



# STUDENTS STRUGGLE TO FIND PARKING ON CAMPUS

ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon parking lots are frequently packed during peak hours. This year, students face heightened congestion and rising permit fees, leading many to arrive earlier to secure a spot.

After more parking passes sold, off-campus students fight for spots in the Innovation Quad lot

**Fiona McAllister & Abigail Hobbs**  
Elon News Network

For three years, senior Ashland Sutton has been commuting to Elon's campus with no issues. Now, she is accustomed to the sight of the full Innovation Quad parking lot and cars circling the lot.

"I've always parked there," Sutton said. "I've never had an issue getting a spot, whereas this year, it's been a little different."

Living half an hour away, Sutton now gets up at 6 a.m. to guarantee a spot before her 8 a.m. class or risk parking further away in the Danieleley Center lot.

"If you get here at about 8 o'clock, the lot's pretty full already but not too crazy. If you have an 11 o'clock, you're not going to find a spot," Sutton said. "I do know several people who've had to park in Dan because they can't find spots through here, and then some people that have had to park in other lots, and they've gotten tickets because they can't find a spot in Innovation lot."

When Sutton contacted Campus Police so

they would be aware of the problem, Chief of Police Joe LeMire sent photos of available parking spaces throughout the day with timestamps.

"Some of those were during peak hours where there was maybe one spot available that could have been when someone backed out, but there's typically someone waiting to go right in if someone backed out," Sutton said. "But I do understand from their standpoint that they're doing everything that they can and have had to push back the plans with freshman housing and freshman parking, so I do understand where they're coming from as well."

LeMire said the congestion is also due to the 500 more parking passes bought this year compared to last, which he said was because the South Campus and Danieleley Center lots were ticketed more last year, leading to students buying the passes this year.

"South Campus, Danieleley Center, some other areas of campus we didn't enforce very much — we just kind of let it go because there's always plenty of parking in those areas," LeMire said. "People learned that we didn't pay much attention to it, so they never bought a pass. They were just parked there. And what we realized is we had a whole section of students that were getting away free and not paying when all other students

had to pay. So we said we need to hit those lots."

Commuter students can park in Schar Center, Colonnades, Innovation Quad, Danieleley Center, Arts West, Station at Mill Point and South Campus.

"When people are saying there's no parking, there's clear pictures of the Innovation-Colonnades area that there are places to park. It may not be right next to the building where they want to go, but there are places to park," LeMire said. "Now if someone shows up at a time period where it's very busy, then there might be one of those other lots they have to go to. And I think

some of the anger comes from, 'I didn't plan ahead and I have to be in class in five, 10 minutes. I don't have time to walk.'"

LeMire said getting to campus early to secure a spot in the morning or parking further and walking is the best thing to do.

Senior Morgan Sanders has also had a harder time finding parking in the Innovation Quad lot than last year, she said. During peak hours, Mondays and Wednesdays around 11 a.m., she said she has struggled the most looking for parking.

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## COMMUTER STUDENT PARKING PERMIT



2023-24 - \$160



2024-25 - \$225

DATA VISUALIZATION BY ERIN MARTIN

This year commuter student parking prices increased 40.63%, rising from \$160 to \$225.

## Elon Athletics investigates football player for alleged offensive remarks

Controversy arises after Elon football player accused of yelling slurs at a fan

**Anjolina Fantaroni**  
Elon News Network

Elon University Athletics is investigating a football player after accusations that he yelled racial slurs and curses at a North Carolina Central student during an away game Sept. 7.

NC Central freshman Samihya Love, who is Black, said she was watching from the stands when a white Elon player repeatedly

shouted at her from the sidelines.

Associate Athletics Director of Strategic Communications Jason Knavel wrote in an email to Elon News Network that Elon Athletics is aware of the accusation and is looking into it.

"We are aware of the allegations about comments made during Elon's recent football game. We are looking into this incident and any substantiated allegations will be addressed appropriately by the university," Knavel wrote. "Elon University is a community based on a strong commitment to inclusivity and belonging, and intolerant behavior and comments have no place here."

