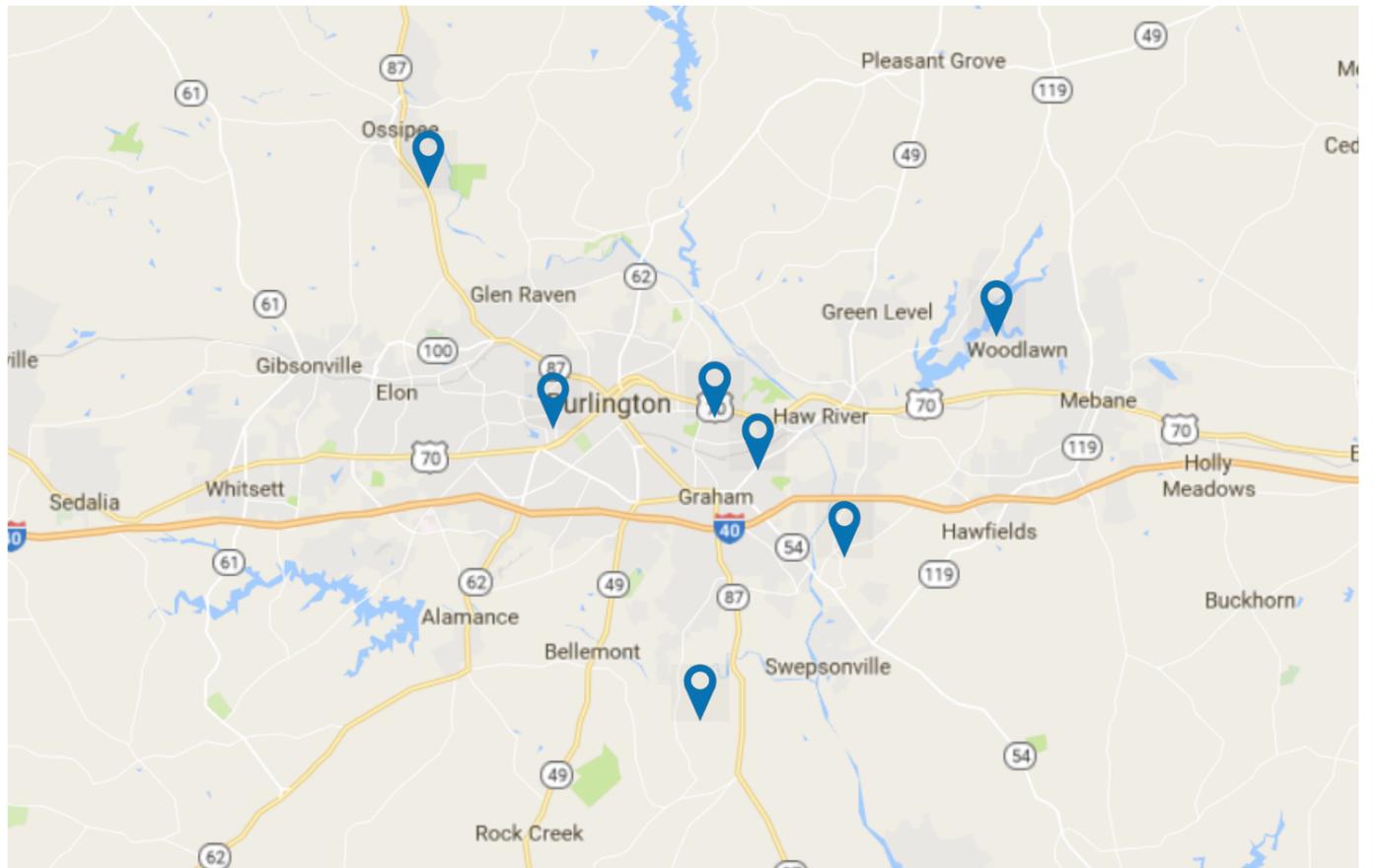
Socioeconomic diversity shift

If the redistricting goes as currently planned, students will be shuffled around and potentially placed in a different high school

Seven high schools in the ABSS Redistricting Plan:

- 1) Eastern Alamance
- 2) Western Alamance
- 3) Southern Alamance
- 4) Walter Williams
- 5) Cummings
- 6) Graham
- 7) New High School

Map of ABSS high schools



than families originally envisioned and planned for, much to the dismay of some residents.

"I get that families buy a house based on what schools are in that zone. I really do," Harrison said.

Wade Garrett bought a house in Southern Alamance's school district three years ago solely because of the schools. A Cummings alumnus, he said he was determined to send his daughter to a better school than he attended.

As a result of this redistricting plan, he'll be pulling his daughter out of the school system regardless of the vote and homeschooling her instead.

"I'm beyond irate that they are doing this," Garrett said. "They cite low parental involvement as a reason to shut down Cummings and Graham and stuff those kids into the already packed classrooms of other schools. I know better. It's not like that's going to get these parents involved. And if they think I'm going to fill in for them, they're wrong."

"We're not stupid. All they are doing is attempting to hide the failing grades and dropout rates of Cummings and Graham among schools with denser, white student populations. It won't work. Those schools and communities will just be ruined, and whites will pack up and move further down the interstate."

But in the eyes of others, the redistricting, which; in some cases, would bring students from diverse racial, social and economic backgrounds, is doing good for students.

When asked about the diversity shift that redistricting would bring, Sean Quinn's, eyes lit up and he leaned forward in the desk chair of his Western Alamance history classroom where he teaches.

"I think it's an awesome idea," he said. "I'm highly in favor of it. We have poor diversity in our schools and are serving a certain clientele, and we are not providing fair or maybe equitable education to all. I don't think that's intentional, but I think that's the nature of a school system that was started in the 1960s, and I don't think there were long-term plans."

Cummings and Graham are both located in and around some of the most impoverished areas of the county, something Harrison and his team considered when thinking about equity, diversity and advancement among all schools and ultimately led them to decide to make those two schools the specialized programs.

"Part of our concern about Cummings and Graham is that they're 85 to 90 percent free and reduced lunch," Harrison said. "And very little demographic diversity. All children, regardless of their circumstance, must have an equal opportunity to realize their potential."

Kendall McBrew, a Burlington resident and Williams Class of 2010 graduate, said at the Sept. 4 Williams public forum that she hopes the committee will keep in mind the most impoverished students in the county when making redistricting decisions.

"A world-class education system cannot just work for some," McBrew said. "It must reflect the county and its growth and the future of the county."

While many have voiced that it will be a challenge at first to bring together the cultures of multiple elementary and middle schools and communities into the same high school, Quinn has hope.

"As educators we need to find a way to create a diverse school, whether it be socioeconomically, ethnically, racially," he said. "We

won't have it perfect, but five or six years from now, we should have a school system where kids get the opportunity to meet other types of kids and interact with other types of kids."

"It's no different than what you're trying to achieve at Elon," Quinn said. "Elon clearly is limited in its diversity but has a plan to expand. In a globalized world, you have to do that. We don't live in little bubbles anymore."

Special programming strategy

In an effort to support more students and propel them to a successful future, ABSS announced the establishment of a School of the Arts modeled after the Durham School of the Arts and to be housed at Cummings, as well as a Skilled Trades Academy to be located at Graham.

In order for the programming to work and be a success, students and families must have interest. Harrison and the board decided they needed to better understand the level of interest of the community, so they sent out a survey to gauge general interest in specialized programs and opinions.

Some opinions, though, are already formed and known, especially from those at Cummings and Graham who will see dramatic physical and cultural changes in their schools.

While Cummings track and field coach Don Davis admitted he hasn't done enough research to have formed a definite opinion, what he knows for sure is that athletics at Cummings needs to stay.

"From my perspective as a track coach, I'd hate to see the athletics go away because Cummings has a rich, rich program," he said. "For Cummings, once athletics shuts down, everything else shuts down with it."

Davis, who has been a coach at Cummings since 1987, created the most successful track and field program in the state, he values athletics not for the sport as much as he does for what it does for students.

"If you take athletics away, it's a big part of what we do," he said. "The reason we focus on



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CAROLINE FERNANDEZ

Longtime Cummings High School track and field coach Dan Davis worries about how becoming an arts school will affect the future of the school's athletic program. The Cummings track and field program is currently one of the best in the state.

and push athletics is so we can eliminate some of the artificial barriers kids have.

"Athletics should mirror society," he said. "It should have diversity. It should allow for different sports to have a different clientele of kids succeeding. We have a rich history of football success at Western, and there's a possibility that we might not be as good. Some say we shouldn't do it then. Athletics is a piece, but school is the reason we're here. So whatever is best for the kids educationally should fall first, but then athletics should fall in line. You can't not do something that's right for kids educationally because it might hurt the athletic programs. The athletic programs will survive."

Money, money, money

The proposed plan with all of its caveats, facets and layers comes with a price and sophisticated strategy to get there.

Harrison is planning on acquiring the needed \$150 million in two major ways: a bond and private partnerships.

He was originally planning on submitting a final draft of the plan to the Board of Education for a vote on Dec. 5, but delayed the vote until January.

"I'm two for two," Harrison said, referring to the two other times he proposed, petitioned and oversaw the redistricting of school dis-

tricts. "If it doesn't get passed, though, which I don't see happening - we'll just have to cut on aspects of the project."

If the Board approves the plan in January, then that would allow the Board of Commissioners, who are the funding branch for the initiative, to begin their decision-making process about how much they're willing to pay and how they'd pay for it, if they're at all willing.

A funding possibility is a bond, either a general obligation or revenue bond. Revenue bonds allow for money to be taken from a specific revenue stream while general obligation bonds come from the city or county and could be considered public debt and likely lead to a tax increase.

The decision whether to utilize a bond can only be made during a county-wide election, the next one being March 2018.

"We can't do much more work before we get the money," Harrison said. "We're in talks now of working with an outreach company to help get information out to as many parents, families and community members as possible in the time that we have."

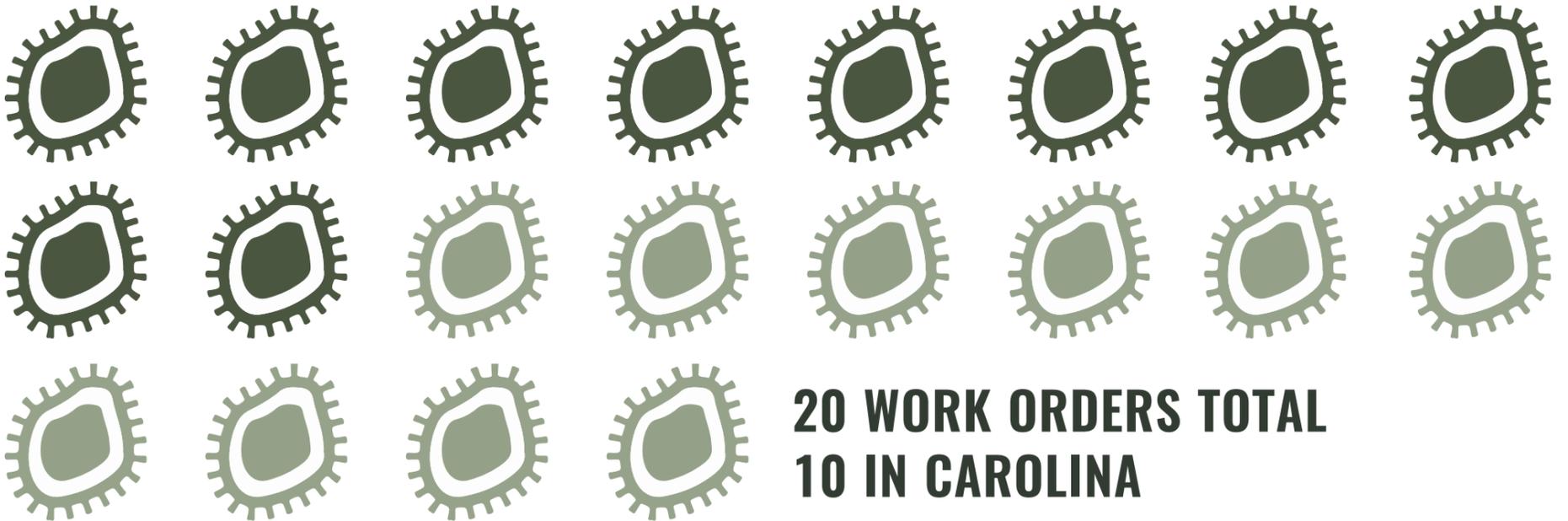
If everything goes as planned and gets approved by mid-2018, construction and renovations would take about two years, completing the redistricting process in 2021, seven years after its inception.

Six factors considered for ABSS Redistricting:

- 1) Overcrowding
- 2) Faculty utilization
- 3) Anticipated growth
- 4) Demographics
- 5) Proximity to schools
- 6) Feeder system

MOLD: FROM COVER

HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD



An estimated 700 students — mostly freshmen — live in the 10 buildings that make up the Historic Neighborhood. Since the start of the 2016-2017 school year, some residents have battled illnesses they believed were caused by the mold and mildew developing in their rooms. Several students have experienced prolonged common cold symptoms they mistakenly took as the average flu.

“Two weeks into my first semester at college, I started getting symptoms of a cold and a severe cough,” said freshman Maeve Riley, former first-floor resident of Carolina Hall. “After a while, my chest started tightening, and it just developed from there. What I thought was the average cold just got worse and worse.”

