

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2018
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM



'HERE I GO'

Elon prepares for the retirement of 15 faculty

ANTON L. DELGADO | Elon News Network | @jadelgadonews

Shirt tucked, sleeves rolled and khakis ironed, Thomas Henricks checked his watch to make sure he wouldn't be late to his first class at Elon University. After climbing to the third floor of the Powell Building, he paused before entering room 302. "Here I go," he thought. Halfway through his first sociology class, Henricks scanned the room and thought, 'Is it going well?' He could overhear a boy by the door doing a poor job whis-

pering to his friend. "This son-of-a-bitch is going to keep us the whole time." Forty-one years and several sociology classes later, Henricks' final year at Elon is coming to an end. He is preparing to retire with the one of the largest groups of retiring faculty and administrators in recent Elon history.

See **FACULTY** | pg. 6

PHOTOS BY ABBY GIBBS | PHOTO EDITOR, OLIVER FISCHER | ELON NEWS NETWORK, CORY WELLER | ELON NEWS NETWORK AND COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

5K run supports Molly Offstein's road to recovery

First "Show Us Your Shoes" run raises money for Offstein, who was hit by a car last year

Anton L. Delgado
Elon News Network | @jadelgadonews

The Jackson 5 song "ABC" boomed around the intramural fields as Andy Derryberry, the oldest participant at the "Show Us Your Shoes" run, crossed the finish line.

The 66-year-old runner took a small sip of water as he massaged the residual limb attached to his prosthetic leg. Derryberry's right leg was amputated after he was hit by an SUV while riding his motorcycle.

This accident connected him to Molly Offstein's story. Offstein is a cross country runner who was hit by car while on a run last spring as a freshman at Elon University.

"I know a little bit about trauma, so I have that kinship with Molly," Derryberry said. "Her whole story is just the kind of thing that I felt would be a really good thing to participate in."

This connection is what made Derryberry drive 500 miles from his home in Nashville, Tennessee, to run a 5K in honor of a



OLIVER FISCHER | ELON NEWS NETWORK

Runners charge through the start line of the first "Show Us Your Shoes" 5K hosted in support for Molly Offstein on April 29.

complete stranger on April 29.

Planning the run

From start to finish, the entire event was organized by students in a 400-level event management class for their final project.

Once the idea of planning a philanthropic run to support Offstein was pitched to the group of students, everyone agreed instantly they should do it.

Senior Sydney Busa, an Elon



WE ARE ALL STUDENT ATHLETES. WHILE WE MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN MOLLY PERSONALLY, SHE WAS PART OF OUR FAMILY.

SYDNEY BUSA
SENIOR, EVENT ORGANIZER

volleyball player, was part of the team that organized the event.

"It hit home for a lot of us. We are all student athletes," Busa said. "While we may not have known Molly personally, she was part of our family, ... and just knowing we are still here and supporting her could go a long way."

Putting together the event took several months of planning, during which the student organizers secured sponsorships

PARTICIPANTS

115

runners showed up at the starting line to participate in the first "Show Us Your Shoes" 5K run.

from both Adidas and Gate City.

Once the date of the run was scheduled for the end of April, the student group began a huge marketing push to garner as much interest in the event as possible.

To market the event, flyers were posted all over Elon's campus. Every athletic team was contacted, as well as other organizations. The event was also posted on the "Show Us Your Shoes" Facebook group, a page created by Offstein's mother to update people on her daughter's condition.

Derryberry is one of almost 8,000 members from across the country who have used the Facebook group to post photos and videos expressing their support for the recovering runner.

It was through this Facebook group that Derryberry heard

See **OFFSTEIN** | pg. 5



NEWS • PAGE 4
New hotel tax plan will affect all visitors to Alamance county



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 9
Lumen Scholar driven by passion for Refugee experience



SPORTS • PAGE 10
An inside look at the new Schar Center before its opening

THE PENDULUM

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ELON NEWS
NETWORK

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

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ENN is committed to accurate coverage. When factual errors are made, we correct them promptly and in full, both online and in print. Online corrections state the error and the change at the bottom of each article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page. Contact enn@elon.edu to report a correction or a concern.