Head coach Tony Trisciani, assistant football coach Casey Vance, Director of Player Personnel and Football Operations Dan Baranik and Vice President of Student Life Jon Dooley were not available for Elon News Network's request for comment.

Elon News Network could not independently verify the identity of the football player. Following the game, Love posted on Instagram with her claims about the incident. In the post, she said this game was her first on the HBCU's campus.

See FOOTBALL | pg. 2

## Rosemary's under construction at Park Place, owner promises Italian food and nightlife

New restaurant under construction, plans to open location mid-October

**Aidan Powley**  
Elon News Network

Rosemary's is under construction at the previous location of Mediterranean Deli and the first floor of Park Place, one of Elon's on-campus apartment buildings. The restaurant will be located at 202 W. Haggard Ave.

The plan for the restaurant is to tailor to all members of the

Elon community, featuring a long list of selections for every meal of the day, Derek Bates, owner of the new location at Park Place and Elon graduate '85, said.

The top three floors of Park Place are on-campus student apartments. The university also owns a significant portion of the land Park Place is on, according to a statement sent by Owen Covington, university spokesperson. The bottom floor, the former location of Mediterranean Deli, is not owned by the university.

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A cappella organizations scramble for funding

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Monthly bingo brings campus community

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Alum returns to assistant coach volleyball

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# SGA reinforces bylaws, a cappella organizations without usual funding

SGA upholds bylaws stating organizations cannot profit off of events using SGA funding

**Nia Bedard**

Elon News Network

A cappella organization Vital Signs is scrambling to find funding for events after no longer receiving usual allocation from Elon's Student Government Association.

Senior Aidan Coy, Vital Signs president, said the a cappella presidents were scheduled to meet with the SGA executive board on Sept. 6 to discuss this, but SGA canceled the meeting the day prior.

Coy, along with all other a cappella presidents, received an email from the SGA Executive Board on May 14 stating that "the Student Government Association will no longer allocate funds to support events that require students to purchase tickets."

Senior Ella Kucera, SGA's vice president on communications declined an interview but wrote in an email to Elon News Network that while the SGA revises it's financial bylaws every spring in this situation the bylaws did not change.



THEY REVISE THE FINANCE BYLAWS EVERY MARCH AND WE WEREN'T INVITED. WE WEREN'T LET KNOWN UNTIL READING DAY, RIGHT BEFORE FINALS SO TO US, IT FELT LIKE THEY WERE TRYING TO SUBDUE US OVER THE SUMMER, AND IT'S REALLY JUST A SETBACK FOR US.

**AIDAN COY**

VITAL SIGNS PRESIDENT

"After a review of the 2023-2024 events supported by SGA," Kucera wrote. "It was discovered that some events did not align with this policy. The bylaws haven't changed; the Finance Board is just making sure we follow them."

According to SGA's website, in order for an event to receive funding it has to be inclusive and open to all students, promote campus unity and align with the mission of the university and or student organizations.

A cappella organizations use a combination of ticket sales and SGA funding in order to fund their albums, concerts and other expenses, which Coy said can cost as much as \$40,000. It has been a part of SGA's finance bylaws that organizations can not profit off of events that are funded by SGA. Now that SGA is

reinforcing its financial bylaws, a cappella will have to make a decision between selling tickets or requesting funding from SGA.

"I think it was a really tough position to put us in," Coy said. "They revise the finance bylaws every March and we weren't invited. We weren't let known until reading day, right before finals so to us, it felt like they were trying to subdue us over the summer, and it's really just a setback for us."

According to Coy, the seven a cappella presidents held a five hour meeting on reading day to try and discuss this change with the SGA executive board. After the meeting between the a cappella presidents, Coy said they tried to meet with the SGA executive board to discuss the changes with little to no success.

Prior to the reinforcement of the bylaws, Coy said a cappella funds its albums using their ticket sales rather than SGA funding.

"We all use our ticket sales to pay for our albums," Coy said. "That doesn't come out of SGA's pocket, that's all from our ticket sales."

In the initial email that the a cappella president's received, SGA stated that the reason why they reinforced the bylaws was "to foster inclusivity and remove financial barriers from our student body."