When Riley began to experience more aggressive allergic reactions in Carolina, she suspected that her illness was caused not by any average flu, but by the mold and mildew that she believed was growing in the ceiling and walls of her room.

“It would get worse at night while I was in the room, and it was only a breathing issue,” Riley said. “I went home to New York for a weekend and suddenly felt so much better. The second I returned to Carolina, I got sick again — which just proved to me that it was something that the mold and mildew was doing to the air of our dorm.”

The fungus not only caused severe

health problems for Riley but also affected many aspects of her daily life.

“The mold affected both my social life and my academic life,” Riley said. “I just didn’t have the energy to socialize each day, and I couldn’t focus in many of my classes because I was so sick.”

Riley brought her issue to the Residence Life office in Historic, hoping to remedy the situation. After speaking with Residence Life, Riley was switched into the Global neighborhood, where her health dramatically improved. Despite this, Riley said the problem was anything but conve-

IT’S NOT SAFE TO HAVE A BUILDING FILLED WITH MOLD BECAUSE IT IS AFFECTING SO MANY PEOPLE. I JUST WISH THE APPROACH TO THE SITUATION WAS A LITTLE MORE SERIOUS BECAUSE I’M NOT THE ONLY ONE BEING AFFECTED.

MAEVE RILEY
FORMER FIRST-FLOOR RESIDENT OF CAROLINA HALL

nient.

“I wish I didn’t have to deal with the problem in the first place,” Riley said. “It’s not safe to have a building filled with mold because it is affecting so many people. I just wish the approach to the situation was a little more serious because I’m not the only one being affected.”

An email sent on Nov. 4 to all Historic residents from MarQuita Barker, senior associate director of Residence Life, stated how the issues brought up by Riley and other students were not the fault of the university or a physical problem of the building, but were just problems caused by the flu and the weather.

In the email, Barker said “the presence of mold and other allergens in the air is not uncommon in North Carolina at this time of year,” and that “it is also common for community members to experience cold-like symptoms this time of year.”

But accord-

ing to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the flu is most common between December and March, pointing toward these symptoms in Historic being caused by something more dangerous than the yearly flu.

Some Historic residents were surprised after Barker’s email and unsure if their own dorms were safe against the mold and mildew.

“I’ve heard there may be mold in our walls because the AC was turned off, which apparently makes mold worse, but no one has confirmed if that is true or not,” said

mold and mildew growth.

Freshman Reid Cobb, a third-floor resident of Smith, said he hasn’t “directly experienced mold-related issues in Smith,” but has “heard about mold problems in Carolina and possible mold problems in the lower floors of Smith.”

The problems Cobb heard about in the lower floors have proven to be true. Freshman Henry Collins, a second-floor resident of Smith, has had his own bouts with mold and mildew since the end of September.

“I’m allergic to mold, so the moment black mold started growing in our bathroom, my allergies just flared up,” Collins said. “The black mold started growing in the gaps between the shower tiles, and I started getting a constant headache and a runny nose.”

But the shower wasn’t the only place that the mold was growing in second-floor Smith.

“The mold also covered up the actual spigot of our water fountain so that none of us could use it safely,” Collins said. “I haven’t seen any mold in my room yet, but most of the ACs in Historic have a drip pan, and I’m worried because I think there is mold growing in mine, which explains my allergic reaction because I sleep right below it.”

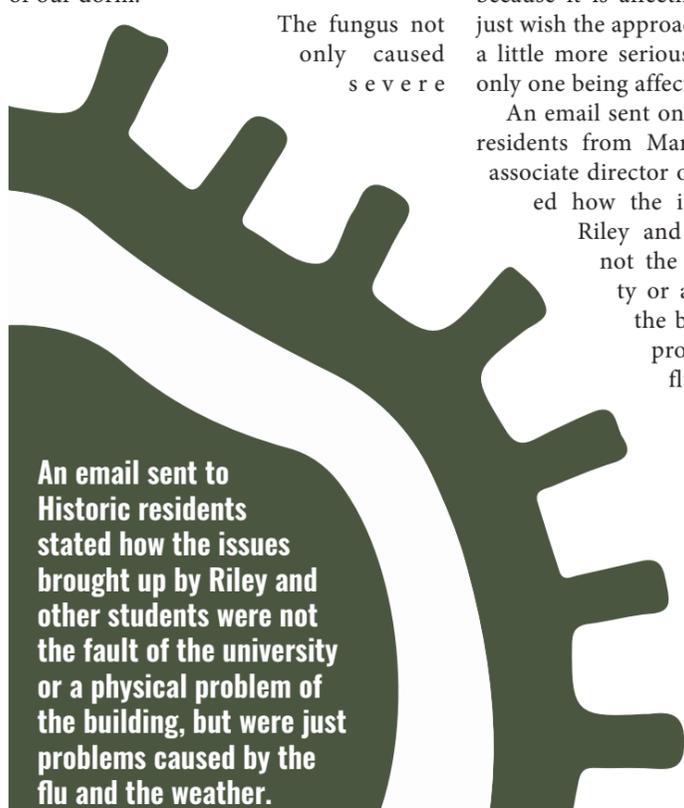
Community Director for the Historic neighborhood Frank Hartfield was unavailable for comment on the issue, but his assistant said that, despite the amount of work orders sent in, “the mold isn’t an actual issue.”

“A lot of students and parents were calling the office asking for room checks and room switches, but if they just cleaned their rooms they wouldn’t have mold and wouldn’t be sick,” said Madison Harrison, the student facilities assistant for Historic.

With some residents still experiencing mold problems and others still recovering, every student at Elon can take precautions against the dangerous fungi.

While professionals offer their expert opinions, Riley said the problem comes down to one thing — taking care of each other.

“Mold is a problem for a lot of people around campus. So, if you have been feeling sick for a really long time or have any of these other symptoms that a lot of people are having — address it. Don’t deal with it on your own, and don’t keep quiet about it. The only way to fix a problem is if a bunch of people address it,” Riley said.

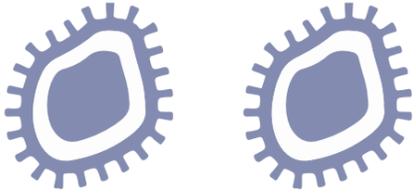


An email sent to Historic residents stated how the issues brought up by Riley and other students were not the fault of the university or a physical problem of the building, but were just problems caused by the flu and the weather.



= 1 mold-related work order submitted between Oct. 29 and Nov. 29, 2016

DANIELEY NEIGHBORHOOD



2 WORK ORDERS

With rumors of Historic Neighborhood mold problems spreading throughout Elon, the threat of mold is an issue that has been brought up in the Danieley Neighborhood.

The neighborhood, which opened in 1999, can house 812 students. Danieley has apparently not yet encountered any mold or mildew issues, according to the Danieley Community Director Detric Robinson.

"I have not been made aware of any apparent mold and mildew issues in

Danieley," Robinson said.

Still, Danieley residents are worried about the possibility of it in their dorms.

"I'm not surprised that there is mold in Historic because those buildings haven't been renovated in such a long time, but the fact that it is there is really concerning because that means that it will most definitely grow here," said freshman Claudia Escaler, a first-floor resident of Danieley L. "Our building gets cleaned every other week, and I think that's what might be

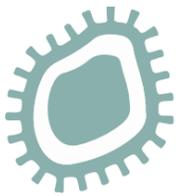
keeping the mold away, but soon that might not be enough."

Escaler is not convinced that the 17-year-old building will keep her suite mold-free.

"I'm more worried about the cleanliness of the building rather than the cleanliness of the people," Escaler said. "I'm just not sure how well the parts of building that none of us can see are doing."

Several Residential Assistants in Danieley declined to comment on the issue.

COLONNADES NEIGHBORHOOD



1 WORK ORDER

Danieley residents might be worried about the age of their buildings, but Colonnades residents certainly are not. Patrick Carey, a first-floor resident of the Colonnades E, Harper Building, said he is not worried about the possibility of mold growth.

But while the mold and mildew hasn't reached Carey yet, the rumors from other neighborhoods have.

"A girl in my Global Experience class lives

in Carolina and got sick from the mold in her room," Carey said.

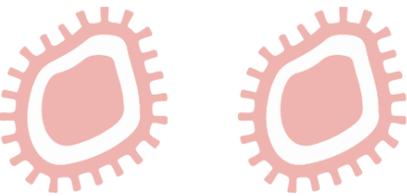
Two floors above Carey, freshman Jennifer Peluso has heard very similar stories from Historic.

"I've heard one of my friends on the third floor of West complaining about mold and mildew in their dorms, but personally, here in Colonnades I haven't had any mold problems all year, and I don't expect to," Peluso said.

Out of the 430 students that live in the five buildings of the Colonnades neighborhood, most seem completely unworried. But not everyone in Colonnades has been untouched by the mold — one mold-related work order was filed on Nov. 1.

Both Cristina Vega, Community Director of the Colonnades neighborhood and several RAs were unable to give comments on the topic.

GLOBAL NEIGHBORHOOD



2 WORK ORDERS

Despite hearing the rumors about the different mold issues around campus, the 600 students in Global Neighborhood haven't had any severe issues with mold or mildew.

Community Director of the Global Neighborhood Kaila Price said she was unable to speak on the topic, but several Global residents said they did not feel an immediate threat of mold in their neighborhood.

Though Global A was the first building

built in the neighborhood, it seems to be staying free of mold and mildew.

"We are in the oldest building in the neighborhood, but I still haven't seen or heard of any mold or mildew problems in my dorm or anywhere in my building," said freshman Sara Lewin, a third-floor resident of Global A.

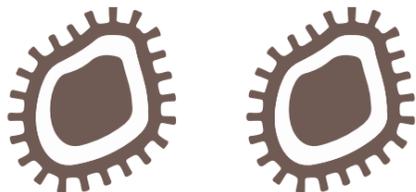
Global's newest building, Global E, is also not facing any immediate problems with mold or mildew.

"I personally haven't had any issues with mold, and haven't heard any mold or mildew-related issues in my entire neighborhood all year," said freshman Abigail Krump, a first-floor resident of Global E.

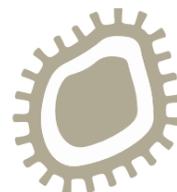
Built only three years ago, the Global neighborhood has a better chance of avoiding the mold and mildew.

"These brand new buildings and the better installations are probably why we don't have mold," Krump said.

OTHER ORDERS



2 WORK ORDERS
IN MILL POINT



1 WORK ORDER
AT BELK LIBRARY

PREVENTING MOLD

- Students with bath exhausts in their bathrooms should turn those on while showering.
- Students without an exhaust should keep the bathroom doors ajar and open windows immediately after showering.
- With winter coming up, students should make sure not to set room thermostats above 68 degrees.
- After drying off, residents should leave their towels and floor mat out to dry properly so as to not let water sit on soft surfaces for long periods of time.
- If mold is present, call the Physical Plant at (336)-278-5555 and avoid dealing with the situation.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, mold can "release mold spores when disturbed, never mix bleach with ammonia; fumes from the combination are toxic."

Elon tailors more recruitment toward international students

Examining enrollment efforts aimed at international students

Suad Ibrahim
Guest Contributor
@suadibrahim_

In 2010, Elon University premiered its current strategic plan. One of the plan's goals was to triple the number of international students holding visas by 2020. With only a few more international students needed to reach the goal, Elon is almost there.

Woody Pelton, dean of global education, said Elon currently enrolls 137 visa-holding students from 49 countries around the world.

"It's not very big, but we used to be in the high 40s," Pelton said.

The international climate in the past made it difficult to enroll large groups of international students, according to Pelton,

In 2010, Elon University set a goal to triple the number of international students holding visas by 2020. The percentage of international students has risen from 3.3 percent in 2010 to 6 percent in 2015.

making it harder to organize and have events tailored to them. Regardless of the number, Pelton said that Elon's international students have always come from a diverse range of countries. According to Pelton, the diversity is just right for Elon. He explained that it's both good and bad not to recruit large numbers of international students from one country.

With hopes to maintain the diversity Elon currently has, Pelton hopes the population of international students can grow into a true community.

"I just hope international student's don't operate independently," Pelton said. "They must interact with other students to get the real sense of an American experience."

According to Elon's strategic plan website, "the percentage of international students has increased from 3.3 percent in 2010 to 6 percent in 2015. At the same time, the number of visa-holding students has increased from 49 to 125 from 49 different countries."

In 1997, Elon started thinking more globally, and Elon's study abroad program was growing. A consultant in charge of an organization called "The European Council of International Schools," was contracted to examine the opportunities, climate and goals of the university.

Greg Zaiser, vice president of admissions and financial planning, said the conclusion of that third-party analysis was to develop a position for someone to recruit international students, much like staff members do domestically.

Zaiser, who has been at Elon

Current international students from 49 countries



ALEX TOMA | Designer

for 27 years, said there was no specific recruitment of international students in the past.

"We were a small college, more regionally oriented — we didn't have students from 50 states, rather than around the globe," Zaiser said.

Zaiser was Elon's first director of international admissions dedicated to recruiting international students.

"We later developed funding for two positions: director and associate dean, and assistant director of international admissions," Zaiser said.

Elon then hired Hebe Fuller a few years later. She now acts as associate dean and director of international admissions.

"With the hiring of Hebe, we have seen tremendous growth due to her commitment and expertise. We never had it before," Zaiser said.

