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DAYCARE TO OPEN IN PSYCHOLOGY BUILDING



PHOTO BY ETHAN WU, DESIGN BY ERIN MARTIN

Editorial illustration of a daycare sign in front of the current psychology and human service studies building. The building will house a child care facility next fall.

Child care facility plans to open in fall of 2025, students and faculty doing research have been relocated

Avery Sloan

Elon News Network

A senior student — who asked to remain anonymous due to concerns of possible negative impacts on his future research — found out in a meeting with his research mentor that his psychology research will need to be conducted in Lindner Hall instead of the psychology building. Next fall, the building on South Campus that currently houses the psychology and human service studies majors will become a child care facility.

Originally, the student said he was told he, along with other researchers, would be asked to move by the end of October, but the move has now been pushed back until the end of the semester.

The daycare facility was announced last fall and planned to open this coming spring.

A location was not decided until earlier this semester, Janet Williams, vice president for finance and administration and chief financial officer, said.

"There was a committee — a shared governance committee — that looked at several locations, properties that Elon owns, land that Elon owns," Williams said. "We really felt that South Campus would be the best location for convenience to our employees. South Campus, in our strategic long-term master plan, calls for a lot of the administrative offices being in that area as well. So we thought it'd be a very convenient space for our early learning center for children."

Williams said the office of the provost has handled all labs, classrooms and offices that have needed to be relocated. Provost Rebecca Kohn's executive assistant told Elon News Network the provost was unavailable for comment. David Buck, psychology department chair, and multiple professors within psychology and human service studies declined Elon News Network's request for comment.

In fall of 2025, the first phase of the child

care facility will provide early learning and child care for infants, toddlers and 2-year olds, Williams said. Elon has planned for a capacity of about 30 students, which Williams said is based on a market demand study. Elon has partnered with Vivvi, a child care and early learning provider, to run the facility. Williams said Elon selected Vivvi as it also works with Toyota to manage the car dealership's child care facility, which is 30 minutes away from campus.

The budget for the renovation is close to \$2 million, Williams said. Once the space opens, parents sending children to the facility will pay a tuition fee directly to Vivvi, which Elon will partially subsidize for its employees.

The student said while he was not given a reason why research for psychology specifically was relocated, he assumes it is because psychology is seen as an easier science to move. Psychology is Elon's second-most popular major with 490 students, according to data from Elon's Fall 2024 Registrar's Report. Psychology has remained in the top four majors for the past 10 years according to recent registrar reports.

He said his research is mainly audio- and

video-based. His new research location does not have a door yet and has a vending machine

"There's a general belief toward psychology that it is a science that can be done anywhere," he said. "It's just not how people work. People work in acting conditions. I can't have a fridge behind me and be taken seriously and do actual research."

He said he knows other professors and students may be affected more than him as some have specialized machinery and equipment that is necessary for their research, which will require more time and effort to move. He said he has also heard many professors have delayed their research to avoid having to move after starting.

He said while he is happy to know he will have a space somewhere on campus, he was initially nervous he would not be able to complete his research, something he has relied on completing in order to fulfill his graduation requirements and walk in the spring.

"Not that there wouldn't be a solution," he said, "but if there wasn't a solution, then what does that mean for me?"

Elon invites hope through public art display post elections

University promotes community through chalk art, further dialogues throughout the week

Anjolina Fantaroni & Avery Sloan Elon News Network

Hugs, smiles, tears and words of encouragement filled Haggard Avenue on Nov. 6 following the election between President-elect Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris. In the early hours of Wednesday morning, Trump was elected the 47th president of the U.S.

Elon University invited students, staff and faculty to express words of hope on chalkboards

on the portion of Haggard Avenue in front of Young Commons — closing the road from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to showcase and work on their public art display. There were an estimated 200 students who participated in the event, Naeemah Clark, associate provost for academic inclusive excellence, said.

This was the first of four post-election events Elon has planned for the next week, and there are more events to come leading up to Inauguration Day on Jan. 20, Clark said.

These events were planned and announced in a campus-wide email from Jon Dooley, vice president of student life, on Oct. 31, before ballots were counted. In his email, he also specifically highlighted campus resources including Counseling Services, the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life and

mindfulness programming by Campus Recreation and Wellness.