"They're not interested in talking with us," Coy said. "We've tried to set up meetings, and we sort of just get put back in the circle where all the presidents try to get the ball rolling, something gets sort of somewhere and then they never get back to us."

Kucera wrote SGA holds regular office hours in Moseley 213 and are always open to discussing concerns with any student organization, including a cappella organizations.

While the majority of a cappella's expenses are funded by their ticket sales, a cappella organizations have previously used SGA funding. Rip Chord President senior Duncan George said they would use SGA funding to hire Liquid 5th, a recording and production company from Graham, to set up equipment for their concerts.

"They would give us \$1,750 for Liquid 5th to come in and mic our concerts, set up the equipment, and do the sound check with us and everything," George said. "If we wanted to edit and master the live tracks, Rip Chord, for example, would have to pay out of pocket an additional \$400 to 500 to get that song mastered."

In previous years, a cappella organizations would use SGA funding for other activities, however that has declined over the years.

"When I was a first year back in 2021, SGA would fund our retreats," Coy said. "SGA really helped us out with some decorations, sometimes a videographer or a photographer, and that was pretty much it. Then as I got older, progressed in the group, they started doing less and less. They would cut off our videographers and photographers, they would cut off our decorations, and they stopped funding our retreats and stuff like that, because they labeled us as an exclusive group."

Unlike other student-run organizations where anyone can join, a cappella organizations conduct an audition process and then extend offers to potential members.

Coy said he plans on requesting funding from SGA for their albums and concerts.

"I think we're about to submit a budget request for around \$6,500 to pay for our album," Coy said. "If they're willing to pay for our album, for them to fund all of the stuff that we do as an organization, then I'm totally fine without selling tickets. But you know, if they're cutting our funding or if they're telling us you can't sell tickets, now, something's telling me they're not going to be too willing to pay groups instead of just letting them sell tickets."

According to its bylaws and Kucera, SGA is able to fund their concerts however, SGA's bylaws do not allow for SGA to pay for expenses that directly generate potential revenue for student organizations.



GROUPS STILL HAVE THE OPTION OF REQUESTING SGA FUNDING TO COVER THE FULL COST OF HOSTING EVENTS AND MAKING THEM FREE FOR STUDENTS... OR THEY CAN MAKE THE ACTIVITY A FUNDRAISER AND CHARGE FOR TICKETS.

**ELLA KUCERA**

SGA VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

"SGA can allocate funding to any eligible organization, including a cappella groups, for events that are free for students or for which revenue from ticket sales simply covers the cost of hosting the event," Kucera wrote. "Because the bylaws do not allow SGA to pay for fundraisers or items that directly generate revenue for student organizations, funding their albums is not possible."

Kucera stated that a cappella organizations can still sell tickets to their events, they just can not do so and receive funding from SGA.

"Groups still have the option of requesting SGA funding to cover the full cost of hosting events and making them free for students," Kucera wrote. "Or they can make the activity a fundraiser and charge for tickets."

George said he hopes that the acapella presidents can meet with SGA and come to an agreement about how they will proceed with funding for the future.

"I hope that there's some way that we can regain the money lost from the concerts," George said. "If we could work with SGA to come up with a solution, that would be awesome, that's the goal."

## Athlete accused of cursing at students at game

### FOOTBALL | from cover

"It was just a matter of, why do I not feel safe on my own campus?" Love said. "Like at the end of the day, I just graduated high school, I'm an 18 year old. I've never had to deal with firsthand racism."

As of 10:25 p.m. on Sept. 9, the post has 6,675 likes and 1,152 comments.

"A lot of people are saying in my comments and stuff that this had to be provoked by me, or something like that, which I just find outlandish, that it always has to be the angry Black woman narrative," Love said.

"Why can't y'all just believe that I was there enjoying the game, and one of y'all's players got upset to the point where he spout racial slurs at me?"

Love said she hopes that people will be held responsible.

"I know a lot of times athletes are put on this pedestal to where they can do no wrong, because they make so much money for the school, or they do so much, and that overshadows the students who pay tuition, the students who have to live there," Love said. "I just want to stop that. I want to stop that, 'There's nothing you can do about this. It happens all the time.'"