CALENDAR

MAY 2

Food Truck Frenzy
11 a.m.
Koury parking lot
Goodbye Lenin!
7:30 p.m.
Carlton Commons

MAY 3

Beyond the Basics of Informer
12 p.m.
Belk Library 113

MAY 4

The Department of World Languages and Cultures Award Ceremony
4:30 p.m.
Carlton Commons

Electric Ensemble Spring Concert
7:30 p.m.
McCrary Theatre

MAY 6

Camerata Spring Concert
3 p.m.
Whitley Auditorium

MAY 7

School of Education Celebration of Excellence
5 p.m.
Oaks 212

MAY 8

Tectonic Plates: Alamance County's Science Cafe with Eric
7 p.m.
Fat Frogg Bar and Grill

CONTACT

WHEN WE PUBLISH:

The Pendulum publishes weekly on Wednesdays.
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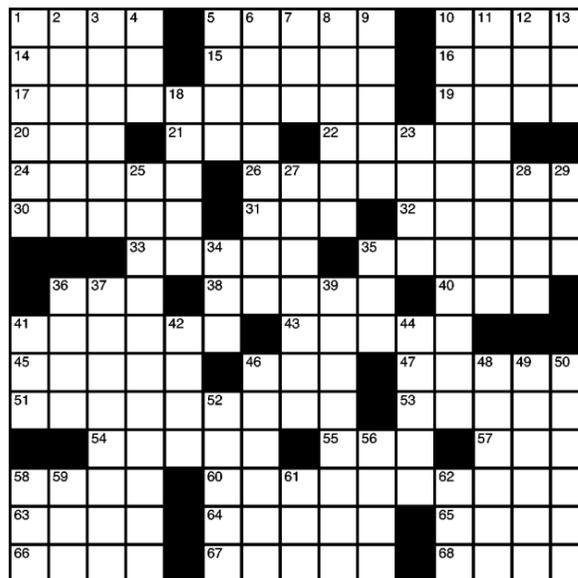
GAMES

FOR RELEASE MAY 2, 2018

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Low-pH compound
 - 5 Creighton University city
 - 10 Silly
 - 14 Running behind
 - 15 Spanish bar food
 - 16 Falls back
 - 17 *Mother of Donald Jr. and Eric
 - 19 Pacific Rim continent
 - 20 Disney collectible
 - 21 ___ anglais: English horn
 - 22 "Casablanca" actor Peter
 - 24 Dublin residents
 - 26 *Laurence Fishburne's "What's Love Got to Do With It" role
 - 30 Dried chili in Mexican cuisine
 - 31 Tiny tunneler
 - 32 Colorful tropical fish
 - 33 Cause of red cheeks
 - 35 *With 41-Across, two-time NBA All-Star named for an NBA Hall of Famer
 - 36 Biol. or geol.
 - 38 Spa treatments
 - 40 Courthouse figs.
 - 41 *See 35-Across
 - 43 Woody thicket
 - 45 Extends a tour
 - 46 Sunbather's goal
 - 47 Place for a Fitbit
 - 51 *Swimmer with five Olympic gold medals
 - 53 Perfume compound
 - 54 Take a pass
 - 55 Buccaneer's domain
 - 57 ___ chi: martial art
 - 58 "The Boss Baby" voice actor
 - 60 *Early 20th-century muckraker
 - 63 Sport with periods called chukkers
 - 64 Intoxicating shrubs
 - 65 Fidel's successor
 - 66 Throw out
 - 67 Contest submission
 - 68 Band boosters



By C.C. Burnikel

5/2/18

DOWN

- 1 Keys on a keyboard
- 2 Luray attraction
- 3 Slanted, in a way
- 4 La-Z-Boy room
- 5 Aptly named "Airplane!" autopilot
- 6 Two-party system?
- 7 "The Simpsons" storekeeper
- 8 Village
- 9 ___ of tea
- 10 Start of a message to magazine subscribers
- 11 What some vote in
- 12 Christopher A. Wray's agcy.
- 13 Bag-checking org.
- 18 "Gesundheit!" evoker
- 23 Well-worn tracks
- 25 Tex-Mex seafood dish
- 27 Patella
- 28 Periods of history
- 29 Root word?
- 34 FedEx alternative
- 35 Many a cable co.
- 36 ___ butter: cosmetic moisturizer
- 37 Gives legal advice

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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4/26/18

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY - BILL CLINTON STOPS IN ELON



Former President Bill Clinton addresses education issues at the Elon University School of Law in an effort to garner support for his wife's 2016 presidential campaign before the North Carolina primaries. FILE PHOTO BY HALI TAUXE

Ten years ago, former President Bill Clinton stepped onto a stage in front of Powell to talk to both Elon University and the Alamance community. With Fonville Fountain in the background, Clinton spoke to nearly 2,000 people on behalf of his wife, Hillary Clinton, who was campaigning for the 2008 presidential election. And Bill didn't waste any breath pushing Hillary's platform before the primaries on May 6. "[Hillary Clinton] is the best change maker I have ever known, and if I had never been married to Hillary but had just known her, I'd still be working as hard for her. We just need a better system, and Hillary will give it to you," Bill said.