Uplifting songs played throughout the art event, such as "A Million Dreams" from The Greatest Showman, "We Are the World" by U.S.A. for Africa and "Sunday Morning" by Maroon 5.

Junior Zachary Diamond said he saw the email about the event and wanted to check it out. He wrote, "Sometimes you have to create your own sunshine" on the concrete.

"Every day is different," Diamond said. "Some people have good days, some people have bad days — and on days like this where people are so conflicted, it's important to manage your emotions."

Diamond said he enjoyed seeing so many people on the street expressing hope about the future.

"I think this is a great community builder where people can come together and share thoughts," Diamond said.

Clark said planning for the election on campus began back in June, with the creation of a committee — co-chaired by Clark and Dooley — focused on the election.

"Thinking about what emotions could look like from all sides, and making sure that we were having dialogue, that we were really thinking about unity, that we were thinking about connection," Clark said. "We learned a lot of lessons from 2016 so we made sure that the students would have a creative outlet."

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Adm. Mike Mullen came to campus for Veteran's Day

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Four candidates for deanship presented

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Fall Dance concert "Unboxed" opens Nov. 15

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THE **PENDULUM**

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

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CORRECTIONS

In the last edition of The Pendulum, for the state commissioner of insurance race, Mike Causey was said to have 48% of the vote, he had 52% of the vote. Elon News Network regrets this error.

Retired Adm. Mike Mullen shares ways to support veterans, hope for next administration



CHARLOTTE PFABE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Retired Adm. Mike Mullen spoke Nov. 11 in McCrary Theatre to students, faculty and staff as a part of Elon's Veterans Day events.

Mullen emphasizes importance of helping veterans through transition from military service to civilian life

Charlotte Pfabe

Elon News Network

Retired Adm. Mike Mullen shared the ways in which the U.S. can better support veterans as they transition from active duty service to civilian life with the Elon community Nov. 11. He was hosted as a part of Elon's Veterans Day events.

He kicked off the Carol Ann Walker International Lectureship Series, which was created as a gift from Rear Adm. Edward "Ted" Walker Jr.

From 2007 to 2011, Mullen served as the 17th chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff for former Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. Mullen advised former President Obama during the raid on Osama Bin Laden's compound in May 2011. Since retiring from active duty service, Mullen taught at Princeton University from 2012 to 2018 and currently teaches leadership and advanced ethics courses at his alma mater, the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Mullen sat down with Elon News Network to discuss his views on the current state of support for veterans.

This interview was edited for clarity.

Can you tell me a little bit about why you're here today at Elon?

I was asked to come and give this inaugural Adm. Ted Walker speech. And coincidentally, I knew Ted Walker, who was an extraordinary guy, not just generous, but he was also a character. So it's a real privilege, one, and then secondly, to be able to come on Veterans Day and speak to an audience that is one very supportive of veterans, has a lot of veterans in the audience and to try to focus on the issues of the day that are affecting veterans, from employment to health to education. And obviously, Elon is very invested in this message, which I really appreciate.

Earlier, you spoke to that crowd, and you just came with another engagement too. Can you tell me about what you focused on today?

So the veteran side was to really try to broaden the expression of, 'Thank you for your service,' which people do, and I think they mean it all over the country, and, in fact,

all over the world. It's just that the gratitude for me goes much deeper than that. And in fact, just walking into this interview, I ran into a mother who works here who's got a Marine son working in the helicopter world for the Marine Corps. And I'm always thankful that parents would raise young men and women to go do this and express that gratitude to her. But the veteran space, I've found out since I've been in it the last 14, 15 years, is a very difficult space. It's difficult to maneuver, it's difficult to understand the rules, and then, particularly if you're having challenges.

I talked about suicide today, which is epidemic. We're losing military members who were on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan to these cancers generated by these burn pits. We've got too many homeless vets, and one of the things I've learned is they won't come to us. We need to go to them. We need to reach out in our communities, find them and figure out what support they need.

The other is these veterans who need so much help, they're a vast minority in terms of just the percentage and veterans want to work. They want careers. They're very talented people. Typically they have not just the character they can lead. They're loyal, they're disciplined, they show up on time, they're good teammates, and so they're a good bet, as are their spouses. And so trying to encourage people to do as much of that as they possibly can and then here at Elon and other educational institutions, how do you take them in, as they transition from the military into the private sector?