AT THE END OF THE DAY, I JUST GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL, I'M AN 18 YEAR OLD. I'VE NEVER HAD TO DEAL WITH FIRSTHAND RACISM.

**SAMIHYA LOVE**

NC CENTRAL FRESHMAN

### CORRECTIONS

There are no corrections from the last edition of The Pendulum.





A young girl surfs on an inflatable wave while spectators and game staff watch Sept. 6 during downtown Elon's Social District Block Party.

MATTHEW VAUGHN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Students browse posters during the last day of the poster sale Sept. 6 in the Koury Center.

REAGAN TANNER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



David Hamlow talks to students in front of his art piece "Reliquaries 8 and 9" on Sept. 9 in the Arts West Gallery. The piece was made with recycled materials such as plastic and cardboard from his daily consumer activity.

MEGAN WALSH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



MOLLY CLAYTON  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Seniors Tara Feather  
and Jess Schatz pet  
a cat at the Senior  
Kickoff event Sept. 3  
Under the Oaks.



MATTHEW VAUGHN  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
A child gets her face  
painted Sept. 6 at  
Elon's Social District  
Block Party.





Aerial photo Sept. 6 of the Innovation Quad parking lot. Senior Ashland Sutton commutes to campus and parks at the Innovation Quad lot, but she has been having difficulty finding a spot in the morning.

ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PARKING | from cover

While she struggles to find parking in the Innovation Quad, overall Sanders also said there aren't many options for commuter students to park.

"I feel like there isn't really spots to park as a commuter, so that kind of feels like the only option in the first place," Sanders said. "That's such a like that's the most central spot, and it's not even very close to anything in particular."

Sutton said some of the frustration comes from the 40.63% price increase of most parking passes, rising from \$160 to \$225. According to LeMire, this is the first time in

15 years that the rates for permits are going up, and the increase was due to maintenance costs.

"We have to pay parking enforcers, we have to have cars, we have to have fuel parking permits. The lots have to be taken care of. There's paint, there's signage, there's everything that goes into running a parking operation," LeMire said. "It looks like maybe it was a 40% increase, but that was a 40% increase over no increases for all those years. Now the student complaint is, 'Well I wasn't here all those other years,' but the operation has always been here and those operational costs have increased."

The original plan for the 2024-25 year was for freshmen to park in the eastern lot of the



EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM.  
COME IN AND GRAB THE  
PARKING SPOT.

JOE LEMIRE  
ELON CHIEF OF POLICE

Danieley Center and by the Francis Center to make more room for other students and faculty, but this was delayed to next fall due to permit issues, according to LeMire.

"What was coupling some of the complaints was: we raised the rates of parking, but we don't have the lot, but it was never meant to be one caused the other," LeMire said.

LeMire suggested students arrive earlier to ensure they get a spot.

"Plan a little bit sooner and use these outer lots if you need to or come in early," LeMire said. "Early bird gets the worm. Come in and grab the parking spot."

*Avery Sloan contributed to the reporting of this story.*

ROSEMARY'S | from cover

"Decisions about the leasing of the ground-floor space fall to the developer, which owns and operates the building," Covington wrote.

According to the restaurant's website, Rosemary's is an Italian restaurant with several locations around New York, specializing in seasoned Italian cooking and neighborly hospitality.

Bates said Rosemary's menu at Elon hopes to advertise a wide variety of different options, from fine dining Italian and smoked brisket to calzones, grab-and-go smoothies and acai bowls.

"I want this to be a place where students can come get their coffee or smoothies in the morning, and then come back later for some wings, pizza and beers," Bates said. "I want there to be a little bit of something for everybody."

Like many restaurants and stores around Elon's campus, Rosemary's will accept Phoenix Cash as a form of payment.

Bates said the goal is for construction to be finished by mid-October, opening Rosemary's to early access parties before being opened up to the public.

Among the excitement of bringing a new restaurant to Elon's campus, the construction of Rosemary's means even more for Bates.

"I'm an Elon guy, and I'm very sentimental," he said. "That makes it 10 times more exciting for me to be doing it here."