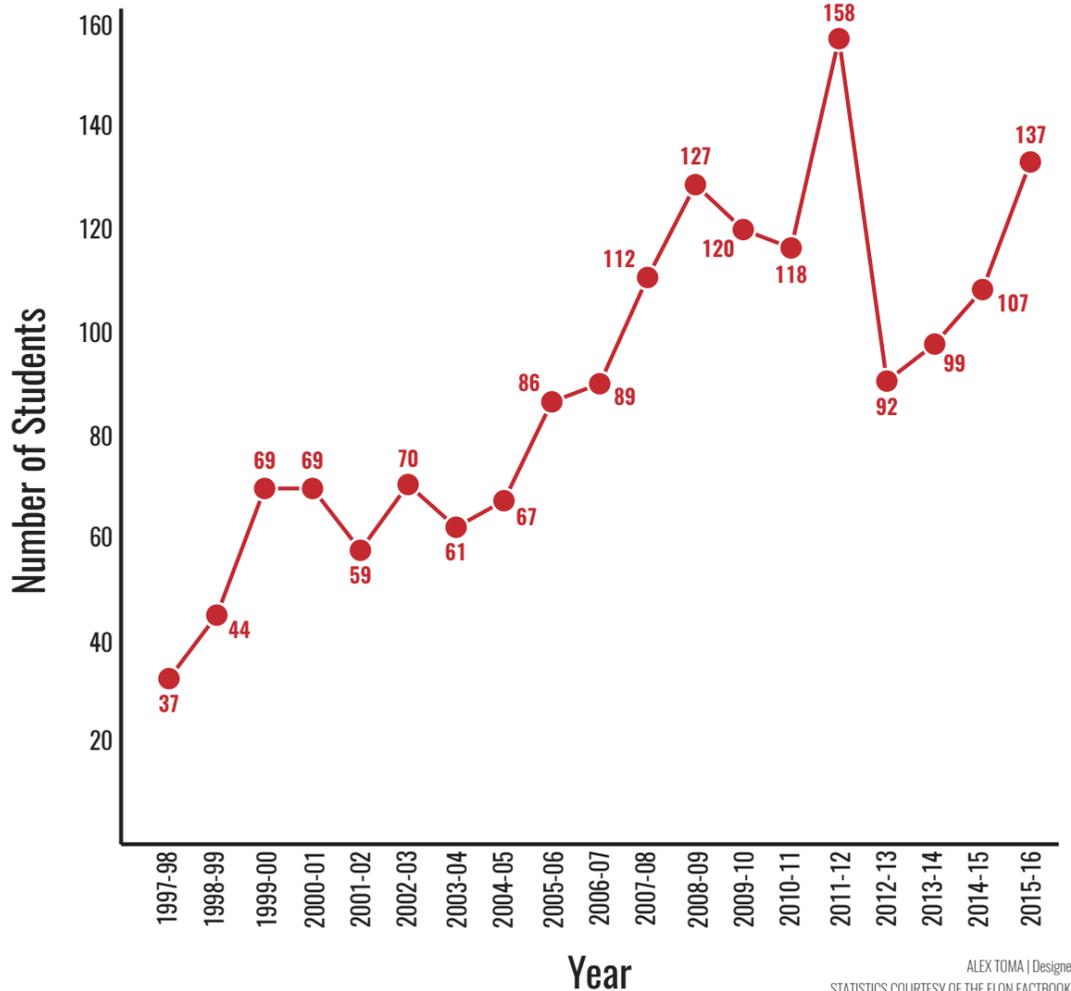
Fuller focuses on recruiting students from countries that send significant numbers of students to other U.S. colleges.

In 1997, a consultant with "The European Council of International Schools" was contracted to examine the opportunities, climate and goals of the university. As a result, a position was developed at Elon that focused on recruiting international students.

"We have seen tremendous growth of students from China, India and Brazil that attend U.S. colleges for education," Fuller said. According to a report by the Institute of International Education, from 2014 to 2015, there has been a huge increase of students from China, India and Brazil. In fact, according to the report, students from those countries account for "most of the growth of international students on U.S. campuses."

Fuller also explained that the university's strategic location is not well-known in markets of the international community, making it a disadvantage to reach out to

Total number of international students by year



ALEX TOMA | Designer
STATISTICS COURTESY OF THE ELON FACTBOOK

international students across the globe.

"Elon is not well-known in most places around the world," she said. "Popular university names are very well-known to international students because they think about the larger cities, like New York, Boston or Miami."

In addition to international recruitment, Fuller hopes to implement new strategies to attract students and acclimate them to a new educational system.

"I try to talk to international students about what a liberal arts system or U.S. education is because they aren't used to that," Fuller said.

As Fuller explained her increased dedication to international recruitment, she said there are still major obstacles.

"We can't travel everywhere, so we try to build our communication flow by reaching out to counselors and alumni to help boost our international population to connect students abroad," Fuller said.



FILE PHOTO BY LANE DEACON

Elon currently enrolls 137 visa-holding students from 49 countries around the world.



CHEAT SHEET: TRUMP'S CALL TO TAIWAN

Want a complicated news story explained? Email enn@elon.edu and find it in next week's Cheat Sheet.

A little more than a month before his inauguration, President-elect Donald Trump breached the United States' protocol regarding the disputed land of Taiwan.

On Dec. 2, Trump called Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-Wen to discuss the importance of the close economic, political and militaristic ties that exist between the United States and Taiwan.

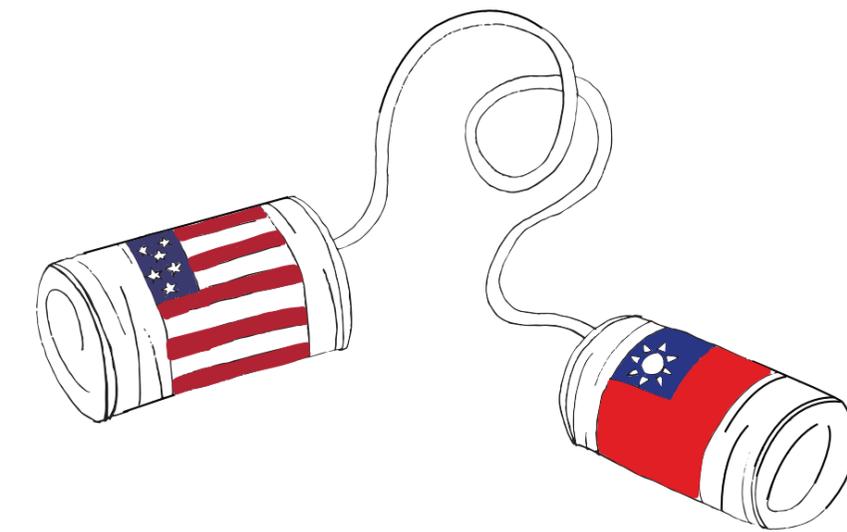
The relationship between the United States and Taiwan began in 1949, when Chiang Kai-Shek's Republic of China was defeated by Mao Zedong and the communists.

Both leaders congratulated each other on their political victories during the call, with Trump's divisive win against Hillary Clinton Nov. 8 and Tsai's victory against her main opponent Eric Chu Jan. 16.

This may have been one of Trump's most controversial calls because the United States has maintained an unofficial relationship with

Taiwan since 1979, when the United States broke off diplomatic ties to the country. The result has been the United States providing Taiwan with defensive weapons while refusing to recognize Taiwan's independence as a country.

This arrangement comes from a desire to maintain economic and political peace with China, which continues to deny Taiwan its independence and maintain the "one Chi-



HANNAH SILVERS | Managing Editor

na" policy that has been a cornerstone of U.S.-Chinese relations for decades.

The relationship between the United States and Taiwan began in 1949, when Chiang Kai-Shek's Republic of China was defeated by Mao Zedong and the communists. After Chiang's defeat, he fled to Taiwan.

While United States and the United Nations both recognize Taiwan as a part of

China, recently the Obama administration sold \$1.8 billion worth of anti-tank missiles, warships and other materials to Taiwan.

His relationship between the United States and Taiwan, official or unofficial, is most likely to continue as both China and the United States attempt to assert greater control and influence in Asia. Later, China said it is unlikely to influence U.S.-Chinese relationship significantly.

Moffitt remembered fondly

Department of English program assistant died unexpectedly Dec. 1

Meg Malone
Assistant News Editor
@megretgeane

Pamela Moffitt, program assistant in the Department of English at Elon University, died unexpectedly Dec. 1.



Pamela Moffitt

She began working for the department in August, just a few short months ago, but she will be remembered fondly by her colleagues. "She had not been with us very long, but she immediately connected with people, and we connected with her," said Janet Warman, associate chair of the English Department. "She was just a very kind, calming presence in the department as a whole — a really helpful, really fine person."

Her generosity and kindness are what many other of her colleagues said made her special to them and the department.

"She was absolutely wonderful and such a gift for us as colleagues and for our students, and she was just always extraordinarily kind and generous," said Julia Delacroix, assistant professor of English. "I know we're all so grateful to have been able to work

SHE WAS ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL AND SUCH A GIFT FOR US AS COLLEAGUES AND FOR OUR STUDENTS, AND SHE WAS JUST ALWAYS EXTRAORDINARILY KIND AND GENEROUS. I KNOW WE'RE SO GRATEFUL TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WORK WITH HER.

JULIA DELACROIX
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

with her."

Prudence Layne, associate professor of English, met Moffitt when she began working at Elon in 2007 as an assistant in the Multicultural Center.

"She was very much ... about service, and she really organized us, kept us together," Layne said. "But [Moffitt] always had such a beautiful smile, spirit and energy — which is what we so desperately need in the world, but in our department, too, because we're always so busy. We will miss her tremendously."

Chair of the Department of English Jean Schwind sent an email to English majors sharing the sad news, in which she said Moffitt would be remembered as someone who "kept our house in great order — organizing events like the Sigma Tau Delta induction and visiting-writer residencies; maintaining many databases and budgets; supplying Drew with "fun-colored" pens ("anything but red!") for marking up student manuscript — and good spirits."

Before coming to Elon, Moffitt was an administrative assistant to the President's Office at Bennett College in Greensboro and an executive assistant in the nanoscience department at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She also spent some time working at Prime Personnel Resources in Burlington.

She was a U.S. Air Force veteran and graduate of the University of Central Florida.

Her funeral will be held early Dec. 9 in Siler City, North Carolina, and the Department of English's holiday party that afternoon has been changed to a celebration of Moffitt's time with the department.

That celebration for English faculty, majors and minors will be held 4:15 p.m. on the third floor of Alamance Building, according to the email to English majors.

According to Layne, a bench will be dedicated to Moffitt sometime this spring.



NEWS BRIEFS

Elon summer honors program approved for summer 2016

The Alamance-Burlington Board of Education has approved a proposal to begin a governor's school program on Elon's campus. Open to academically gifted high school students, the program will run for four weeks and focus on civic engagement. Students will discuss design thinking, social sciences, civic leadership and current events. ABSS will cover the cost of tuition for each student.

Superintendent Bill Harrison said the program will cost less than \$50,000 to create and could be funded through AIG funds or money from the district's special programs budget, but the details have not yet been cemented.

Thirty students will be admitted this summer for the program's first year.

Three professors named Senior Faculty Research Fellows

Three Elon University professors — Lauren Kearns, professor of dance; Toddie Peters, professor of religious studies; and Laura Roselle, professor of political science and policy studies — have been selected as Senior Faculty Research Fellows for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 academic years. Created in 2008, the Senior Faculty Research Fellowship award comprises a two-course reassignment for two consecutive years, plus an annual draw account in support of a significant project or set of projects that advance an already well-established and promising research or creative agenda. The highly competitive program is for faculty who have been at Elon for a minimum of seven years.

Elon Law Environmental, Animal Law Society lead campus plastic collection

The Environmental and Animal Law Society at the Elon University School of Law launched an initiative in support of Operation Bed Roll, which collects and transforms plastic bags into sleeping mats for homeless people in Greensboro. Operation Bed Roll is a collaboration between The City of Greensboro's Field Operations and police departments designed to turn a problematic item into something positive.

Plastic bags, also known as "tanglers," have to be processed in a different facility than other recyclables. When placed in recycle bins other than those specifically for plastic bags, like the kind found outside grocery stores, the bags clog up recycling equipment, causing recycling operations to be shut down multiple times a day.

Elon Communications students document global Internet conference

Elon University School of Communications students traveled to Guadalajara, Mexico, this week to cover the Internet Governance Forum with Elon's Imagining the Internet Center. The students will be documenting key sessions and interviewing Internet professionals about issues facing technology innovation and accessibility.

EDITORIALS:

Staff editorials are written by the editorial board and intended to represent the stance of the ENN staff, who have an opportunity to offer feedback on each topic. Staff editorials and other opinions content are separate from news coverage.

COLUMNS:

Columns are written by ENN staff members and represent their informed opinions. Columns and other opinions content are separate from news coverage.

OPINIONS

STAFF EDITORIAL

Elon Dining has gone above and beyond to serve the community

HOW WE SEE IT

While past campus events have tended to vilify Elon Dining as “anti-local” their actions have proved otherwise.

Previous campus events at Elon University — including the campus-wide protests on plans to bring a Starbucks to campus last fall — have tended to vilify Elon Dining as “anti-local.”

But with all its above-and-beyond efforts for the community, it’s important that we give recognition where it’s due — We see Elon Dining and we know that they do a lot of things they don’t have to do.