In your personal experience, like you just said your transition from being enlisted to being a veteran, from being an active part of the military in multiple different ways. How was that transition for you personally?

Well, I was active duty for 43 years. I was tired, and actually I told a lot of people, I basically went to bed for a year because I needed to recharge. And if I'm honest about that, I've been working so hard at such a high level for a decade or so it took me about two years to get to some level of normal, whatever that is.

I taught at Princeton for six years, I'm in my sixth year of teaching at Annapolis and of all the things I do, that's the best thing that I do, because I've always been around young people, obviously, with the military, but I've always tried to invest back at that level. And so teaching right now is really important to me, and having an impact on some young people in that regard is the highest priority that I have.

Earlier in McCrary Theatre, you talked about the geopolitical nature of the military as well. And you mentioned that this is the "most dangerous time since the Cuban Missile Crisis." In your opinion, what are you most concerned about right now?

A war with China, and the war with China over Taiwan. As I indicated when I, 17 years ago, when I took over as chairman from 2007 to 2011 and I worked for both Bush and Obama. Over that four years, I spent no time on Taiwan. My successors, the current Chairman, Gen. Brown, and his predecessor, Gen. Miller, spent an extraordinary amount in Taiwan.

It is an economic engine that four of the five biggest economies in the world are centered in the Pacific region. And I'm someone who's believed for a long time, the economy sort of drives outcomes. And so, if we have a war out there with China as a great power war, everybody loses. We lose. China loses. And I actually think the world loses.

And you've got 24 million Taiwanese citizens - roughly 20 million are freedom loving, democracy loving individuals that want to keep going like they're going and you've got a leader in China who says we need to reunify and is intent on reunifying. His public messaging is, 'We're going to do this.' And because we both have these nuclear weapons which could destroy the world, which at one point, I hoped we had, we could put aside and eventually eliminate, they are building them very rapidly, and so it's just getting more and more dangerous. So we could get in a war over Taiwan that theoretically could devastate the world. And that's what concerns me more than any other part of the world.

You talked about military and civilian life as well. What do you hope that the President-Elect Donald Trump will do for veterans?

My own view is the current administration has done well by veterans. There are less homeless. The benefits are easier, they're still hard to get, but they're easier to get. Access is better, even though it's still really difficult. So, I would hope that President-Elect Trump, when he gets in, would be able to continue those trends, so that we continue to eliminate homelessness, we can create affordable housing for veterans and their families, that we can create careers for them, not just jobs, or look at opportunities to help them transition to careers, not just jobs.



IILES HAYFORD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Graduate student Victor Stromsten mulls over Elon's Coastal Athletic Association Tournament semifinal loss as Hofstra players celebrate behind him on the afternoon of Nov. 10 at Rudd Field. This was Stromsten's last year at Elon. Elon lost 2-0. Elon has lost to Hofstra in the CAA tournament in 2021, 2022 and 2024.



MILES HAYFORD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redshirt junior Kamryn Doty shoots the ball during a game against Gardner Webb on Nov. 8. Elon won 69-61, despite shooting 34% from the field. Elon's next home game will be on Nov. 16 against Kent State in Schar Center.



ETHAN WU | PHOTO EDITOR

Junior Nailah Ware freestyles during the Limitless pop-up show on Nov. 11 as N Major at Medallion Plaza. Limitless is a student organization that provides a space for artists on campus to rehearse and perform.

ETHAN WU | PHOTO EDITOR

Martha and Spencer Love School of Business dean candidates present to faculty, staff

The final four candidates for the dean position were hosted on campus to discuss their plans, answer questions

Kate Gray Elon News Network

Since the former dean of the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business, Raghu Tadepalli, announced his retirement in April 2024, a search committee has evaluated a pool of applicants and identified four final dean candidates.

They were each hosted on campus in late October and early November to tour classes and present to Love School of Business faculty and staff. The presentation involved a 40-minute response to a prompt on how to respond to the demands of changing perceptions of the value of higher education and the increasing needs for both social responsibility and workforce readiness.



KATRINA HOLTZ | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

associate dean and professor of management information systems, presented her goals and qualifications Oct. 28.