Bates said he hopes a Rosemary's on campus gives students another location for students and staff to enjoy Elon nightlife, with a full operating bar with TVs and live music.



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EVERYBODY.

DEREK BATES  
ROSEMARY'S OWNER  
ELON GRADUATE '84



Park Place pictured on Sept. 10. Rosemary's will be moving into the first floor and the other three floor are Elon on-campus apartments. Rosemary's will serve a variety of options, including calzones, smoothies and more.

AVERY SLOAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bates said he would love to feature student musicians and artists on campus and already has a piano delivery on the way.

"We would love to have student musicians," Bates said. "I want to utilize the energy and the talent of the university community."

Other specific plans of the restaurant

include bourbon and cigar nights, rented-out parties, Sunday brunch with a jazz trio performance and wine tastings from at least eight different wine purveyors.

"Something for everybody," Bates said. "And it'll be premium stuff but reasonably priced. I think this could be a winner."





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# ‘You’re not too cool for it’ BINGO BRINGS STUDENTS TOGETHER

High emotions, high-value prizes are staples of monthly bingo nights for hundreds of students

**Sarah T. Moore**  
Elon News Network

When Bunny Ingram first became an Elon student, they knew they were going to play bingo. They had initially heard about the monthly games from their older sister, who had also attended Elon.

Since freshman orientation, the now-junior has only missed games for three reasons: attending a funeral, having COVID-19 and studying abroad.

Over the past two years, they’ve won a record player and a Barnes & Noble gift card. But it was easier for them to recall the memories of the games’ high emotions than the games’ high-value prizes.

“We all experience the emotions together,” Ingram said. “When a good number is called, everybody in the room feels it.”

On Sept. 5, Ingram was one of 333 players at the first bingo night of the 2024-25 academic year. Swarms of students filed into McKinnon Hall after swiping their Phoenix Cards to receive bingo boards.

The Student Union Board hosts bingo nights from 10 p.m. to midnight on the first Thursday of each month during the academic year.

At 10 p.m., university President Connie Book started the night off and called out the first few rounds — a tradition for the first bingo night of the school year. With \$50 Amazon gift cards at stake, players enthusiastically hollered as they marked off numbers or booed when a number wasn’t on their board.

Loud, sudden shrieks of “with a stick!” echoed through McKinnon as the first call back of the night, B10.

Book told Elon News Network she felt Elon’s enthusiastic bingo culture was “pretty unique” among universities. She said it’s always fun to hear the different reactions students have to numbers being called, especially the chants with some of the B numbers.

“I think we need to think of a few more,” Book said. “There’s so much good potential there.”

After three Amazon gift cards were won and Book’s bingo role was over, the sounds of students yelling and chanting “bingo girl, bingo girl” filled the room.

Junior Sarah Carss made her bingo debut last year when she was an orientation leader and called the numbers during a bingo the a game for incoming students.

“The next day, everyone was like, ‘Hey, you’re the bingo girl,’” Carss said. “I thought it would go away, and it never did.”

Now, Carss has become a fully fledged bingo emcee and has embraced her role as Elon’s “bingo girl.”

“It’s crazy, but it’s cool,” Carss said. “I have met a lot of people and made friends with people who know me first as being the bingo girl.”

To Carss, being bingo girl is more than just calling out the numbers. Carss and her co-host junior Janeeta Smith work together to keep hundreds of students entertained and excited throughout each round, building a rapport with the crowd.

Smith experimented with different accents as she called the numbers and when the first O69 of the night was called and the room erupted into excited screams, she playfully reminded the audience that, “We promote safe sex here” and, “There are free condoms in the GLC.”



## BINGO CALLBACKS

B1 “with nature”	B2 “or not to be”	B4 “and after”
B8 “and tackle”	FREE SPACE	B9 “or malignant”
B10 “with a stick”	B11 “B 11 B B 11”	B12 “it’s a vitamin”

The associated call backs with some of the different numbers help keep the momentum up, Carss said.

“I think the chants are fun,” Carss said. “That’s a way that people get really into it. That’s a good way to energize the room and get them hyped up.”