They don’t have to sponsor an annual tree through Christmas Cheer of Alamance to collect toys and

gifts for families in need in the community.

On days they could have taken off during Thanksgiving Break, Elon Dining staff didn’t have to devote their time and energy to prepare trays of turkey, mac and cheese, mashed potatoes and more to feed over 800 people at First Baptist and Allied Churches.

They don’t have to donate any leftover food to Campus Kitchen.

Or make it a point to donate dried foods whenever possible. They didn’t have to launch the five-for-one pro-

gram, which encourages students to donate five canned goods to Campus Kitchen in exchange for one free meal.

They didn’t have to partner with Jack Davern, Elon Elementary’s principal, to start an out-of-class engagement program that gives fifth graders from the school the opportunity to try complementary international food at Lakeside Dining Hall.

The chefs did not have to go into detail with the students about the intent behind the food they prepare.

When Pulkit Vigg, resident district manager told the Times News Burlington that “the Community is the centerpiece,” his claim was supported by many instan-

es of initiatives that put the community first.

But community has not

IT’S IMPORTANT THAT WE GIVE RECOGNITION WHERE IT IS DUE. ELON DINING, WE SEE YOU.

been the only centerpiece. Time and time again, Elon Dining has put students first,

too.

When students and community members brought their concerns about the plans to bring Starbucks to campus, they didn’t have to listen and reverse their decision in response.

When Elon students protested Aramark’s inhumane treatment of broiler chickens, they didn’t have to provide a venue for their concerns and work with the students to organize a vegan-only Thanksgiving meal.

Elon Dining staff do not have to learn the names of students but many do, taking the time to check up on the well-being of their students.

We see you Elon Dining, and the work you do matters.

CAMPUS VOICES

Elon News Network is renewing its efforts to serve as a voice of the Elon University community. Each week, this space will feature writing from member of the community. Want to participate? Contact us at enn@elon.edu.

An open letter to InterVarsity



McClaren Hipp
Sophomore

I grew up in the Church. My faith has always been a huge part of my life. It’s a part of my identity that is important to me.

So when I came to Elon University, I wanted to join a faith community that would help me continue to grow and nourish my faith.

I first attended an InterVarsity (IV) meeting because someone I looked up to was a member and invited me to go.

My first few months of membership were wonderful and helped me form friendships I still have to this day.

I participated in a small group and attended a few large group meetings. It was fun. Fresh. Welcoming.

I do not remember when I first grew weary of my participation in IV.

The uncertainty crept into my mind slowly. It gradually silenced me until I was afraid of myself.

Afraid of the thoughts inside my head that were screaming to be let out.

What if I didn’t agree with what I was being told? Did I even still want to be Christian? Was there something wrong with me?

When I began questioning my sexuality, it threw me into a downward spiral. To be the kind of Christian I knew, you couldn’t be queer.

I was forced to choose.

Choose between the voices that told me I could never belong and the ones that

insisted I change and suppress a part of me that took so long to understand.

So I made the decision that I could not continue to be a Christian if I was queer. And that broke my heart.

I was devastated, living in a constant limbo between who I really was and who I thought I needed to be. This battle within myself was only perpetuated by my involvement in IV.

I was afraid to admit to anyone in the organization that I was confused, questioning and alone for fear of judgment and repercussions. Afraid this small part of my identity would be all people saw. All they cared to see. At that moment, the faith I so

I FELT AS THOUGH I NEEDED TO BEND AND BREAK MYSELF IN ORDER TO FIT IN. IN ORDER TO BE ACCEPTED. I DID NOT FIT INSIDE THE BOX MY HEART CALLED “THE PERFECT CHRISTIAN” AND I HATED MYSELF FOR IT.

desperately wanted to have brought with it a person I did not want be.

I felt as though I needed to bend and break myself in order to fit in. In order to be accepted. I did not fit inside the box my heart called “the perfect Christian,” and I hated myself for it.

It took months of prayer, studying scripture and talking with Christians I admire and trust to come to the conclusion that yes, I could be both queer and Christian.

But those months were scary. And I

wish I had not felt as though I needed to face them alone.

I do not blame IV for recently stating their beliefs and asking all staff members who disagree with those beliefs to resign. In fact, I applaud them. While I do not agree with their stance on same-sex marriage and do not understand how an organization that works with Millennials still holds these beliefs, I am glad they clearly defined their beliefs.

But that does not make it hurt any less for students or staff involved who disagree.

I do blame them for making me feel lost and afraid, for making me feel like I needed to be one person or the other, for

making me feel like I had no part and no place within the organization.

IV has done wonderful things for countless people. They have helped so many students form and strengthen a faith that lasts a lifetime.

But it’s time for them to acknowledge the students who have not had this experience. The students who have felt hurt and confused as a result of the actions of this organization.

And to those in IV who are currently feeling alone or confused:

No matter your sexual orientation or gender identity, you are loved and you are accepted.

There are Christians and churches out there that will welcome you with open arms.

If you believe something other than what you are told is normal; you are loved and you are accepted.

You have a place and you should not be ashamed to look for where you fit as a person and as a Christian.

And for those of you who simply do not know, for those struggling to find answers, for those who have been hurt or continue to be hurt by IV; you are loved and you are accepted. Please do not be afraid to voice your confusion.

Do not be afraid to question what you thought you always knew. I have found strength in those with open eyes and big hearts.

Those who are not afraid of different opinions and different beliefs. Those who embrace and celebrate diversity in every form.

There will come a day when your identity is celebrated, not shamed or suppressed.

You will look back on this inner battle, this fight to find out who you are, and be reminded of your strength. It will feel like coming home.

Remember you are meant to be here. You have been led down this path for a reason.

You are strong.

You are loved.

You are accepted.

Do not let anyone tell you otherwise.

Peace and Love Always,

McClaren

Do what it takes to make this holiday happy for you



Cas Levy
Columnist
@cas1117

I've heard a lot of discussion about mental health as finals approach. I heard and made jokes about just getting through the next paper and the test after that. Friends have admitted to getting five hours of sleep over their last two nights. It's easy to look around and see classmates drinking too much caffeine to finish their assignments and then too much alcohol in a short celebration before they have to start on the next project.

Mental health becomes the last priority at the end of the semester. Fortunately, we have a break to recuperate away from campus, homework and grades.

Unfortunately, the holiday break can be its own stressful time, whether you're celebrating a holiday religiously, secularly or not at all.

There are a lot of things that stress me out during December. It is easy for me to feel "othered" because I don't celebrate

Christmas when Christmas music plays on the radio, Christmas trees dot campus and television Christmas specials air on nearly every show.

A somewhat more universal stress of the holiday experience is spending time with family. It doesn't matter how much you love your family, being with so many people tends to get complicated. Even those who don't dedicate the holidays to their family may do so happily or regretfully still live in a society that tells them they're missing out on something if they aren't.

Family is stressful, but so often we treat the holiday season like finals.

Some people look at the holidays like they have to do something for the sake of the idea of family at the expense of their mental health.

Some of you may have heard that suicide rates increase during the holidays. But according to the CDC, suicide rates are low-

est in December. I think that part of the reason that this myth persists is because people know how stressful the holidays can be.

We shouldn't be treating our mental well-being like it's something that can be so casually pushed aside for whatever we think our immediate priority is. If we keep doing that, we will keep putting it off forever. There will always be deadlines and commitments, so we can't afford to keep using them to ignore mental health.

If family is one of those stressors, take a little time out to make sure you're taking care of yourself. That might mean choosing to read a book or scrolling through Facebook on your phone in another room. It might mean staying in if your family decides to go sledding or to the movies.

You know better than anyone else how to take care of yourself. Be honest with yourself and set your limits.

Mental health is a vital part of well-being.

If you would sit out of activities because you had the flu, then maybe you should sit out if you think it would be detrimental to your mental health, too.

It's valid to be worried about missing out on the festivities or making them less fun for the rest of your family. I had the same concern over Thanksgiving.

I didn't listen to myself and had a panic attack during dinner.

Other things were happening, but I had known going into the meal that I was not in a good place. Stepping out before dinner by saying I wasn't feeling good would have been a lot more enjoyable for everyone.

Maybe you're lucky and the holidays aren't stressful for you. Maybe you're lucky and only have one test and a three-page paper due in the next week. Maybe you're not so lucky but are ignoring your three papers and a presentation by reading this column.

No matter what your situation or your stressors are, you can't afford to procrastinate mental health.

People say "happy holidays" for a reason. Do what it takes to make them happy for you.

YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF AND SET YOUR LIMITS.

CAMPUS VOICES

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'Hasta La Vista Latinos,' Bienvenidos Nuance



Kenneth Vesey
Freshman

On Thursday, Nov. 10, a message reading "Bye Bye Latinos, Hasta La Vista" was discovered on the corner of a classroom whiteboard by an Elon University faculty member, who promptly filed a notice through the university's bias response system.

The Elon community was first officially made aware of the incident by President Leo Lambert via email, calling the message "reprehensible and directly in conflict with Elon's values of inclusion and treating each other with dignity and respect," and also extending special support to Hispanic/Latino students. One day later, the author of the message stepped forward, described by the Dean of Students as "a Latino student upset about the results of the election who wrote the message as a satirical commentary."

The incident evoked strong reactions. Contempt for the note and calls for acceptance were echoed throughout social media.

In the wake of Donald Trump's victory, I whole-heartedly sympathize with minority groups across the United States who now justifiably live in fear of further societal and institutional discrimination. But it is my view that the prevailing sentiment surrounding this incident — particularly the unwavering condemnation of the message — is more a symptom of increasing sensitivity to nuanced expression (i.e., satire) than it is a proponent of unification and also raises a deeper question about the acceptability of satire given its potentially destructive consequences.

The first issue I have with the reaction to the message is the immediate framing of it as hate speech. If we take Lambert's statement, for example, there is a clear

assumption of malicious intent. Virtually all news outlets and social media users also reported/shared this story with no allusion to ambiguity. Now, given the circumstances, the inclination to conclude the worst is more than understandable.

For one, acts of racism and xenophobia like what this message was initially perceived as were being perpetrated all throughout the country following the election — and still are. Moreover, the satirical nature of the message was by no means easily detectable. But I think to prosecute with certainty given the possibility of ulterior motives not only does a disservice to the alleged intent of the message, but also elicits (albeit inadvertently) unwarranted fear in the minds of the community. I think it is most sensible — though perhaps not the easiest — to comfort those offended by the message while encouraging open-mindedness regarding the intent behind it.

But to some, even in a satirical light, the message should be subject to unwavering censure. Among others on social media who have maintained their disdain of the note, the professor who originally found it expressed the reasoning behind his continued disdain in an interview following the incident.

"Regardless of what its intent was, which I don't know, I told the students, 'This is s— ... Thinking about it afterwards, I don't know if it was dumb s— or if it was hateful s—. But at least it was that. It was s—.'"

So the argument, it seems, is that the words themselves deserve a uniform level of disdain in any context because of the reaction to them. Surely equating the severity of an unintentionally inflammatory satirical statement with an expression of true hatred is wholly erroneous.

But I think these grievances beg a deeper question: Even if the intent is purely constructive, should satirical statements be crafted to avoid potentially destructive consequences — or be crafted at all?

Jon Stewart, former host of Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*, received much criticism for a piece of satire he featured on his show attempting to reveal the absurdity of President George W. Bush's labeling of Iran an "axis of evil." In this endeavor, *The Daily Show* sent a correspondent to Iran under the comedic guise of an American spy to interview journalists covering the elections and subsequent protests. In satirical spirit, the correspondent asked Iranian Canadian journalist Maziar Bahari to explain what made the "axis of evil" so evil.

Bahari appropriately debunked the premise, articulating the strong desire the people of Iran had for a free society and representative government — effectively serving as the punchline that revealed the ridiculousness of Bush's generalization.

Unbeknownst to Stewart and *The Daily Show*, the Iranian government had been seeking to incriminate Bahari as a foreign spy himself, and used Bahari's interview with the correspondents as a piece of evidence (among several) to validate their prosecution. Government officials kept Bahari in solitary confinement for four months. Though he was not found guilty, Stewart was asked if he felt any responsibility for Bahari's arrest.

"Of course I feel horrible about what happened," Stewart said in an interview. "But when it comes to my work, I can only control my intention. ... From there,

I have zero control over what anyone does about it."

Asked if said lack of control should change the way he crafts satire, Stewart replied, "Asking me to make my satire unusable for an authoritarian regime is a fool's errand. ... It was a guy dressed in kaffiyeh, wearing sunglasses, sitting in a cafe going, 'I'm an American spy. As such, tell me why I shouldn't be afraid of you.' How do you idiot-proof that segment?"

Let me be clear that in no way do I think those who construed the message in a negative light are "idiots" who needed to be "proofed." I think most everyone, including myself, felt at least an immediate sense of disgust about what it seemed to be communicating. But Stewart's point holds weight here, in my opinion. While the degree to which the satirical nature of the message and Bahari's interview was detectable differs pretty significantly, the consistency of principle should theoretically still stand — that is, no matter how indistinguishable the constructive intent may seem to any group of people, if the author's work truly holds constructive intent, then the author bears no fault for any misunderstanding or offense (especially when unforeseen). In other words, who gets to dictate an objective level of indistinguishability/offense worthy of censorship?