If selected as dean, Ajjan said she hopes to maintain the culture of Elon and the LSB while navigating a changing higher education landscape. She said she views the role of the dean as a leader who works collaboratively to shape the LSB vision with faculty, staff, students, alumni and community; fosters opportunities that empower students to thrive and succeed; and advocates for and secures resources, empowering faculty and staff to continue their work.

"We need to be making sure that our culture is strong, our faculty are valued and inspired and equipped not only to grow professionally but personally," Ajjan said. "We need our students to gain a strong education in the liberal arts and in the business education so they're well prepared for the future."

In the final remarks of her presentation, Ajjan emphasized her experience and determination.

"I've really gotten a lot out of this institution and feel it's time for me to give back. I understand the opportunities ahead of us, I know what the challenges are," Ajjan said. "I'm definitely ready to take us to the next level without losing any momentum."



KATRINA HOLTZ | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

M. Travis Maynard presents Oct. 31 in LaRose Digital Theatre in the Koury Business Center.

ravis Maynard, professor of management and senior associate dean of academic programs at Colorado State University College of Business, presented to LSB staff and faculty Oct. 31. Maynard got his MBA at the University of Denver and Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut.

Innovation is important to him especially in a changing landscape of higher education, Maynard said.

"We need to adapt and be innovative," Maynard said. "Quite frankly, many schools are not set up for innovation. I work at a great university, but it's a big university, and it's bureaucratic in many respects."

While Elon's size and structure make

these innovations easier, there is still room for improvement, Maynard said, such as implementing micro credentials, certificates, experiential learning, interdisciplinary work and partnering with organizations.

Maynard said an appeal about Elon is its top ranked business school within a liberal arts college.

"This is even more of a key variable in this dynamic AI technological advancement world that we live in today," Maynard said. "Many studies talk about the need for critical thinking, communication, decision making, collaborative and interdisciplinary studies. Liberal arts education can provide that organizational value."



KATRINA HOLTZ | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nic Erhardt presents Nov. 7 in LaRose Digital Theatre in the Koury Business Center.

ic Erhardt, professor of management and dean of the College of Business at Valparaiso University, gave his presentation Nov. 7. Erhardt has worked in human resources, and as a management professor and associate dean of the Maine Business School at the University of Maine.

The culture of Elon stuck out to Erhardt during his visit.

"Everybody has a strategy," Erhardt said. "So what's the secret, what is the fundamental core competitive advantage to make sure that Elon keeps on growing and expanding its brand and reach? It's your culture."

Erhardt is a strong proponent of using

artificial intelligence to improve efficiency, and showed some videos he created during his presentation using AI.

One video showed Erhardt speaking Spanish, exemplifying ways AI can be used for reaching out to people who don't speak English.

In the classroom, Erhardt said he teaches that business is often deeper than it seems, a lesson he continues to follow in leadership.

"Making money is not the end goal necessarily," Erhardt said. "If you operate in an environment where people want to work with you, people want to invest in you because of your character, you're going to do well."



KATRINA HOLTZ | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Anca Micu presents Nov. 12 in LaRose Digital Theatre in the Koury Business Center.

nca Micu, marketing professor and senior associate dean of the Dolan School of Business at Fairfield University, was the final candidate to present to LSB staff and faculty on Nov. 12. She has worked at Fairfield University since 2020, serving first as an associate dean and now senior associate dean.

Micu said she would focus on reimagining the Master of Business Administration, crafting it to fit the needs of each student — including ideas such as an accelerated degree in finance or different disciplines and more programs in Charlotte

"There is no one size fits all," Micu said. "There's no magic bullet for graduate

programming, we have an MSBA that is multimodal."

Micu also said she wants to focus on diversity, equity and inclusion by recruiting a more diverse student body and supporting student services.

"Making sure that there's this attention paid — and an increase, actually – in the diversity of the student body," she said.

Micu said she would prioritize collaboration across campus and identify ways to promote student success, not only for undergraduate students.

"What does a student centric culture mean at the graduate level?" Micu said. "How can that be developed and then communicated so that it's valued?"

Election events continue on campus post election until Inauguration Day

HOPE | from cover

In 2020, a pro-Trump caravan drove through campus on Haggard Avenue, with about 200 vehicles in support of the presidential candidate. Dooley condemned the profanities, insults and slurs yelled at Elon community members in an email to the student body at the time. This year, Clark said they intentionally planned what events days and weeks after the election would look like.