Smith is the bingo chair of SUB, the campus organization that hosts the games. According to Smith, each bingo game is planned out at least three weeks in advance — with a budget ranging from \$200 to more than \$500.

The money comes directly from Student Activity Fees paid in tuition, according to Carss.

“If you don’t come to bingo, you’re wasting your student fee,” Carss said. “We want people to have fun.”

As bingo chair, Smith is in charge of picking prizes and coordinating the bingo themes each month. Players who participate in the theme are each granted one extra board to increase their odds of winning.



I HAVE MET A LOT OF PEOPLE  
AND MADE FRIENDS WITH  
PEOPLE WHO KNOW ME FIRST  
AS BEING THE BINGO GIRL.

**SARAH CARSS**  
ELON JUNIOR

Past themes have included pumpkin spice, where players brought either a pumpkin or spices; white lie, where students wore shirts with lies on them; deli shop, where players brought condiments; and The Rock’s birthday, where players could bring in a rock or dress like Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson to earn their

Attendees gathered Sept. 5 for bingo in McKinnon Hall. Prizes included a karaoke machine, an iPad and gift cards.

ETHAN WU | PHOTO EDITOR



ETHAN WU | PHOTO EDITOR

Elon President Connie Book addresses over 300 students, including junior Sarah Carss, at the first bingo night of the 2024-25 school year on Sept. 5 in McKinnon Hall.

extra board.

“I honestly fell in love with what I do,” Smith said.

Ingram said their favorite is the annual Halloween bingo theme.

“Halloween is always killer,” Ingram said. “Everybody comes in costume and there’s always the world’s most atrocious inflatable costume.”

The bingo theme Sept. 5 was national charity day. For an extra board, players donated first-aid kits, flashlights, batteries, menstrual products, disposable masks, canned food, boxes of band-aids and more. Ingram brought canned bamboo shoots, as well as extra items for their friends to donate.

All the items would be donated to United Way, Smith said.

There are regulars who come almost every month, such as Ingram, Carss said. Attendance is usually lower in the spring semester, but Carss said there’s never been a dull crowd.

“Just to be associated with people smiling and having fun, that’s really cool,” Carss said.

One of the reasons Carss said people are drawn to bingo at Elon is the level playing field.

“There is no skill,” Carss said. “It’s not like you have to know something or be good at something. Anyone can win.”

The prizes of the night Sept. 5 included an Elon merch bundle, an Owala tumbler with a bag of popsicle flavored liquid IV, a large multipack of ramen with a pot, a karaoke machine, a “dog bed” for people, Sony headphones and an iPad. Smith said she tries to keep an eye out for Amazon deals when picking out the prizes each month.

In 13 rounds and a little under two hours, all the prizes had been won. The night included two ties settled by tense games of Rock, Paper, Scissors and one six-way tie.

Ingram was among the six students who shouted “bingo” during the last round of the night, competing for the iPad. The contestants had to each pick a number from one to 100, but Ingram’s 32 wasn’t the closest.

SUB’s next bingo night will be from 10 p.m. to midnight Oct. 3 in McKinnon hall.

Book said one of her favorite things about bingo nights at Elon is the way it helps build campus community. She said students can come with friends or come alone and meet the people at their table.

Since students only need a Phoenix Card to attend, Ingram said there’s no reason not to go at least once.

“You’re not too cool for it,” Ingram said. “Let yourself have fun and you will have fun.”





Junior Halli Harwood while studying abroad at the University of Sydney. Left, she snorkels on March 31 next to a sea turtle in the Great Barrier Reef. Right, Harwood pets a kangaroo May 25 at Australia Zoo.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HALLI HARWOOD

# REDISCOVERING ELON AFTER STUDYING ABROAD



**Halli Harwood**  
Columnist

I had an extremely difficult time adjusting to life halfway around the world. The first month in Sydney, Australia, was isolating and discouraging. I failed to connect with peers, struggled with the 400-person lectures and felt an intense amount of envy as my friends back home continued their weekly poker nights and late night Cook Out runs without me. Fortunately, I took risks and eventually stepped out of my comfort zone which allowed me to find a solid friend group that completely turned my time abroad around.