Now I do acknowledge that the author in this case should have had more foresight with regard to the probable reaction (given the circumstances) and accordingly expressed more clearly the satirical essence. But in the mind of the author, supposedly, the message was a purposeful exaggeration of Trump's immigration policy that sought to directly undermine the very hateful undertones the author was accused of espousing.

MORE ONLINE

This is an abridged version of this column. Please see elonnewsnetwork.com for the complete column.



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A guide for Democrats



Spencer Wagner
Junior

Apparently, we Democrats are “lost in the woods.” I thought, in my infinite wisdom as a 21 year-old in college, I should write a guide for us on what we can be doing in the mean time and how to get out of these woods.

The election ended around 2 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, when Hillary Clinton called to concede to Donald Trump. The recounts will not change anything. Historically, recounts only change by a few hundred votes. The closest margin this year was in New Hampshire at around 3,000 votes. (By the way, do not donate to Jill Stein’s scam.)

The election is over, but it’s time to step up and do what good citizens do best: be active.

It’s time for us to lead ourselves out of these “woods” we somehow found ourselves in and into a strong position in the elections of 2017, 2018, 2020, and beyond. It’s time to begin opposing — vocally — any and all of the horrible policies and appointments suggested by our president-elect.

Our hopes as Democrats

should not rely simply on Trump failing. Rather, our hopes should rely on the American people recognizing Democratic leaders and Democratic policies as a positive, vibrant future. Some of these suggestions may seem more “election year” oriented (fun but often unrealistic fact: there’s always an election, somewhere, at some point!) such as Organize and Donate. But, to be ready for the Big Ones (2018, 2020), we need to spend every day doing the hard, dirty, thankless work below.

So, what can you do?

Contact

Little known fact, but your elected officials will listen to you! Yes, I don’t know how this myth came about that they don’t care about you, but it’s true. Do any of the following in response to any event, proposed legislation, or proposed appointment, even if your member(s) of Congress are Republican. Your voice, and the voice of other voters, matters more than just party.

Call: This is a particularly powerful tool. You will get a staffer of your Representative or your Senator. You will think you’re not getting to the source. But you are. Members of Congress aren’t just their own individual super-beings. They

rely on their staff, they listen to what they report, they listen to what they suggest and they listen to what they’re getting the most calls about. If it’s a piece of legislation or an appointment to a position, call the D.C. offices of your members of Congress, if it’s an appointment to a position, call your Senators.

Tell them where you’re from,

OUR HOPES SHOULD RELY ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE RECOGNIZING DEMOCRATIC LEADERS AND DEMOCRATIC POLICIES AS A POSITIVE, VIBRANT FUTURE.

what you’re calling about, and why. If you keep it short, sensible, are polite and express deep concern, you’ll be golden.

Write: Writing letters is still a good way to contact your members of Congress, because it shows you put in time, effort, and thought into whatever you’re writing about, so long as you’ve done some proofreading.

However, tons of these come in and can take a while to process. Calling goes straight to the staffer’s ear. Most importantly, this is more powerful than your

Facebook comment on your member’s post.

Social media does not work, unless you’re launching some coordinated campaign where suddenly the member’s Twitter is filled with a hundred tweets about one subject in a matter of two minutes.

Call or write a letter, and encourage other constituents to do the same.

Organize

The term, or variations of it, are thrown around a lot. “They’ve got some great organizers!”

“Their ground game won the election.” “The campaign will focus on organizing supporters.”

Let’s breakdown what some of the key elements are of organizing and talk about what we can do as we wait for the next election.

Registering Voters: The instant someone complains about the next scandal or policy they disagree with, ask them a simple question: Did you vote?

If yes, great! Will you be voting in the next election? Will you be at the same address? Will you help others vote? If no to if they voted, ask them, do you want to register right now? Fun fact: you can do it year-round.

Canvassing: Get in contact

with a candidate’s campaign or with the local Democratic Party. Ask if they need someone to go, door to door, in neighborhoods across the area, asking if people are registered to vote (see above) and if they will consider Democratic candidates. Personal contact like this is the most effective form of campaigning (research).

Phone-banking: Same as above, reach out to a campaign. Volunteer to use your unlimited (or limited) minutes on that fancy iPhone to call your fellow Democrats and/or Independents and make sure they know who they can be voting for, that they’re correctly registered to vote, and that, if they’re interested, they can get involved in exactly what you’re doing.

Getting Your Friends

Involved: Once again, the instant someone complains about the incoming administration, ask them to help out with you!

Ask them to canvass, phone-bank, operate a voter registration drive, or get some souls to the polls. Few things are as powerful in politics as the word of a friend, whether that is to vote for someone or to do some organizing.

MORE ONLINE

This is an abridged version of this column. Please see elonnewsnetwork.com for the complete column.



What story do you want to tell in 2017, Elon?



Stephanie Ntim
Columnist
@elonnewsnetwork

Oxford Dictionaries summarized the year in one phrase: “post-truth,” meaning we made decisions based on emotions rather than facts. The phrase speaks to the rise of social media and distrust in the establishment. I have seen this on Facebook, a medium where users are bombarded with random advertisements and distrustful news outlets. Mixed with every other social media site, we have adopted a resolute mindset to protect and assert our opinions and values. At Elon University, we are reminded that a university is a hub of intellectual growth and curiosity where we can cultivate our minds to make well-informed decisions. “Post-truth” is not merely the phrase of this year — it is the phrase of the college experience.

At a glance, much has transpired this year. Our time on campus translated into rigorous academic achievements, involvement in different clubs and activities and volunteering in local organizations.

It was a monumental year for our school and our nation. Some of us witnessed our first election (a tumultuous one to say the least) and others struggled to define their space in the Elon community. Some wound down their adventures at Elon while others began their college career. On campus, the Schar Hall opened

“Post-truth,” Oxford Dictionaries’ word of 2016, is defined as decision-making based on emotions instead of facts.

their respective majors.

Elon has been a force of encouragement to the local community through the Elon Academy, the African Services Coalition and the Alamance Open Door Clinic, just to name a few. The real world that exists beyond our campus’ oak trees has been even more relevant and palpable

than it was my first year of college. My experiences with It Takes a Village, for example, have enlightened my understanding of Burlington and the individuals that call this town home.

The best part of college is the combination of pop culture and academia to accentuate identity and self-expression. On campus, the musical theatre program inspired audiences with exceptional productions. Student-run a cappella and choir groups sung their hearts out with receptions of euphoric applause.

Let’s not forget about the wonderful gift of the musical phenomenon, “Hamilton.” Lin-Manuel Miranda’s masterpiece evoked scenes of joyous in-car karaoke sessions all over campus. His reimagining of history relates to Elon’s liberal arts education. When we allow ourselves to make sense of reality from our own perspective, we add something new to the world — something inexplicable, yet very valuable.

Feeling and thought is a formidable combination. Each of us has an individual path that is collectively shaped by our experiences at this university — a constant in every new year.

I would like to congratulate the student body on their many accomplishments and

PREVIOUS WORDS OF THE YEAR

- 2005: podcast
- 2006: carbon-neutral
- 2007: locavore
- 2008: hypermiling
- 2009: unfriend
- 2010: refudiate
- 2011: squeezed middle
- 2012: GIF
- 2013: selfie
- 2014: vape
- 2015: 🙄

considerable feats this semester. Though we have our mishaps as an institution, there will always be opportunities for improvement. As we transition into a new year, let’s not forget how far we have come.

In 2017, I want to take my shot, not always wait for it, strive to be more than satisfied and take a break when I need it.

What story do you want to tell in 2017, Elon?

Want to share your opinion? Let us know. Submit a Letter to the Editor by emailing enn@elon.edu

THE PENDULUM

Letters must be 350 words or less and must be signed and submitted in a word document to enn@elon.edu. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit for length, clarity and grammar.

ONLINE:
Men's basketball
nearly takes down
Georgetown in D.C.

SPORTS



ANDREW FEATHER | Senior Reporter
Prior to tip-off Nov. 30, senior Luke Eddy paid tribute to Danieley's passion for Elon basketball.

MEN'S BASKETBALL REFLECTS ON DANIELEY'S INFLUENCE

Alex Simon
Sports Director
@alexsimon99

As Adam Constantine '10, former Elon University men's basketball player and current social media manager, put it, Nov. 29 was a day Elon knew would happen at some point but could never truly be prepared to see.

Last Tuesday morning, President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley died at 92. Many came to town for the ceremonies honoring Danieley over the weekend, including former men's basketball player Sam Hershberger '16, who said he felt the same as Constantine.

"You know, logically, that people don't live forever. But Dr. D, he kind of had this immortal sense about him," Hershberger said. "Up until the day he died, he was sharp as a knife. It was kind of shocking, even though you knew it was going to come."

His death made the next night's basketball game against Florida International University feel like more than a typical nonconference game, because it was the first public gathering at a venue Danieley frequented. For redshirt junior Brian Dawkins,

the traditional "Dr. Danieley" chant at the under-eight media timeout of the second half was a reminder of what the Phoenix was playing for, and Elon ultimately won 84-81 in overtime.

"It did stick out, and I don't think it was a distraction. I think it was a good thing. It helped us realize that this game had a little bit extra on it," Dawkins said. "It was the first game without Dr. Danieley. I think, to honor him in that way and get the crowd into that — I think it helped us down the stretch.

"I think it was a pickup — a little boost that we should go out and play as hard as we can for Dr. Danieley and try and come out with the win."

Danieley has been a major influencer on Elon's sports for decades, but in recent years developed an unbreakable bond with the men's basketball team, attending nearly every home game. But his presence was something head coach Matt Matheny felt beyond the game itself.

"To me, he is Elon. To sit court-side, to have the towel in his hand, to be there after games, to give our guys a hug and a handshake — it's really, really special," Matheny said.

"He's been to practice, and for us to practice and have Dr. D on the sideline watching us ... I think, 'Wow, how fortunate are we to be able to share time with Mr. Elon?'"

The team was able to frequently spend time with Danieley off the court, with nearly every player taking his "History of Elon" class each Winter Term and witnessing the passion he had for Elon firsthand.

"No matter if he was at a basketball game, a volleyball game or we saw him walking around campus, that's how affectionate and passionate he was about the people that go here and the people that work here and everything about Elon," Dawkins said. "I think that's why we have a strong connection with him — because he's that lovable of a person."

Sophomore forward Tyler Seibring added, "His affection was so genuine, and you could feel that any time you talked to him or anytime you're meeting with him. He's a landmark here, and he still is — no matter what. He had a powerful impact on this campus long before I was here, but even in my time, I appreciated everything he's done."

And when the moment that came every game — the chant —



DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor

Elon's social media manager Adam Constantine '10 pays his respects to Danieley.

started last Wednesday, many of the fans stood and waved the white towels given to them before the game, all looking at the empty seat near the front row. Matheny said he often misses the chant, being too focused on the game, but didn't miss it this time.

"I liked it, and I didn't get to enjoy it much. But I saw it a few times, and it's pretty cool," Matheny said. "When we were breaking the huddle [Nov. 30], to see the whole crowd doing it, that was pretty cool."

And no matter what sticks out

to each individual — for Matheny, the talks at College Coffee; for Hershberger, his sense of humor; for senior guard Luke Eddy and many others, the warm hug and kiss on the cheek — he will forever be a part of the team.

"He loved our guys, and he loved a lot of people. It was genuine love," Matheny said. "We are really fortunate to have spent time with him and loved him the way he loved us. Two great commodities in this world are time and love, and we got to share both with him. Pretty special."

THE PHOENIX FOCUS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

RESULTS & SCHEDULE



Nov. 30
84-81



Dec. 4
74-77



Dec. 6
LATE



Away

Dec. 10
4 p.m.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

RESULTS & SCHEDULE



Dec. 4
73-78



Away

Dec. 8
7 p.m.





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THE PENDULUM

FRESHLY

PLATED

Communities work to
fight hunger in
Alamance County | pg. 6

Elon Elementary
students taste test the
international station at
Lakeside Dining
Hall | pg. 8

Learn how to make
apple and brie crostinis
in the Campus
Cookbook | pgs. 4-5



ELON EATS: TOP 10

Press Coffee + Crepes



With an indie aesthetic featuring exposed brick and reclaimed wooden furniture, Press stands out in downtown Graham. Take time to do some work while sipping on a latte or munching on various sweet and savory crepes. Crepes run about \$6-\$8, and for the atmosphere it's worth the trip.

Redefinery & Co.



Welcome to New York — sort of. This trendy bar comes as a classy alternative to the typical Elon nightlife scene. With classic and specialty cocktails like “Moscow Mule” and “French 220” as well as a variety of tapas, it's the perfect location to munch and snack. Though a little more pricey than other bars, it's reasonable for high quality food and service.

Tangent Eat + Bar



Taking over an old froyo joint in downtown Elon, Tangent has transformed the taco and eating scene near campus. Created by the same owners of The Root Trackside, there are favorite tacos, such as fried green tomato, chicken and waffle and shrimp melt. Get a little or get a lot with their mix-and-match options for a light snack or balled-out meal.

Mixed Rice



The only Korean restaurant in the area, Mixed Rice offers authentic cuisine under \$10. Korean classics including bibimbap — which literally translates to “mixed rice,” the name of the restaurant — a bowl of warm white rice topped with sauteed and seasoned vegetables, chili paste and a choice of meat, all served in a styrofoam container, to go or not.