She and other members of the election planning committee asked professors not to cancel classes on the Wednesday after the election in order to foster conversations about the election. They also encouraged professors to plan ahead for those conversations that week. Dillan Bono-Lunn, Elon's faculty fellow for student engagement, is working on providing information to students, faculty and staff on how to best have dialogues on the election, Clark said.



EVEN THOUGH THE ELECTION IS OVER, WE'RE NOT DONE THINKING ABOUT WHAT WE COULD DO AS CITIZENS, WHETHER YOU'RE HAPPY WITH THE RESULTS OF THE STATE ELECTION OR THE NATIONAL ELECTION, THAT WE STILL ARE ACTIVE CITIZENS AND THAT WE HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN THE WAY THAT WE ARE GOVERNED.

NAEEMAH CLARK

ASSOCIATE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

"We had the street art. We knew that Counseling Services was going to be ready," Clark said. "The goal was that we would have class and be able to have good conversations in class."

Another way Clark said the planning committee tried to encourage events instead of planning everything themselves is offering funds to groups and classes for different events and ideas. For example, communication design professor Shannon Zenner's two sections of design of visual images course



ETHAN WU | PHOTO EDITOR

Elon Student Life provided chalk and four different boards where attendees could freely write and draw Nov. 6 on East Haggard Avenue.

created posters displaying messages focused on civic engagement.

At the public art event, freshmen Sam Rapaport and Grace Hartsell heard the music while walking by Haggard and stopped by to check it out.

"I really think it's important that as a community here at Elon, we unite around certain values of love and peace," Rapaport said. "Just pressing that message as much as possible."

On a chalkboard, Hartsell wrote, "Giving more"

"Everyone needs a little bit of that, especially since a lot of specific groups are feeling maybe a little empty right now and a little lost," Hartsell said.

Freshman Olivia Gover said she attended the event as a way to share her opinions and feelings following the results of the election.

"As a woman in America, I deserve the right to choose what I do with my body," Gover said.

During Trump's first term as president, he appointed three justices to the Supreme Court, who later overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022.

Gover said she saw a lot of love and support crowding the street.

"There's been a lot of understanding that we have to use our voice and continue saying what needs to be said," Gover said.

Clark said staying engaged in the democratic process is something that Elon values and should be a part of what students loom.

"Even though the election is over, we're not done thinking about what we could do as citizens," Clark said. "Whether you're happy with the results of the state election or the national election, that we still are active citizens and that we have a role to play in the way that we are governed."

POST ELECTION EVENTS ON CAMPUS

Finding Unity Across Difference: A Democratic Dialogue

4:30 to 6 p.m. Nov. 14 Lakeside Meeting Rooms 212-214

This post-election conversation is designed for Elon's campus community to find connection and understanding across party lines. The goal of this event is to practice how active citizenship and engaged learning can help bridge divides, and people of any political belief are encouraged to attend.

CAALM Election Decompression Group

Noon, Wednesdays until Jan. 20 Ward Octagon, Moseley Center 105A

Cultivating Awareness and Aptitude to Live Mindfully is a drop-in decompression group to help manage election-related stress every week until Inauguration Day. The group offers tangible skills for mindfulness, well-being and resilience. Note: this nonpartisan space won't focus on specific candidates or election details. Sponsored by Counseling Services.

- ADVERTISEMENT

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SALVAGING HISTORY ONE HOME AT A TIME



LILLY MOLINA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Preservation Burlington's The Salvage Shop keeps historic housing

Adviser to the board of Preservation Burlington Jerome Bias talks with customers about their old homes.

items out of landfill

Lilly Molina

Elon News Network

Inside a World War II quonset hut, a building shaped like a silver half-moon, lies two cased doors resting along tall wooden crates. This door sticks out in The Salvage Shop like a sore thumb; it's the tallest object in the entire shop, but it's also quite beautiful. The top of the door has a half-circle structure with details on it to look like rays of sun. Besides the fade and chipping of paint, this door remains completely intact and in decent condition. The only thing missing was its story.

Until the team lead of The Salvage Shop, Teri Jordan, said a customer visited the shop and recognized the door. They were able to pull up pictures and share documents about the house, proving it belonged to a church in Durham. Finally, the case had been solved.