Hands down, studying abroad was the best experience of my entire life. I never knew I had the capacity to appreciate and miss the experience as much as I do. I had five months of absolute autonomy and a long list of life lessons that made my time in Australia freeing and full of growth. While I was learning to surf, snorkeling alongside sea turtles and people watching from the steps of the Opera House, I was simultaneously engaging in cultural activities and connecting with other students from around the world.

Nick Gozik, Elon’s dean of global education, echoed this sentiment and acknowledged that it can sometimes take months or years for students to truly understand the benefits associated with studying abroad.

“Common learning outcomes include a greater sense of independence, adaptability, cross-cultural awareness and disciplinary knowledge,” Gozik said.

However, Elon University was, and still is, my dream school. It was the 10 and final school I visited during my college search and I instantly had a gut feeling that I belonged here. While there have

been times when I have questioned that, the feeling of belonging always returns stronger than the previous time.

But, I am in the middle of that questioning time right now. I was excited to return to my friends, to my clubs, to my new internship and job and to normal classes. I have since learned that the things I disliked or thought were weird in Sydney are the things that I now miss dearly.



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**HALLI HARWOOD**  
COLUMNIST

On the University of Sydney’s campus, the teaching felt so impersonal. I felt invisible. Now, I miss the anonymity of those spaces. I was never required to speak up for participation points or forced to engage in uncomfortable icebreakers. When I had to carve an extra 30 minutes of commute time into my schedule so I could get to classes on time, I missed the intimacy of Elon’s brick pathways.

Now, I yearn for those long walks when I would take time to

plan out my adventures for the weekend or call my mom to catch up. I miss that a scoop of ice cream would be added to my “iced coffee” orders, which was something that I originally found strange. Similarly, I miss the fact that most coffee shops would close in the early afternoon because it promised the idea of work-life balance that is present in Australia but lacking in America.

I miss the access to all types of public transportation — from buses to trains to ferries — and the idea of living in a walkable city. I miss feeling safe, even when heading home from late-night events alone at 2 a.m., much to the dismay of my parents. I miss getting bluntly asked about my thoughts on the American political system, especially because I thought it was intrusive at the time. I miss being able to attend class and be at the beach within the next hour — frozen yogurt in hand. I miss being able to book \$30 flights and see wildlife that I had never seen, let alone heard of, before. I especially miss the conversion rate between American and Australian currency.

Gozik shared that students adjust differently to reentry on Elon’s campus and that Elon believes re-entry is just as important to the study abroad experience as pre-departure and being overseas. In an effort to alleviate some of the stressors associated with returning from abroad, Elon offers a variety of resources.

“Finding spaces for reflection can be really valuable,” Gozik said. “A lot of work has been done to help faculty assist students in their reflection.”

Students have the opportunity to serve as Global Ambassadors, a program in which they can share their abroad experiences during class visits and panel discussions, as well as take courses designed

for reflection and analysis — such as “Coming Home: The Impact of Studying Abroad.”

As dramatic as it sounds, I am in the process of grieving the experience of a lifetime. Those five months were extremely transformative and, just like that, I’m back to what my parents refer to as “real life,” with legitimate commitments that I am required to honor.

Elon is known for their study abroad programs and roughly 88% of students go abroad in some capacity before graduating. Yet, I had never heard other people discuss the challenges they faced when they returned. I knew the adjustment to Sydney was going to be rough, between not knowing anyone else going, the time change and the difference in academic structure. But I never anticipated the heaviness associated with the end of a program — of what is now just a collection of fond memories.

Luckily, I know I will find my place on Elon’s campus and the feeling of belonging will return. After all, it was Elon that gave me the opportunity to study abroad in the first place.



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**NICK GOZIK**  
DEAN OF GLOBAL EDUCATION



# Former volleyball player returns as assistant coach

Haylie Clark played at Elon from 2018-22, comes back after coaching at Bucknell University

Miles Hayford  
Elon News Network

The Elon volleyball team has a familiar face this year. Two years after leaving Elon with numerous accolades from her time on the volleyball team, Haylie Clark has returned to Elon's campus as an assistant coach.