Village Grill

With an exterior and interior decked out in a color scheme fit for the 1990s, the Village Grill has been offering fresh seafood and lighter fare to the Burlington community for more than 30 years. Though not as popular with Elon students as some of the other restaurants on this list, the Village Grill is a great option to take that special someone for a pricier, more formal option. And if you're over 21, the beer, wine and drink menu is quite extensive.



Umami

For dinner and a show, head over to this hibachi and Japanese Steakhouse and watch professional chefs create a food coma-inducing feast. Each meal comes with soup, salad, noodles, fried rice, mixed vegetables and an entree of your choice. Meals are priced from \$11 to \$22 but will last for days to come.



The Park Restaurant

Though No. 9 on our list of Elon Eats restaurants, this place should be No. 1 on your list of breakfast destinations. With plate-sized pancakes starting at \$2.79, you can't go wrong with this down-home breakfast and brunch spot in Burlington. The one downside is a possible wait to be seated because of the intimate size and small parking lot — but it only adds to this restaurant's charm.



Little Italy

Hidden in the Target shopping plaza, Little Italy has a plain storefront but authentic Italian cooking that overpowers it. Owner Gino Caranante immigrated to the United States from Bacoli, Italy, and brings the tastes straight to Burlington. Come for the free, thick bread alone.



Mykonos Grill

Set up like a New York-style deli, Mykonos Grill offers authentic Greek cuisine to the Burlington area. With three other locations in North Carolina, the South Church Street store caters to the Elon student body — especially on nights and weekends. Just like Mission Tacos, Mykonos hopes to bring some culture and variety to the Burlington fast-food circuit.



The Mission

Jeff Colgan, a native of Arizona, saw a lack of authentic and unique food in the Elon area. That led him to his decision to open Mission Taco in 2012. Located in Gibsonville, Mission Taco is just a mile away from downtown Elon. The menu combines Mexican, Southwestern and Spanish flavors into yummy homemade dishes available to view on the restaurant's Instagram: @themiSSIONtacos.



CLOSING THE MARKET

Elon farms rest, prepare for winter months and future harvest

Courtney Campbell
Lifestyle Editor
@courtccamps

Every Thursday from mid-April to mid-November, the lawn next to Elon Community Church is filled with a vibrant variety of fresh produce, meats, cheese, pastries and flowers.

But after Nov. 17, the lawn is bare again as the Friends of ECC Farmer's Market closes for the season, and the farms begin to shut down too.

According to Sandra Sarlinga, coordinator of the ECC Farmers Market and owner of Piemonte Farm, the market runs during these times because of weather and what would be available at the market.

"We don't have farmers that can bring produce year-round to the market," she said. "We have a lot of people who are church member[s] and a lot of them are seniors. I can't imagine how many customers we would have in the winters."

Farming begins in February when the crops that take 60-90 days to fully grow are planted in the greenhouse. Then, they are moved to the field and ready to be harvested around March. These crops include broccoli, cabbage and onion.

At the market, none of the produce farmers grow during the winter — despite having greenhouses — so there wouldn't be enough products to sustain the market.

"The farmers market is mostly farmers, so the farming component has to be there," Sarlinga said.

One of the main factors that got Tamara Smith, of Smith Farms in Gibsonville, involved with the ECC Farmers Market is that it matches with her harvest season.

"Our sales coincide perfectly with the market being open," Tamara Smith said.

"Once we get into the coldest of nights, there's nothing that will grow. Our fields have been turned."

According to Tamara Smith, their farming begins in February when the crops that take 60-90 days to fully grow are planted in the greenhouse. Then, they are moved to the field and are ready to be harvested around March. These crops include broccoli, cabbage and onion.

The farming will continue until the summer months where seasonal laborers will work 60- to 70-hour weeks, harvesting and tending to the plants.

"During the summer when things are busy, you're ordering seeds for next year," Tamara Smith said. "You're deciding what your vegetable crops are going to be. Now it's just not the stress, not the running up the road, not the harvesting, the washing, the prep — it's a different kind of work."

Currently, Smith Farms are in a resting period, giving the fields a chance



The Smith Farms produce stand closed in mid-November after the fields were harvested. Currently, the fields are given time to replenish their nutrients before the harvest season picks up again in early April and they sell at various farmers markets, including the ECC Farmers Market.

ELISABETH BACHMANN | Photographer

to replenish and giving the workers a chance to recover before harvest season starts up again.

At Redbud Farm in Burlington, co-owner Clay Smith is able to continue to sell his sweet potatoes to the Company Shops Market, but the farm otherwise takes a break during the winter months.

As different fields become depleted, Redbud Farm workers immediately prepare for the cold.

"We plant a cover crop on our fields as soon as our fields aren't in use," Clay Smith said. "It protects the field from the winter, and it increases fertility quite a bit. We also get things like tomato stakes out of the field and close things down."

Though by mid-January, Clay Smith said they begin the early transplant of seeds in their greenhouses to prepare the crops for the fields.

Despite still being able to make her cheeses at Piemonte Farm, Sarlinga said they don't make as much money during the colder months. This is because the other farmer's markets they attend have shorter hours and less clientele.

But tending to the animals takes more work.

"In our case, we make cheese, and we can keep doing that like nothing happened," Sarlinga said. "You have to be attentive because water freezes, and the daily care of the animals in the winter is a little more rough."

Sarlinga needs to make sure snow doesn't cover the animals' food and water isn't frozen. Near the end of February, the baby lambs are born, so Sarlinga needs to give extra attention to the moms and newborns.

According to Tamara Smith, her farms make enough during the harvest season to sustain the time when they don't sell anything. But



Smith Farms has nine greenhouses on site. In February, 60-90 day crops will be planted there before being moved to the field and harvested in March.

ELISABETH BACHMANN | Photographer

A LOT OF IT GOES BACK TO THE FARMERS MARKET BECAUSE IT REALLY CREATES A COMMUNITY THAT'S DIFFERENT THAN SELLING PRODUCE

CLAY SMITH
CO-OWNER OF SMITH FARMS

Clay Smith also relies on additional finances to sustain himself.

In addition to the ECC Farmers Market, Smith Farms also sells at the farmers market in Sandy Ridge, North Carolina and Greensboro as well as outside of hospitals throughout the week. Redbud Farm sells at the farmers markets in Cary and Burlington.

The ECC Farmers Market gives them a chance to interact with those located closest to their farms.

"The Elon market gives Smith Farms a weekday outlet to clientele that don't necessarily come to us," Tamara Smith

said. "It gave us that Thursday opportunity and customers that might not come to our farm."

The farmers also have a chance to learn through those attending the market. Because of his interaction with customers, Clay Smith has started growing Japanese sweet potatoes, Japanese greens and various hot peppers.

"We really appreciate the interactions with the customers, and we are growing some crops we never thought about growing because a customer said, 'Have you ever grown so-and-so?'" he said.

Clay Smith believes that it is this connection that keeps the ECC Farmers Market strong and is why they will be back with more produce in the upcoming spring.

"A lot of it goes back to the farmers market because it really creates a community that's different than selling produce," Clay Smith said. "It's about making connections around food and learning recipes."

CAMPUS COOKBOOK ■ **HOLIDAY EDITION****EGGNOG HOT CHOCOLATE****INGREDIENTS**

- 2 cups** eggnog
- 1 cup** milk of choice
- 2 tbsp.** unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 tbsp.** sugar
- 1/4 tsp.** cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp.** vanilla extract
- 1 pinch** salt

Adapted from "Peanut Butter and Peppers"

In a medium saucepan, over low heat, add all ingredients.

Whisk until thick and bubbly.

Pour into two mugs. Top with cinnamon and whipped cream, if desired.

**TWICE-BAKED SWEET POTATOES****INGREDIENTS**

- 3** medium sweet potatoes
- 1** medium yellow onion, diced
- 1 & 1/2 tbsp.** balsamic vinegar
- 3 tbsp.** olive oil
- 1/2 tsp.** garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp.** rosemary, dried
- 1/4 cup** parmesan cheese
- 4 oz** log of goat cheese
- 2 tbsp.** balsamic glaze



Adapted from "Stacey Homemaker"

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a tray with parchment paper.

Scrub the sweet potatoes. Using a fork, poke holes on each side of each potato. Rub with olive oil and sprinkle with sea salt. Roast for 1 hour, or until easily pierced with a fork.

While potatoes are roasting, dice the onion and sautee in a large pan until

caramelized, 8-10 minutes. Add balsamic vinegar and stir to combine. Cook for 1-2 additional minutes, until all the vinegar has been absorbed.

Remove sweet potatoes from the oven and let cool for 10 minutes. Cut each potato in half. Scoop out the insides into a bowl, but leave a layer to support the skin. Be very careful to not tear the delicate skin.

Add the balsamic onions, garlic pow-

der, dried rosemary and 1 tbsp. of goat cheese to the sweet potatoes. Season with salt and pepper. Mix until cheese is fully combined. Scoop mixture back into the potato skins, top with extra goat cheese, parmesan cheese and a sprinkle of rosemary. Put back in the oven for 15-20 minutes.

Remove from the oven, drizzle balsamic glaze over the top and a sprinkle of parsley to garnish. Serve hot and enjoy.



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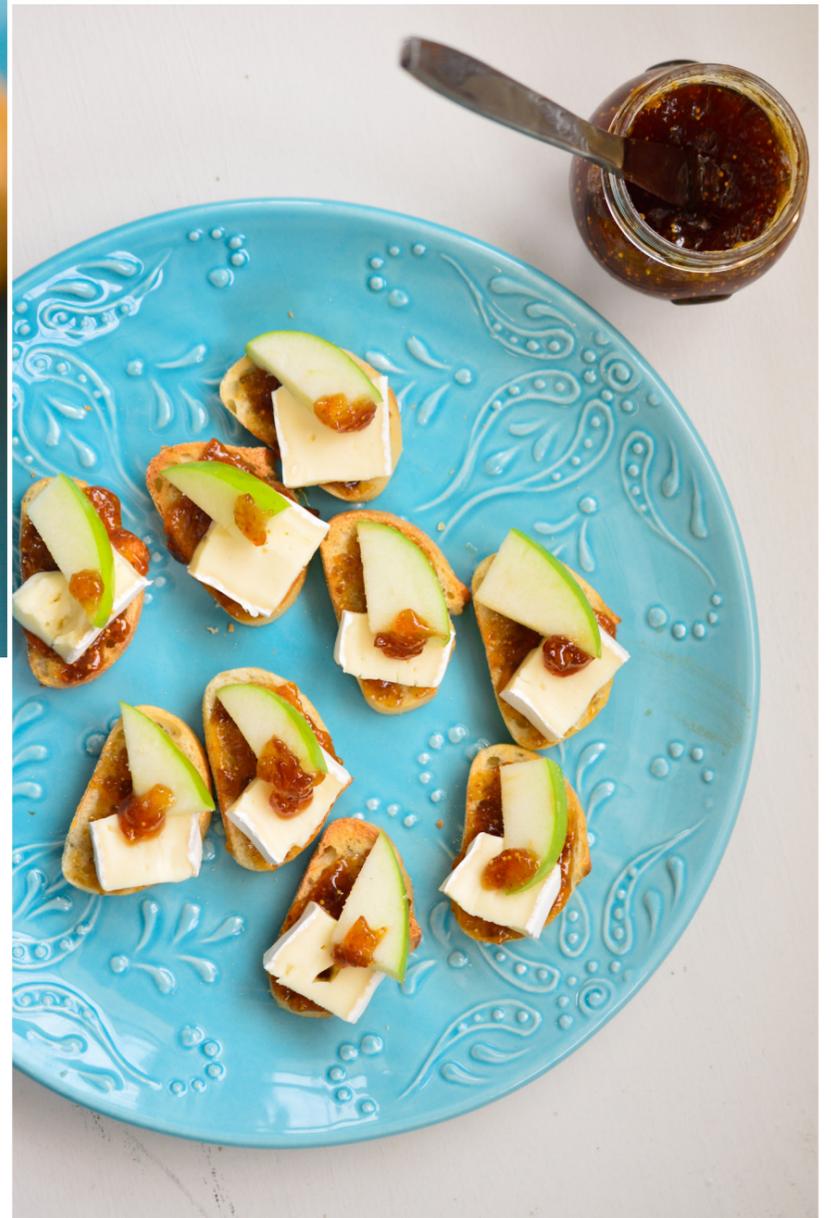


FIG & BRIE CROSTINI

INGREDIENTS

Adapted from "All Recipes"

- one 8 oz loaf** of French bread, cut into 1-inch slices
- 8 oz** of fig spread
- one 8 oz round** of Brie cheese
- 1** Granny Smith apple, cut into bite-size pieces and olive oil cooking spray

Set oven rack about 6 inches from the heat source and preheat the oven's broiler.

Arrange bread slices on a baking sheet. Lightly spray both sides of each bread slice with olive oil cooking spray.

Bake bread slices under the broiler until toasted, about 2 minutes per side. Remove bread from oven and cool slightly, keeping broiler on.

Blend fig spread in a blender or food processor until pureed. Spread about 1 teaspoon of fig spread onto each toasted bread slice. Top with Brie cheese and apple pieces. Sprinkle each crostini with oregano.

Broil crostinis in the oven until Brie cheese is melted and browned, about 1 to 2 minutes.

S'MORES BARS

Adapted from Pam Campbell P '17

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 8-inch square pan.

Beat butter and sugar until well blended in a large bowl. Add egg and vanilla. Beat well.