Elon was a crucial stop for Hillary's campaign trail as the surrounding rural community and student population at Elon resonated well with Hillary's economic platform. Daniel Shutt, then president of College Democrats, reacted well to Bill's speech. "Clinton's speech focused primarily on issues like jobs, health care and gas prices, and people responded well. North Carolina has been hit hard by this recession, and Clinton spoke to our concerns very effectively." That year, Clinton also visited Wake Forest University on April 18 and sent his daughter Chelsea to speak to other campuses.

DRUMMING UP SUPPORT
Former President Bill Clinton has visited Elon's campus twice to speak on behalf of his wife, Hillary Clinton.

NEWS BRIEFS

Speakers announced for 2018-2019 year

A few weeks after Elon University School of Law announced that Loretta Lynch and Alan Dershowitz would come to campus as part of the Distinguished Leadership Lecture Series, the university released the list of speakers that will be visiting campus during the next academic year.

Next fall will begin with President Connie Book's inauguration, which will double as Elon's Fall Convocation ceremony. On Oct. 18, Book will give her inaugural address during the ceremony held in Schar Center.

A few months later, Anita Hill will visit campus as part of the weeklong celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy. Hill, who will be speaking to students at 6 p.m. on Jan. 10, 2019, is an attorney and professor of law at Brandeis University. But she is more notably recognized for the effects of the testimony she gave at the U.S. Supreme Court confirmation hearings for Clarence Thomas in 1991 that instigated national conversation about sexual harassment.

Former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard will speak to Elon students at 3:30 p.m. April 4, 2019. Gillard will speak as part of the Baird Lecture Series.

Cinelon to screen 26 student films

On May 3, Cinelon Productions will host its film festival that features 23 short films created by students, one BFA thesis project and two short films produced through Cinelon.

Contrary to years past, this year the film festival will be adopting a new structure, showcasing videos in two one-hour blocks. The organization received 71 submissions spanning a variety of genres, from documentary to fiction to dance/music video. In addition to accepting submissions from Elon University students, the group also received videos from other schools, such as the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, the University of Texas at Austin, Southern Illinois University Carbondale and two high schools.

This year, Cinelon launched two new awards, one of them being the Executive Board Choice Award. The short horror film "Scarlet," created by Joey Sears from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, won the award. Audience members will have the opportunity to cast their vote for the Audience Choice Award, the second new award, at the end of the festival.

Awards highlight black excellence

On April 28, Elon University celebrated the 25th annual Phillips-Perry Black Excellence Awards that spotlighted students, faculty and staff and their contributions to the Elon community.

The ceremony began with an address from President Connie Book, introduced by SGA Executive President Kenneth Brown Jr. Many black alumni were among those who presented the awards, including Cameron Davis '06, Shana Winstead '03, Eden Esters Brown '07 and Renita Webb '04.

Members of the Elon Black Alumni Network presented the Elon Black Alumni Network Scholarship of \$11,500 to junior Jordan Vaughn. The awards concluded with a speech from senior Alexis Williams and a musical performance from junior Tres McMichael.

Club Baseball holds a ceremony to retire teammate Breslin Wiley's number before a game against University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on April 28. Wiley passed away last fall.



JACK HALEY | SPORTS DIRECTOR



CORY WELLER | ELON NEWS NETWORK

Ed Schubert, Guilford County farm manager, points to a portion of the Breakaway Trail before the ribbon cutting ceremony April 24.



ABBY GIBBS | PHOTO EDITOR

Lynn Formato, associate professor of dance, hugs senior Jessie Brownie before the final performance of "American Idiot" in Scott Studios on Monday, April 30. This is Formato's final performance at Elon University before her retirement.



CORY WELLER | ELON NEWS NETWORK

From left to right: Director of Guilford County Facilities and Parks, Robert McNiece; Haley Burch; Chairman Guilford County Commissioner Alan Branson; Betsy Brown; Outreach Manager of Mountains-to-Sea Trail Anne Cassebaum and Greg Yahn cut the ribbon to officially open the Breakaway Trail April 24.