"To me, that was very meaningful because it's important for us to know the story behind the piece," Jordan said.

Preservation Burlington is a nonprofit organization focused on protecting the architectural heritage structures of the local community. One way they do this is by going to historic homes set for demolition and salvaging parts of the house, such as doors, floors and windows. Another preservation effort is giving grants to homeowners to help with preserving a piece of their house, whether it's the tile flooring or a porch. That's where The Salvage Shop comes in.

The Salvage Shop opened in 2019 as a way for Preservation Burlington to fund its grants for the local community and is open the first Saturday of each month. Located in the historic Glencoe neighborhood, The Salvage Shop is around 5,000 square feet and is filled with

collections of house parts and various vintage knick-knacks that would otherwise have ended up in a landfill.

Jordan said the ultimate goal is to let these pieces have a new life in someone else's home.

"We are saving pieces of history," Jordan said.

Jordan said around half of their visitors are first-timers, and people have come from Chapel Hill and Durham to shop. She said most people find this place from a quick Google search or by word of mouth.

IT'S GREAT TO TAKE PARTS
OF HOUSES AND USE IT FOR
CREATIVE PURPOSES AND
RESTORE HOUSES THAT NEED
REPLACEMENTS.

JERRY NIX

1840S HOMEOWNER

One common type of customer that The Salvage Shop attracts is homeowners with historic houses. Karen Way owns a 1940s home, and Nov. 2 was her first time visiting the shop. She stopped by to look for a vintage door authentic to the time period.

"I think it is very vital to keep the history, especially in these areas of mill towns," Way said.

Way said she thinks it's important to have spaces like this shop to be able to reuse items that would otherwise go to waste.

Jerry Nix, a homeowner of an 1840s house, said The Salvage Shop isn't called the "ultimate recycling place" for nothing. He's been to The Salvage Shop six times — this time to find window sashes, or the framing around the glass

of a window.

"It's great to take parts of houses and use it for creative purposes and restore houses that need replacements," Nix said.

Jerome Bias is an adviser on the board of Preservation Burlington and has been a volunteer with The Salvage Shop for the past four years. He continues to volunteer because of the contributions this organization makes on saving houses, but also because the shop has "cool stuff." He even bought the flooring for his 120-year-old house at The Salvage Shop.

One of the motivators Bias said continues to drive this work is how unique Burlington and local town's neighborhoods are.

"You can have urban living type items spread throughout the area, as opposed to everyone living in the southern historic houses," Bias said. "We're fostering that and letting that grow."

But, Preservation Burlington can't get to all houses planned for demolition, so Jordan said she is hoping to expand their collaboration with nearby contractors to help extract items. She said she hopes to expand this initiative into the county and expand their online presence, one being creating an Etsy shop.

In addition to physical salvage, they also collect artifacts through donation, or in particular estate situations such as if someone has recently inherited a house possessing historical architecture.

Within the past three years Preservation Burlington has raised \$42,550 toward grant funding. Jordan attributes most of this profit to The Salvage Shop, but she said this wouldn't be possible if not for the help of all the volunteers of Preservation Burlington.

"I want everyone to know that we're all volunteers," Jordan said. "I think that's what makes us unique. That's something we are proud of."

IF YOU GO

2359 Glencoe St., Burlington, NC 27217 Open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. the first Saturday of the month



LILLY MOLINA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Bed posts and other vintage finds are waiting for a new home at The Salvage Shop.



LILLY MOLINA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A customer looks at old doors that were salvaged or donated by Preservation Burlington.

Native American Student Association promotes change, community

Elon's NASA hopes to educate students on local, national native cultures

Julia Donaghy

Elon News Network

The lack of relationship with the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, whose main tribal land located in Mebane, less than a half hour away, shocked junior Sakura Kawakami upon arrival to Elon. During convocation, Kawakami and her father had expected a welcome from the Occaneechi Tribe, as this is customary for her tribes, the Ngāti Porou and Te Arawa of the Māori Indigenous people of New Zealand.

"Ît's a traditional custom to be welcomed by the local tribe, to have a land acknowledgment read aloud. I knew that there was something I wasn't really happy with: the presence here with native culture," Kawakami said.