Stir together flour, graham cracker crumbs, baking powder and salt.

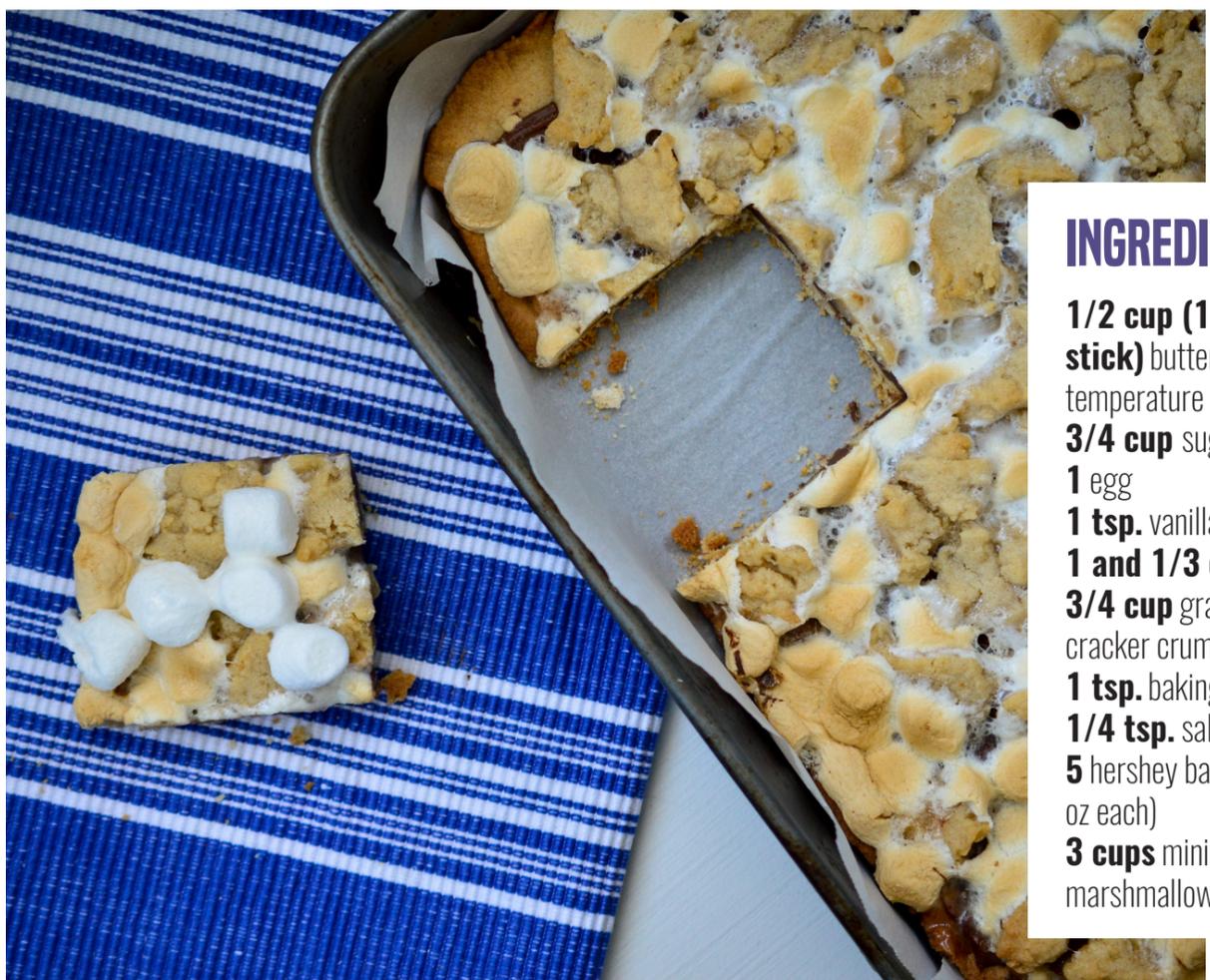
Add to butter mixture, beating until well blended.

Press half of dough in prepared pan. Bake 15 minutes.

Lay chocolate bars over baked layer, breaking as needed to fit. Sprinkle with marshmallows. Scatter bits of remaining dough over marshmallows, forming top layer.

Bake for 10 to 15 minutes or until lightly browned.

Cool completely in pan on wire rack. Cut into bars.



INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup (1 stick)** butter, room temperature
- 3/4 cup** sugar
- 1** egg
- 1 tsp.** vanilla
- 1 and 1/3 cup** flour
- 3/4 cup** graham cracker crumbs
- 1 tsp.** baking powder
- 1/4 tsp.** salt
- 5** hershey bars (1.55 oz each)
- 3 cups** mini marshmallows

'Food brings everyone to the table'

Community organizations take holistic approach to address hunger in Alamance County

Leena Dahal

Senior Reporter
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A small bumper sticker of a mason jar pinned on a bulletin board above the desk of Elon University alumna Felicia Cenca '16 reads, "First we eat, then we do everything."

Cenca, the coordinator of Campus Kitchen at Elon University (CKEU), said she believes the quote by M.E.K. Fisher captures her commitment to addressing the issue of hunger in Alamance County.

"No matter who you are, where you're from or what you believe — you have to eat," Cenca said. "So, as a social issue, food brings everyone to the table."

With selfless, community-based dedication as the key ingredient in their work, Cenca and other community members have been working across diverse platforms to address the issue of hunger in Alamance County.

Requiring 24/7 dedication

From Monday to Sunday, from fall to spring, fighting hunger in Alamance County holds different meanings to the students at Campus Kitchen, the university's student-driven hunger relief organization.

On some Sundays, it means food resourcing at Elon's Loy Farm. Sometimes — such as in the case of a couple week ago — it involves harvesting more than 450 pounds of produce at Loy. On some Mondays, it means preparing the harvested produce in cooking shifts.

On some Tuesdays, it means delivering more than 150 nutritional meals to Allied Churches and 100 meals to two senior sites. On a monthly basis, the CKEU leadership team also conducts nutritional programming at the John Robert Kernodle Center. Throughout the week, Elon Dining also partners with Campus Kitchen by donating dried food and supporting their five-for-one canned food donation drive.

In between their weekly and monthly programming, students also plan campus-wide awareness initiatives, including the annual Homelessness and Hunger Awareness week.

The task on each day of the week may change sometimes but the commitment stays the same: stop hunger — not tomorrow, but now.

Their round-the-clock efforts involve almost 20 student volunteers every week in addition to a 15-person student leadership team.

"Hunger doesn't just go away because it's a problem based on larger social issues," Cenca said. "So while we are trying to create a more just food system, we can't just stop feeding people. Someone has got to do that work."

For junior Amy Mullan — who has served as a Campus Kitchen student leader for almost two years — addressing the issue of hunger in the county is a matter of human rights.

"Good nutrition is a basic human right," she said. "If people don't receive enough healthy food at all times in their lives, they can experience a wide range of health issues and struggle to succeed academically and in their career, further continuing the poverty and hunger their family is experiencing."

Mullan added that hunger rates in the community are much higher than the national average.

The United States Department of Agriculture defines food security as "access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life." But according to research conducted by University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government, 18 percent of Alamance County did not have that privilege in 2013. In the same study, they found that 27.4 percent of children in the county live in food



Students involved in Campus Kitchen prepare meals for distribution at Allied Churches and senior citizen communities.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMPUS KITCHEN

insecure homes.

"As college students, we have the privilege, access and education to address food insecurity in our community," she said. "We grow more than enough food to feed everyone on this planet, yet so many go hungry."

The same drive to serve the community beyond Elon fueled Cenca's decision to stay in Elon after her graduation in 2016. The environmental science and philosophy double major has worked on Loy Farm since her junior year and attended the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association Conference that year, prompting her to know she wanted to work with food.

"I realized if I want to do work with food, this is the place I should be doing it," Cenca said. "I want to take my commitment to the issue and give it back to the community that has given me so much."

But Cenca added that because of the nature of the Campus Kitchen program, student volunteers are vital to its development. While some days, there is not enough food to involve a large number of students, she encouraged more students to reach out regarding ways to get involved.

"Our work is powered by student volunteers," Cenca said. "They drive what we do."

Working across religions

Beyond student volunteers, local religious groups have come together to fight hunger, too.

Shar Sayed, president of the Board of Trustees of the Burlington Masjid, fondly recalls the time a member of the community thanked him for his service initiative with, "I'm going to ask Jesus to pray for you."

For Sayed, the statement was testament to the masjid's goal of serving the greater community.

"I smiled for that because I knew it came from someone's heart," Sayed said. "It means I made a difference."

The dedication to give back to the community has played a central role in the establishment of the first masjid in Alamance County.

After opening in 2015 to serve a growing number of Muslims in Alamance County — which Sayed estimates is more than 250 — members of the masjid have made their intent known publicly: They are an open community for anyone who wants to receive good and do good.

Days before their opening, they worked with Life's Journey United Church of Christ, to host an open day of free, hot meals and health screenings to the public.

Working jointly with other organizations, including the Pelham Community Center and NAACP, they have also serve food pantries and homeless shelters on a monthly basis. They have also helped serve refugee communities through campaigns to provide food and clothing.

In January, they also plan to begin a free community clinic at the masjid that will offer free health screenings for a variety of health concerns, including issues that arise from hunger.

"Community members who don't have insurance can walk in and get basic medical screening, and we can refer them to specialists if needed," Sayed said.

Joel Harter, associate chaplain for protestant life at Elon, said the masjid is doing excellent work in the community and that students should join them.

"They are an excellent example of a good neighbor, and more importantly, are seeking to do this in cooperation with other groups and faith communities," he said. "In this particular case, cooperation signals that we welcome and appreciate the Burlington Masjid as part of our larger community. This is an important message within the context of rising incidents of hate towards Muslims in America."

The number of Muslims who attend the masjid has grown since last year. But to Sayed, the number of Muslims will not affect the masjid's role in serving the greater community because, for him, it's about an issue that unites all identities.

"My heart is not closed for Muslims," he added. "It's for everybody."

To face the issue of hunger, he added that religious lines don't matter, working in joint-partnership with many faith-based groups including Allied Churches.

The First Baptist Church of Burlington is one of many other churches in Alamance County that also committed on addressing the issue. Donna Harwood, who works with their service initiatives, resonates with the issue closely.

As an elementary school teacher in North Graham, she recalls times when she would collect and save crackers and juices to give to students whose learning was affected by hunger.

"Many of the times, they would be more easily distracted — they had their mind on snack time," Harwood said. "They were just hungry."

Working with other members of the First Baptist Church of Burlington, Harwood addresses the issue head-on through their bag ministries program with Hill Crest Elementary

School. Through donations, the church began preparing boxes of food, including canned vegetables, rice and jars of peanut butter, for 26 students in the school. Social workers at the school place the boxes into the bags of students who may require additional nutritional support, especially over the weekend.

Donna said she believes faith creates the opportunity to bring people together for common good.

"I think it would be interesting if the faith-based groups could come together and learn from each other," she said.

Sayed concurred.

"We are all communicating on how to be better and how to do better," he said. "We all serve the same role of being helpful for others."

More work needs to be done

When Carol Willaird, a retired member of the Burlington community who often volunteers at food service organizations, including Southern Alamance Family Empowerment Food Pantry (SAFE), was asked why she does what she does, her answer was unwavering: "Because I was there."

Forty years ago, in Whitney, Alamance, she said she did not have enough money to provide food for her two children. She did not have enough money to fill up her gas tank to get through winter.

"I know how people feel and think in these situations," she said. "And I have a passion because I've been there."

She added that in order to truly understand the issue, volunteers must immerse themselves in the communities they help.

"I don't think you can truly understand until you put bags of groceries in peoples cars and have them cry and hug you," she said. "And you can't find that experience in your classroom — an experience of that magnitude can only be found when you walk outside your own comfort zone and meet someone else in their own place in their need."

But for Willaird, serving the community by working in food pantries is only one of many steps required to eradicate hunger.

She noted the ways in which government assistance programs — including the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps — are a limited benefit.

"You either qualify for it or you don't," Willaird said. "It also places limitations on people who work during the weekends. How can we sit in offices to collect and access these resources when we work Monday through Friday?"

A report released in April 2015 titled, "The State of Senior Hunger in America 2013: An Annual Report," ranks North Carolina in the Top-10 states for the number of seniors (60 years old and up) who are food insecure.

It estimates that in 2013, more than 18 percent of seniors in North Carolina experienced the threat of hunger. Those at greatest risk for food insecurity among seniors are the poor and near-poor, people of color, the unemployed, the disabled and those residing in the South or Southwest. Among age categories of seniors, the people at highest risk are the "youngest old," defined as age 60-69.

"Greater change will happen when someone outside the government decides to try to fix the problems with social securities or food stamps," Willaird said. "Until someone who has lived it and done it raises awareness that those entitlement programs will never work for people who are struggling."

She encouraged Elon students to get involved and place the topic of hunger in the context of real lives.

"I would guess that, in my opinion, a large majority of Elon students have a car and a nice apartment and a credit card," she said. "But all students need to understand that people you might consider to be 'normal people,' are hungry."

Fostering community in the Community Garden

Lucia Jervis

Contributor
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For students searching for an alternative to typical extra-curriculars, the Elon University Community Garden is a place on campus where students can learn about gardening and growing their own vegetables, fruits and plants to take home. The garden, located at 410 E. College Ave., next to the Truitt Center and Powell House, has been a staple of Elon life since 2006.