CHEAT SHEET

Trump's Veterans Affairs nominee drops amid allegations

Bill Burpitt explains possible circumstances around Veterans Affairs nominee Ronny Jackson

Lindsey Schubert

Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetowrk



Bill Burpitt Jr.

In late March, President Trump announced his nominee to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): Ronny Jackson, a rear admiral

and former physician to three presidents. This week, a leaked, two-page memo from a group of committee Democrats released varying allegations against Jackson. These claims included a report of a crashed government vehicle as a result of alleged drunk driving, self-administering medications and rumors of Jackson creating a hostile work environment. The White House has not responded since the release of the memo.

As of Thursday morning, Jackson has pulled himself from the running, prompting questions about who President Trump will nominate next.

Bill Burpitt Jr., professor of management and coordinator of Veterans Affairs events at Elon University, weighs in on how this nomination and potential appointment could affect the White House.

Q: How are you involved in Veterans events at school?

A: I am a veteran – I was in the



Ronny Jackson speaks about President Donald Trump's medical exam during the daily White House press briefing on Jan. 16.

service many years ago. I participated coordinating the Veterans Day observance on campus, which is an annual ceremony. I handled that this past fall in the absence of another faculty person who normally does it.

Q: Was there initial shock by the media and the nation when Trump announced Rear Admiral Ronny Jackson as his nominee?

A: I thought that the nomination was an example of the careless recklessness of a lot of Trump's decision making. I think that Dr. Jackson is very likely a highly-skilled physician and has been one for quite a few years. However, he has no administrative experience whatsoever. It is not unlike the guy that works on your car and making him the CEO

of Ford Motor Company. They are two very different sets of skills.

Q: He withdrew the nomination days before his testimony before Congress. Do you think this was purposeful?

I think something can't go on forever. His life before the Senate, if you will, was ordained to be in all likelihood a failure. He had tepid support even among many Republicans who felt his qualifications were not suitable for the position. He had almost all opposition with the Democrats in the Senate – John Tester, particularly – and if accusations keep coming out against you, true or not, I am sure they begin to wear pretty heavily on you. I am hon-

estly surprised he accepted the nomination in the first place. If true, there is just a lot of conversation going on about his personal behavior. Discount all of that, it would take a toll on a person who just keeps getting hammered publicly.

Again, the VA is a huge, intensely political organization with an enormous staff and a huge budget set by pressure groups from all sides, and he had no qualifications for that position at all.

I think Trump liked him personally, and he was very complimentary of Trump on national media. Flattery will get you so far, but not the head of the Veterans' administration.

Q: Who do you think would be a qualified candi-

date for the position?

A: By name, I can't say because there are probably quite a few. But the person ought to have two credentials. Experience in the health-care administration on a very large scheme that may or may not make you a physician. There are people who run huge healthcare organizations, like large hospital chains, that are not physicians. Being one wouldn't disqualify you as a candidate, but it is not the main purpose. Secondly, given the intense pressure groups that hover around the VA, I think the person needs to have a background that would make this person acceptable by these veterans' organizations, and that could be satisfied by the person serving in the military. I'm not saying it would make a person better for the job one way or another, but it would more likely make the person more acceptable by the groups.

Q: How do you think the next few weeks will play out in terms of Trump appointing another nominee?

A: It ought to take a few weeks to identify a variety of people to fill the position. He ought to come up with a panel that has three or four and have someone within the administration do a very thorough job to make sure the [person] is qualified and has a trail of behavior that would make them otherwise disqualified.

I think it is going to be increasingly difficult for well-rounded people to serve under Trump just because of the difficulties that are going to be associated with that job.

New proposed tax could increase price for Alamance visitors

Increasing the hotel tax raises possible debate and prices in Alamance County

Maggie Brown

Politics Editor | @maggieabrown_

Alamance County is looking to increase its occupancy tax to North Carolina's maximum – 6 percent. Currently, the county is taxing visitors at a rate of 3 percent, according to the Alamance County Visitors Bureau. Bumping the tax up by 3 percent will put the county at around the state average.

OCCUPANCY TAX

Also known as the hotel tax, is charged in most of the United States to those visiting a city or town and rent a hotel/motel room.

but not necessarily staying in town. According to Anderson, the "Inn at Elon," the university's new on-campus hotel, will have to pay property taxes. Visitors who are staying in the hotel will be required to pay the additional hotel tax of the county – whether it be 3 percent or 6 percent.

Elon University is the single largest driver of tourist traffic in Alamance County, according to Mark Cryan, chairman of the Tourism Department of Authority (TDA).