A primary goal for the two copresidents of the Native American Student Association, Kawakami and senior Jorah Midgette, has been to develop more of a longterm relationship between Elon and the Occaneechi Tribe. However, the first step of this is to educate and unite Indigenous and non-Indigenous students across Elon, which begins at the organization's

The tables surrounding the members and guests attending the meeting of NASA were filled with fried dumplings, watercolor paints and an assortment of plants that Midgette propagated herself. This gesture is reflective of the inviting

atmosphere that Midgette and Kawakami hope to create within the organization.

"I think it's important for me to think of everyone. How can I try to welcome Native students coming on campus?" Kawakami said. "I also want to welcome people who aren't Indigenous as well, to just learn about different cultures."

NASA held "Crafting in the Commons" on Nov. 4 in Global Commons, which was one of three planned events to celebrate the month of November as Native American Heritage Month. The organization provided dinner, paintbrushes, watercolors and an invitation to an open conversation about Indigenous cultures. While open to all, NASA hopes to unite all Native and Indigenous students across campus, which made up 0.1% of Elon's undergraduate population in 2023, according to Elon's diversity dashboard on its website.

Elon professor of Native American and Indigenous studies Corey Roberts and recruitment specialist Angela Lynch were also at the meeting. They discussed aspects of their respective tribes, the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation and the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe, with its main tribal land located in Hollister, North Carolina.

Roberts and Lynch touched on things such as varying tribal enrollment qualifications, federal law application and preferred terminology. The students in attendance came from a mix of backgrounds, which prompted an educational and lively discussion about the parallels and differences between the differing tribes' cultures.



JULIA DONAGHY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Co-presidents junior Sakura Kawakami and senior Jorah Midgette listen to professor Corey Roberts during a discussion of Indigenous cultures Nov. 4 in Global Commons.

An important point that was emphasized throughout conversation was how different each tribes' cultures are, despite the common practice of lumping all Native and Indigenous communities together in terms of both appearances and traditions.

"People think all Indigenous people look exactly the same," Lynch said. "But we're very, very different and unique."

Through the organization, Kawakami and Midgette said they strive to increase awareness and community within Elon, both of which are personally important to Midgette. As a member and leader of NASA, Midgette has been able to explore more of her history and connection to her own tribe, the Lumbee Tribe of Southeastern

"Being able to be a part of this organization has been really meaningful to me," Midgette said. "I grew up not really learning that much about my heritage, so being able to come to campus and connect myself with other Native and Indigenous identifying students has made me able to dive deep into my

Midgette said she hopes to provide the same kind of experience for new members too. In doing this, the entirety of Elon University can grow and learn, not just Native and Indigenous students, she said.

"It's really important having space prioritized for Native and Indigenous students to continue the recognition and awareness for us so that people don't forget that we're here," Midgette said.

Roberts supports strengthening Elon's relationship with the Occaneechi Tribe, which he is doing through language revitalization. He is teaching WLC 1710: Yesa:sahi Language Revitalization, for the first time over Winter Term. Roberts aims to make a first step in a multi-generational goal to replenish the now almost forgotten language spoken by the people whose land

the university stands on. Although it will take time, Roberts considers the class an outgrowth of the process that relationship building

"Relationships are a reflection of investment of the consideration and reciprocity that's involved in a true partnership," Roberts said.

Roberts isn't officially associated with NASA, but he said he wants to help the organization as much as possible. However, NASA does have its own ideas on how Elon can improve its relationship with the Occaneechi Tribe. Kawakami views the current association to be more transactional, rather than relational.

"Elon might invite guest speakers or tribal leaders and members to come and speak or do a small event, but that's it," Kawakami said. "How do the Occaneechi people benefit from that relationship? How is Elon helping the young people of the Occaneechi Tribe?"

Kawakami suggests that Elon provide some kind of scholarship for young Occaneechi Tribe members. She admits that this would be above the organization alone, but there are other ways that they have been making impacts across the campus. Because of NASA, land acknowledgments are being read before keynote speakers, musicals and ceremonies. While this doesn't solve the lack of a partnership between the Occaneechi Tribe and Elon University, Kawakami said it's a great first step in educating students.

IF YOU GO

"Soil to Soul: Indigenous Planting" - noon to 2 p.m. Nov. 15 in Moseley 221.