Michael Strickland, lecturer in English and environmental studies, has offered “The Green Studio course” since 2010, in addition to helping run and maintain the community garden.

Before the class existed, the garden was run by student volunteers. Afterward, the garden was expanded.

“Once the class was going for several years, we began to discuss a club, which would be able to contribute, help nurture and support the garden during the summers when the class is not going on,” Strickland said. “We hold two big festivals here every year, and that was almost too much for the class to do. So we were hoping that the club, once it got up and running, would be able to take it under its own wing.”

The club was started as a provisional organization last year, making 2016 the first complete year of organizational status for the Garden Club.

Every Friday afternoon from noon to 3:30 p.m., volunteers, regardless of whether they are club members, can come to the Garden and work, as well as take home some herbs or vegetables. It is, Strickland

said, very relaxed, and students can come and go as they please.

“[The garden] is a place that you can come and forget about all the stresses and other weird stuff that’s going on with school,” said senior Alex Miller, president of the Garden Club. “I think it would help people’s stress levels immensely. It definitely helps with mine — it gets you even more focused and ready to work after you come here and mellow out for a bit.”

The Garden Club hopes to attract freshmen and sophomore students so that they can get involved right away and teach incoming club members everything they know about growing a garden.

“Right now, what happens is that [younger students] don’t hear about the garden, and the class gets populated by seniors and juniors. So just as they gain experiences, they graduate, and we’re back to square one,” Strickland said. “We’re hoping we get [younger students] in the club, get them active, then take the class and become garden managers for the class or TAs for the class.”

Included in the produce grown in the garden are tomatoes, peppers, herbs, rosemary, mint, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, cabbage, lettuce, strawberries, onions, radishes, squash, watermelon, corn and green beans.

The garden also has its own composting system, which allows students to not only grow their own plants, but also work with going green, which includes learning about composting.

Club members and students that are part of the class have dinners together and cook with what they have grown in the garden. Some of the food is also donated to churches



MEGAN GARNACHE | Copy Editor

Members of the Garden Club as well as volunteers spend time working the plots of the Community Garden, located next to the Truitt Center.

or to the Elon community kitchen.

In addition to dinners, the Garden Club holds two big festivals every year: the Pumpkin Festival in the fall and the Strawberry Festival in the spring. There is also a plant sale in the spring.

The Garden Club and the “Green Studio” class are associated and coordinated. Students that are part of the club work with students in the class, and the two groups learn from one another.

“The goal is to teach students about backyard scale production of food — how to be a gardener for life — because it is an ongoing thing that you learn about constantly,” Strickland said. “Learn enough now and learn how to learn more.”



MEGAN GARNACHE | Copy Editor

Members of the Garden Club and students taking Garden Studio have their own personal plots.

Students seek security, community in cooking

Alexandra Schonfeld

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Though most students can hardly find time to complete their assignments, some Elon University students are taking time out of their busy schedules to skip the dining hall lines and whip up their own meals.

While some students may like the task of being Ina Garten for a night, it’s not an option for others.

Dining with restrictions on campus

Sophomore Emily Pitera didn’t have the option to go to the Lakeside or McEwen dining halls because of her restricted diet caused by a health condition.

“[Last year] I would go to Numen Lumen at, like, 10 p.m., when everyone had gone and cook for myself there,” Pitera said. “Which kind of sucked, because I would have to cook all my food for the week.”

Pitera said there is very little offered in the dining halls that will conform to her diet — even fruit often has too much added sugar.

This year, Pitera has her own kitchen in a Danieley suite where she can cook food at her own convenience.

She likes to keep it simple with many chicken dishes, but says her ideal dish — if she had no restrictions — would be to make lasagna with homemade pasta and fresh ricotta.

Though Pitera cooks for herself out of necessity, other Elon students have different reasons for taking to the kitchen.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ERIK BORCHERS

Students participated in a guacamole-making competition earlier this year that attracted over 60 guacamole enthusiasts.

Cooking Club offers social space

More than 90 students are signed up on Phoenix Connect for Elon’s own Cooking Club.

Sophomore Erik Borchers revamped the Cooking Club this year as president after getting involved last year and seeing little turn out.

“It’s a social organization that focuses less on the food aspect than the social aspect,” he said. “We try and use food as a way to get people through the door. The problem

that I wanted to solve this year is that there is a [lack of] things to do on the weekends if you’re not involved in Greek life. This cooking club is the solution to that.”

The club hopes to meet about once a month. He says that food is a good way to draw people’s attention, but the more important component of the club is allowing students a place to get to know each other and hopefully establish friendships.

The events are free, and just this year, Borchers and his team have hosted a guacamole-making competition and an ice cream-making event co-hosted by SUB that

brought in more than 120 people.

Now, the club is focusing on scaling down the events to create a more intimate setting.

When Borchers took over the club this year he brought on an executive board that included a marketer, vice president and a planning and executing committee of eight people. In addition, Borchers received \$3,000 in funding from SGA to help carry the club through the end of the semester.

The BioBus also makes it easier for students without cars to access the local supermarkets in Burlington, making stops at Lowes Foods, Target and Walmart.

Pitera said she was surprised to find a selection comparable to Whole Foods at a supermarket so close to Elon’s campus.

“[Harris Teeter] actually has a whole section that is gluten-free, vegan and low-carb, which is really good,” she said.

Though cooking isn’t Borchers’ favorite pastime, he says that recently he has been experimenting with seafood, of which Harris Teeter also has a good selection.

“I’ve made a pasta dish with mussels in it a few times, so I’ve learned how to clean and cook mussels,” he said.

As part of Elon’s Burst the Bubble program during Winter Term, the Cooking Club is hosting a course of their own called “Modern Cooking.”

The course will meet three or four times during Winter Term and take students through the process of cooking new recipes.

“It will give people the opportunity to learn some new things and make new friends,” Borchers said.

International students struggle to get familiar cuisine

Deirdre Kronschnabel

Contributor
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International students from more than 28 countries contribute to the diversity and global engagement fostered by Elon University. While they each bring different traditions and cultures to campus, they all have at least one interest in common: food.

But getting familiar food from home isn't as easy as receiving a care package in the mail or taking the BioBus to the grocery store. If a student from Puerto Rico, such as Kevin Vergne, wants to get his hands on local Puerto Rican coffee, they have to travel almost 1,500 miles.

"Coffee, local coffee," he said. "It's much better, stronger. It's just got a better taste. That's something I always ask my mom to bring me."

Freshman Carmen Rivera, from Sevilla, Spain, craves a different ingredient traditional to her city: olive oil.

Finding a taste of home, miles away

Elon provides facilities where international students can cook food outside of the dorms. Both the Elon African Society and El Centro de Espanol offer events that cater to different international communities.

Freshman Maria Rivera says that El Centro does its share of events to bring in authentic cuisine: "They bring pupusas and we cook stuff. There's an El Salvadorian restaurant really close to here, so we bring them in from there."

But before international students get to the kitchen, they need to find the correct ingredients. Sophomore Naomy Thiombiano has trouble finding West African food in Alamance County.

"I think there's African stores online, or in big cities you can get them. But in Burlington, there isn't really a place where you can buy ingredients," Thiombiano said.

Sophomore Alexandra Bolton from South

Africa knows what that's like.

"The both of us have complained a lot about the fact that for a lot of the dishes, and especially the desserts, it's really hard to find the right ingredients," she said. "Or you can get them, but they're far away and expensive."

Bolton admits she occasionally tries to hide food from South America in her suitcase; but often, these attempts are unsuccessful. Waiting until summertime, or even Christmas break, for an authentic home-cooked meal can seem like eternity.

Cooking for yourself

But once they've managed to secure a spot to cook and hunt down the proper ingredients, they need to get the recipe right.

"It's not only getting the ingredients. It's actually knowing how to cook it, and I unfortunately do not," said freshman Mariana Guarena Gonzalez, of chile relleno, the traditional Mexican dish.

When cooking a traditional dish is too difficult, there's the option to eat at Lakeside Dining Hall's international buffet. International students have the chance of sampling not only dishes from their own homes but also those of other nations.

"The other day they had a Moroccan couscous, and I loved it," Guarena Gonzalez said. "It was so good. I wish it was a bit more announced because it makes people more aware of where each food is from."

While freshman Lucia Safie is from El Salvador, she particularly enjoys the Middle Eastern food because it reminds her of her grandma.

"My family comes from Palestine, so I actually identify a lot with Middle Eastern food," Safie said.

Some walk into the dining hall warier than others when it comes to dishes from their own countries. Vergne doesn't even want to take the risk with Puerto Rican food offered from Lakeside.

EATING AROUND THE WORLD

Gespacho and Amarea: Amarea is more dense. They're both soups, like tomato soups. They're served cold. Gespacho, you kind of drink it, and amareo you have with a spoon. They have cucumbers, hard bread, all blended. Tomatoes, obviously. Oil, garlic, onions, salt. — Carmen Rivera, freshman

Pupusas: They're really good. The tortillas can either be corn or rice. They put stuff in them, inside it. My favorite personally are beans and cheese. They're delicious. I miss it so much. — Lucia Safie, freshman

"I think it would just not meet my standards. I don't want to ruin it," Vergne said. "They did Cuban, which is almost very similar to it, and it wasn't very good. I tried it out."

But Guarena Gonzalez disagrees.

"I think it would be great to have Mexican food," she said. "There are so many foods from Mexico, even some that I haven't tried, and I think a lot of Americans and people in general have misconceptions about what Mexican food is. So many people just automatically think that it's just tacos."

Some students believe the most enjoyable element of international food is sharing with others.

"Next year, I'm going to live with my friends, one of my Spanish friends and my other two friends," Maria Rivera said. "I love cooking, so I'm probably going to cook a lot."

Vergne looks forward to cooking with other

Leento de platano: It's like plain-tains, but it has beans inside. It's really delicious and has sugar on top. We also have canita de leche. It's like dulce de leche. Really good. — Maria Rivera, freshman

South African Braai: The ubiquitous South African cuisine. Braai is a barbecue, and we'll cook meat. It's not a tradition that is necessarily inclusive of all South African cultures, but it's appropriated a lot of food. — Alexandra Bolton, junior

Puerto Ricans and showing his suitemates new, authentic foods.

But Bolton will let the other South Africans take the lead in the kitchen because of her dubious cooking skills, and Maria Rivera prefers eating over cooking.

The two have different perspectives when it comes to food as part of their cultural identity, though.

"As a South African, I identify with South African cuisine, but as a white, English-speaking South African, there's no food that I associate with my identity that's specific to South Africans of English origin," Bolton said.

In contrast, Maria Rivera strongly connects food to her Guatemalan heritage and believes bringing traditional dishes to Elon is important.

"It's one of those small things that create our culture," Rivera said. "I would love to show other people our food."

Elon Elementary students learn to 'Spice It Up'

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Moroccan chicken kebabs, couscous, lentil salad and vegetable tagine were items on the menu in Lakeside Dining Hall's International station on Dec. 1, but the students who ate these foods weren't the normal hungry, college bunch.

Twenty-five students from a fifth grade class at Elon Elementary were allowed to pile up as many as three plates of the exotic food as part of an out-of-class engagement program, sponsored by Elon Dining, called "Spice It Up."

Created by Jack Davern, Elon Elementary's principal, and Pulkit Vigg, resident district manager of Elon Dining, the program will be used as a way to introduce international foods to students as part of their global education curriculum.

The classes can come to campus and enjoy a complementary all-you-can-eat meal, tour the kitchens, talk with a dietitian and listen to the chefs about the ingredients and spices that go into their food.

After the tour, Elon Dining staff sat down with groups of the students and talked with them about their experience of eating a new food — challenging them to think beyond what they eat every day.

"I didn't expect them to be so adventurous," Vigg said.

The students also had access to the other options and treats in the dining hall, but most of the students were interested in tasting something new. Many of them even took second and third helpings of the Moroccan cuisine.

"The feedback was amazing," Vigg said. "The best comment from the students was,



Elon Elementary fifth graders had the opportunity to eat at Lakeside Dining Hall and try various foods from the international station as part of "Spice It Up."

"We don't want to go back to class.' They loved it."

The original idea to bring the exotic new foods to the elementary school and to tie in the class' global teachings, but United States Department of Agriculture guidelines prohibited many of the spicy foods to be served in a public school setting. These regulations provide a narrow definition of what is allowed to be served, leading Vigg to invite the students to Elon's campus.

He thought of it as an opportunity to strengthen the bond between the two institutions and participate in the kind of communi-

ty building that Elon is committed to. Elon's international station already produces worldly meals regularly, focusing on 32 different countries throughout 32 weeks.

Vigg also sees it as a way to expand the university's reach beyond the campus while also expanding the worldview of the young students. Many of them had never had skewered chicken kebabs before, and were curious about the unique way to serve and eat chicken.

"At that point, it was an amazing educational moment for us to say, 'Guys, the world is becoming small. You'll travel as you grow up,'" Vigg said. "And when you go to another

country, it's awesome to know about the food before you already go."

After a successful start, the program will continue with six more fifth grade classes throughout the next three weeks. Lakeside will also welcome classes of third and fourth graders during Winter Term.

"The exposure to cultures around the world is powerful," said Davern. "I am looking forward to seeing how we could continue growing and bringing more emphasis to healthy eating, cultural learning and enhancing relationships within our school community."

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