Dan Anderson, vice president for

university communications, agrees with Cryan, seeing the impact the university has on the surrounding community.

"If there was no Elon University here, the local municipality would not have to invest in roads, police ... as much as they do," Anderson said.

The majority of visitors in Alamance County, by default, are prospective students and families and friends of current Elon students, according to Cryan.

"There's a lot of events the hotels in our area know that they will be filled up because of Elon," Cryan said, citing Rising Phoenix weekend, Parent's Weekend and graduation.

With 1,550 rooms in Alamance County, many of those are booked in advance specifically for university events.

Stephanie Williams, sales manager at Drury Inn & Suites in Burlington and member of the TDA, said many of their rooms fill up from visitors coming to the university.

She stays in contact with the university to know when Elon's events are.

Because of the flood of tourism in the county, Alamance has to find a way to pay for infrastructure other than taxing locals. Raising the hotel tax is a way for the county to be able to provide more services to community without taxing those in the community.

But not everyone in the county agrees with the proposed tax. Small business owner and Burlington resident Justin Hill questions whether this is in the role of the government. "Taxes are always beneficial to the beneficiary," Hill said. "I'm a small business owner. I pinch my pennies



MAGGIE BROWN | POLITICS EDITOR

Drury Inn & Suites in Burlington will be one of the hotels affected by the proposed 6 percent occupancy tax in Alamance County.

and am always on the watch for an increase in taxes."

The advertised rate for someone looking to stay in Hampton Inn & Suites is \$129. But with sales tax and an additional 6 percent hotel tax, the price would be about \$145.

The price for the surrounding counties, such as Guilford and Orange County, have occupancy taxes that are the state's maximum of 6 percent.

This month, Mebane asked the North Carolina General Assembly to increase the hotel tax for its municipality. Representing the TDA, Cryan said he feared a domino effect of hotel tax increases would happen across the county if Mebane followed through. Increasing the hotel tax

county-wide would create more uniformity in tax laws.

"Our concern from our organization standpoint is that it potentially beings to fragment the tourism promotion efforts in the county," Cryan said. "If Mebane does that, then probably Burlington would institute their own – they have a majority of the hotel business."

Cryan said instituting these taxes as a county is best because though Elon is the biggest attraction, most visitors stay in hotels outside of the town.

In a City of Burlington work session on Monday night, Mayor Ian Baltutis said legislation for the proposal will most likely not be in this year's session of the North

Carolina General Assembly, according to North Carolina House Representative of Alamance County Stephen Ross.

"I did speak to representative Ross last week, and he said that it would be very difficult to get legislation in the short session this year. ... That gives us more time to work on it," Baltutis said.

Though this tax is directly affecting those visiting the university, Anderson said it is not the responsibility of the university to inform visitors of the possible increase in price.

"We don't get into the business of telling people where to stay or how to much to charge," Anderson said. "That's not the business of the university."

'show us YOUR SHOES'

Andy Derryberry from Nashville, Tennessee, drove almost 500 miles to participate in Elon's first 'Show Us Your Shoes' hosted on April 29, to show his support for Molly Offstein, a cross country runner who was hit by a car last spring.

OLIVER FISCHER | ELON NEWS NETWORK

Student-organized run raises funds for recovering cross country runner

OFFSTEIN | from cover

about the 5K run at Elon.

On the day

Derryberry joined more than 100 other participants of all ages at the starting line.

Members from multiple sports teams and other on-campus organizations participated in the run.

While registration for the event was free, the student planners encouraged participants to donate to the Offsteins to support Molly's medical costs. The group also raised money by selling T-shirts and hosting a raffle before the start of the run.

While not ever member of the women's cross country team could participate as a runner during the event, many worked as volunteers.

Sophomore Emily Smith was one of those team members who volunteered during the run.

"Molly is our teammate and we wanted to support her in any way that we can," Smith said. "She means so much to us and we want to show that everything we do here is for Molly. So we are just trying our best to support her, whether it is during practice or here volunteering to help with the race."

While multiple teammates waited at the finish line, a women's cross country runner, junior Coralea Geraniotis, chose to run the race instead.

"I wanted to run with my teammates and just take some time to think about Molly and her presence on the team," Geraniotis said.

Seeing the run bring together such a large group of student athletes is what Geraniotis loved the most.

"It was such a fun time to have athletes from different teams and other people on campus come here and celebrate Molly," Geraniotis said. "A 5K can be really painful for some people, but it was nice to see people dedicate some time to her."