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Elon's fall dance concert explores the concept of unboxing



MEGAN WALSH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students rehearse the choreography professor in performing arts Jiwon Ha's fall dance concert piece "17:1" on Nov. 6 in the Center for the Arts.

The show emphasizes out-of-thebox approaches, will run Nov. 15 to 17 in Scott Studios

Megan Walsh

Elon News Network

Emotions, relationships, pushing past spatial limits, AI, social media and technology all topics to be "unboxed" in Elon University's fall dance concert.

Elon's fall dance concert, "Unboxed," will feature pieces from professors, student choreographers and guests, all sharing their perspectives on the theme of thinking outside the box.

The artistic director of the show, dance professor Renay Aumiller, said the concept behind the title came out of both the black box style of Roberts Studio Theatre in Scott Studios and the idea of feeling boxed in and breaking out.

"One of the big questions that I'm posing — that I posed a year ago when I created that theme, but also throughout this process — is what makes you feel boxed in, and how many different ways and in what kind of ways does that show up for the different choreographers?" Aumiller said.

Aumiller's approach to this concept is to explore how social media influences perception by having her work be viewed through audiences' phones. One dance in the concert, entitled "Pixel Perfect," was made possible by the work of Evan Carr '24 who created an app that audiences will use to interact with the work.

"It's kind of an experiment about the phone usage, the digital renderings and the app, and just how we can bring this technology into a theater, into a live performance in a way that is engaging and interactive and also safe and conveys a message," Aumiller said.

Aumiller's choreography is not the only piece focused on technology. Student choreographer and senior Pheriby Bryan said she saw the concept of "unboxed" as the idea of advancement. This idea plays into her work focusing on the challenges of AI, which is entitled "Silicon," referring to Silicon Valley.

"The idea of breaking out of something ties into the structure of my choreography," Bryan said. "At the beginning, the first song of the choreography, it's very slow, and you have this very almost robotic choreography that's everyone is in unison for the most of it, and then at the end, you break out of that and you have a stronger, more powerful piece of movement for the second song.

Some choreographers choose to focus more on the human side of the idea of unboxing, including dance professor Jiwon Ha. Ha said her work "17:1" was meant to highlight how different people can feel emotions in different ways through the 17 members of the cast.

"That's basically our story of all different

emotions, unboxed emotions, working together and developed to make it as a whole," Ha said.

THAT'S BASICALLY OUR STORY OF ALL DIFFERENT EMOTIONS, UNBOXED EMOTIONS, WORKING TOGETHER AND DEVELOPED TO MAKE IT AS A WHOLE.

JIWON HA DANCE PROFESSOR

Junior Brooke Goldstein's work "NY ILY" which stands for New York, I love you incorporates her sociology double major by focusing on unboxing relationships and social interactions. The piece takes inspiration from her life growing up and interactions from around the city.

"It's an unboxing of experiences that could take place in any city, but it's my experience with New York," Goldstein said. "I find it super vulnerable, even though there are so many people around, so many stories are so clear in the cityscape."

One student choreographer told the concept of unboxed more literally, focusing on the idea of breaking out of the confines of a black box stage, such as Roberts Studio Theatre. Senior Hannah Harris' piece is titled "Where does the light go?" The choreography is mostly performed in the dark and involves the dancers holding lanterns to create a more visual experience for audiences.

"I really wanted to play within the thrust of how you can break that fourth wall for an audience, so it's not a 2D or 3D, it can be a 4D experience," Harris said.

Outside of her work, Harris said she thinks the concept is great for pushing choreographers and performers outside their comfort zone.

"Sometimes I think as dancers and choreographers, we feel conformed to a certain thing or to a certain idea," Harris said. "The fact that the show is literally about being unboxed, doing almost anything you would like was perfect for me."

IF YOU GO

Nov. 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 16 and 17 at 2 p.m.

Roberts Studio Theatre, Scott Studios

Tickets are free with Elon ID or \$15

and can be purchased at elonperformingarts.com or by calling the box office at 336-278-5650.



MEGAN WALSH LSTAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



MEGAN WALSH LSTAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Seniors Katey O'Connell, left, and Hannah Harris support senior Gia Nguyen during a trio section of "17:1" in rehearsal for the piece on Nov. 6 in the Center for the Arts.