Clark said it is great to be back on the team in some capacity.

"I loved being here as a player, and now I'm getting to experience it in a different view," Clark said.

During her time at Elon as a student-athlete, Clark played volleyball under head coach Mary Tendler from 2018-22. She earned many achievements during her time, including being named to the 2021 and 2022 All-Coastal Athletic Association Second Team and the 2021 CAA Setter of the Year. She racked up 349 kills, 879 digs, 142 blocks and 113 aces during her time at Elon.

A former captain of the team, she managed to amass 2,838 assists, which ranks fifth in the program's history. In 2021, she led the team in aces and assists and helped lead the team reach the CAA Tournament Championship game.

Most recently, Clark was an assistant coach at Bucknell University, working primarily on the team's offense.

Tendler said she is glad they were able to hire Clark after her time at Bucknell.

successful on the court and off the court, and I think that's something that not all schools have and it's definitely something nice that we can take advantage of here."

“

WHO CAN SELL ELON AS A STUDENT ATHLETE BETTER THAN HAYLIE? SHE WAS RECRUITED HERE, SHE PLAYED HERE FOR FIVE YEARS, SHE KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A PLAYER, SO IT'S AN EASY SELL FOR HER.

MARY TENDLER  
VOLLEYBALL HEAD COACH

According to Tendler, the transition to coaching her for five years to working with her has been an adjustment, but it has been easy due to her already knowing Clark personally.

"It's definitely different, probably an adjustment for both of us," Tendler said. "She calls me Mary now instead of coach, which is fine, but still sounds strange to me a little bit and probably a little awkward for her."

But, Tendler is happy that she is on the staff.

"Some of the same stuff that I saw in her as a player, I see in her as a coach, and I knew I would," Tendler said. "She's just competitive, she's very passionate about the game and very loyal to Elon. She was my first choice when we had an open position."

Clark said the transition has been easy, having gotten to know how Tendler is as a coach and what she likes during her time as a player.

Having played with six of the current players on the team and being so close in age with the members of the volleyball team, Clark said she believes the transition to coaching has been smooth.

"When I was a player, I was injured a lot, so I kind of coached them up a little bit while I was a player, so I think they've already experienced that side of me," Clark said. "Everyone's been really receptive and it's been great to be able to coach girls that I already know because I know how they like to take feedback and those kinds of things."

Tendler echoes this statement, believing that her experience being in the players' shoes will help her ability to coach.

"Her relationship is different now with them because she's a coach, but I think it's

good because she's been there," Tendler said. "She's won a lot of matches for Elon, she's been to the championship match of the CAA tournament and knows what it feels like and how to get there. So when she says something, it's meaningful, and she just has a different perspective as a coach on the staff that's been in their position with things."

However, building a relationship with the players isn't the only thing Tendler is excited to see from Clark. She said she thinks her experience at Elon will help the program tremendously when it comes to recruiting new talent.

"Who can sell Elon as a student athlete

better than Haylie?" Tendler said. "She was recruited here, she played here for five years, she knows what it's like to be a player, so it's an easy sell for her."

Clark said she believes the reasons that brought her back to Elon can help bring about success to the program, and she is excited for the future of Elon volleyball.

"I think it all has to do with the environment," Clark said. "I love Elon. I love the town that we're in. I love the people that I work with. I think all of those things coming together can breed successful programs. We're in our journey in our own way, and I think we're on the road to success."



JOJO LIEBREICH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Assistant coach Haylie Clark shouts pointers at players during a game against the University of North Carolina, Greensboro on Sept. 7 in Schar Center. Elon won 3-2.

“

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HAYLIE CLARK  
VOLLEYBALL ASSISTANT COACH

"She just has a good mind for the game, and I was glad that she got an opportunity to be somewhere else for a year at Bucknell and then come back," Tendler said. "I think it's good to get different experiences. She's young, but she's just an up and coming coach that I feel lucky to have gotten on the staff."

Elon's environment is what made Clark come back to the college she spent five years at.

"I think all of the resources that we provide with the student athletes are really great," Clark said. "It allows them to be

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