There is no doubt in Geraniotis' mind that Offstein would be thrilled to hear about the 5K hosted in her support.

"She would love it, especially because it is a 5K. She loves running, and running was a big part of her life," Geraniotis said. "It would really make her day that so many people came out to support her."

Altogether the event raised more than \$1,000 for the Offstein family.

According to senior Luke Pacella, who helped plan the event, the student group hopes to send the funds to the Offstein family in the form of a check on May 14, the final day of exams.

This check will add to the other funds that have been raised to support the Offsteins. Several GoFundMe pages have been made to support her cause, the most successful one raising almost \$53,000.

Road to Recovery

Offstein's accident on March 6, 2017, left her with multiple serious injuries, including a traumatic brain injury. She was put

BY THE NUMBERS

75

T-shirts were sold for \$15 to raise money for the Offstein family

\$1,000+

was raised by the event

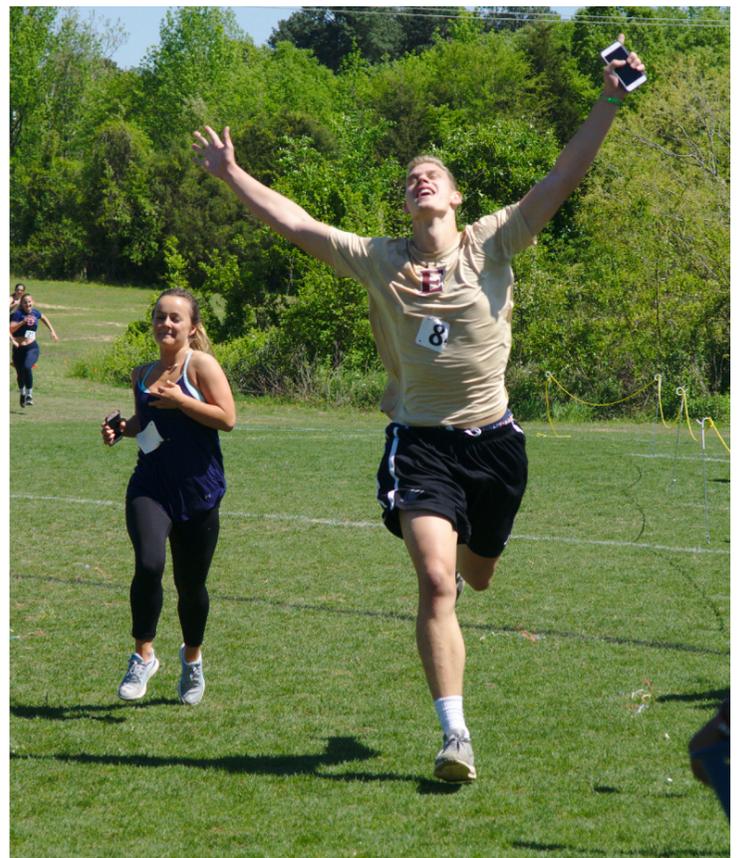
TEAMS REPRESENTED

1. Soccer
2. Volleyball
3. Basketball
4. Track and Field
5. Golf
6. Lacrosse
7. Football
8. ROTC-Air Force
9. Dance Team

PHOTOS BY OLIVER FISCHER | ELON NEWS NETWORK

Left: Junior cross country runner, Coralea Geraniotis, stops her watch as she crosses the finish line at the "Show Us Your Shoes" 5K on April 29.

Right: Junior basketball player, Karolis Kundrotas, and senior soccer player, Lauren McKeever, race to the finish line.



in a medically-induced coma for almost four months. After waking up in July 2017, her family began to make preparations for her return home to Frostburg, Maryland.

She made that journey home in August 2017.

Ever since her return to Frostburg, her mother, Laura Byrnes, has been regularly posting updates on her daughter's condition on the "Show Us Your Shoes" Facebook page.

Byrnes' posts usually include photos and videos of her daughter's progress as well as detailed explanations of where she is on her path to recovery.

A post from Byrnes on Dec. 7, 2017, informed the Facebook group that Offstein had been admitted to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Mercy to receive "intensive therapy." Byrnes posted that "this is an important pit stop on her road to recovery."

It's a recovery Derryberry is sure she will make.

When reflecting upon the ac-

cident that took his right leg, Derryberry recalled a lesson that he gained from the experience.

"Every day is a new day. Everything tends to get better even when it's the worst possible thing," Derryberry said. "Maybe in small ways better, but still better. You just got to keep looking forward and working hard."

He hopes Offstein learns the lesson faster than he did.

Derryberry looks forward to reading the future posts on the "Show Us Your Shoes" Facebook page that will inform him of Offstein's recovery.

"She is tougher than me," Derryberry said. "So, if I can do it, she can do it."

As Derryberry readjusted his bright orange University of Tennessee Knoxville hat, he took one last sip of water before preparing for the long ride back to Nashville.

As he left for his car, the song "ABC" was still playing on the speakers — "Sit yourself down, take a seat, all you've got to do is repeat after me."



PAUL PARSONS



GERALD GIBSON



STEVE MOORE



PAMELA KISER



LYNNE FORMATO

Faculty prepare for

FACULTY | from cover

Why the size?

Provost Steven House attributes this large group of retiring faculty to the continuous growth of the university over the years.

Henricks, now a professor of sociology, joined Elon's faculty in 1977, when there were fewer than 100 full-time faculty members. Now, there are more than three times that number.

According to House, this growth means larger groups of faculty will retire together in the future – the more professors, the more retirees.

“We had a lot of growth in the university ... and those individuals have helped create the Elon we are today,” House said. “I’m not sure I would say huge, but this is certainly the largest that we’ve had, and it is to be expected. They have reached the age of retirement, and we are going to have to rely on a new group of leaders.”

Data available from 1989 onward from the Elon Fact Book shows that Elon's faculty has steadily grown since the 1989-90 academic school year.

Elon's goal is to continue this upward trend, according to House. But this goal is not only for the faculty, but also for the student body, which has experienced steady growth since the 1993-94 academic school year.

“The growth of the faculty is tied to the growth of the number of students,” House said. “Our targeted student faculty ratio is 12-to-1. So, every time you grow [by] 100 students, you should hire five or six faculty. ... Our goal is to grow the institution anywhere from 80 to 100 students a year.”

House has calculated these numbers until the year 2035.

If Elon continues to grow by 100 students and six faculty each year, the institution will have grown by 1,600 students and 96 faculty members by the 2034-35 academic school year. That's a total of 7,645 undergraduate students and 535 full-time faculty.

While these are the goals for the future, the student population growth Elon has experienced thus far has attracted more professors to the university who, according to House, have the opportunity to expand and advance their skills, enabling them to eventually step up and fill the roles of retiring faculty.

Each department is in a different place in the process of hiring new professors, including determining whether each retirees' position will be filled.

“We have been building up professors all along the way,” House said. “We have a lot of full professors who are ready to now fill in and become the senior leaders across campus.”

School of Communications

Gerald Gibson's 36-year career as an assistant professor of communications at Elon consisted of many firsts.

The Department of Literature, Languages and Communications is where Gibson first began teaching as an instructor in 1979.

He became the first full-time communications professor at Elon and then the first faculty adviser to Elon's student-run radio station, WSOE. He was there when the School of Communications was founded in 2000, and now, he will be the first communications faculty member to retire.

“Elon has been a great adventure for me,” Gibson said. “I've gotten to go abroad, I've taken students to New York and Los Angeles, I've supervised internships and helped with the radio station.

But now it is time for my wife and I to have our own adventures.”

All the adventures Gibson has planned after his retirement fill him with excitement, but he can't help his emotions mount as his final class closes in.

“I have been trying to compartmentalize my feelings and not let them overwhelm me,” Gibson said. “But the reality that I am doing things for the last time kind of creeps in and I find myself thinking, ‘Now what do I do?’”

Paul Parsons, dean of the School of Communications, has also been thinking about what the school will be like after Gibson retires.

“He is our longest-serving communications professor, and he really got us started,” Parsons said. “We will be poorer without him.”

The process of retirement affects both students and faculty.

“We have students who enter as first years who later graduate, and ... we are wishing we could keep them forever, but that is a bad way to think because we are launching them into their careers,” Parsons said. “The same is true for the faculty. We have faculty who have been outstanding that are choosing to retire, and we are hiring new faculty to replace them. It is the cycle of academic life.”

But while Gibson's academic cycle is coming to an end, Parsons' is evolving.

Though he is also stepping down from his long-held position as dean at the end of this academic school year, Parsons is planning on returning to Elon in fall 2019 as a full-time professor in the School of Communications.

“If this were a pure retirement on my part, there would be more sadness, but I'm not feeling any sadness now,” Parsons said. “I've served for 17 years as dean and I've loved it. But I also think it is time for someone else to do it, so I am looking forward to coming back and being a professor.”

Parsons' comeback as a professor



THERE IS GREAT GRATITUDE AROUND THEIR COMMITMENT. COMMITMENT MEANS YOU CARE ENOUGH ABOUT THE STUDENTS HERE TO REALLY WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

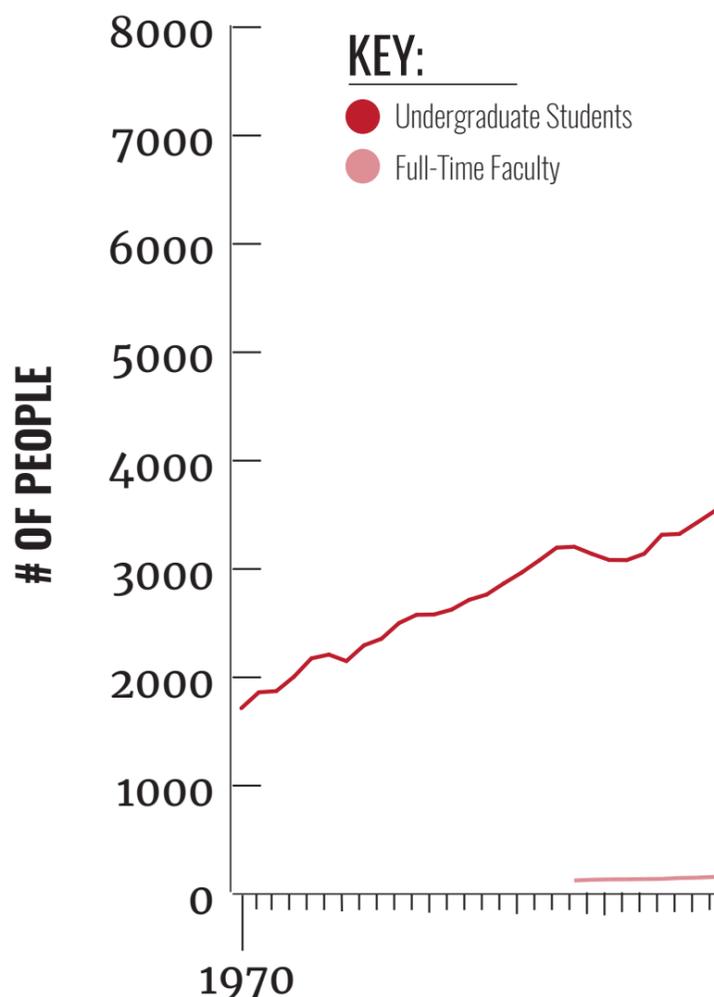
BECKY NEIDUSKI
DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

RETIRING FACULTY

1. Gerald Gibson
2. Paul Parsons
3. Jane Freund
4. Susan Chinworth
5. Steve Moore
6. Pamela Kiser
7. Lynne Formato
8. Betty Morgan
9. Sharon Spray
10. Anthony Weston
11. Thomas Henricks
12. Jeffrey Pugh
13. Barry Beadle
14. Karl Green
15. Paul Fromson

List of retiring faculty compiled by the Office of the Provost, Office of University Communications, and Deans' Offices

STUDENTS & FACU



NOT AVAILABLE FOR PHOTOGRAPH: SUSAN CHINWORTH AND KARL GREEN

PHOTOS BY PHOTOS BY ABBY GIBBS | PHOTO EDITOR, OLIVER FISCHER | ELON NEWS NETWORK, AND CORY WELER | ELON NEWS NETWORK

their lives after Elon

will add to the number of communications faculty the school has, but he predicts five to ten more communications faculty members will retire over the next three to five years.

"We have faculty who joined us right at the time we became a school, so we have aged as the years have gone on," Parsons said. "It is natural that we will have retirements."

School of Health Sciences

In the School of Health Sciences, changes caused by faculty retiring will be felt mostly in the Department of Physical Therapy Education, which will have two of its faculty members retiring by the end of this academic school year.

After combined total of 37 years of service, both Sue Chinworth and Jane Freund, associate professors of physical therapy education, will be retiring this academic school year.

"The thing about both these faculty members is that they have contributed to the traditions and culture of the PT department, and to the PT profession as a whole," said Becky Neiduski, dean of the School of Health Sciences.

Chinworth was one of the professors who has been teaching in the Department of Physical Therapy Education since its founding in 1998. Chinworth has taught all of the more than 800 alumni from the department before she retired earlier this year when her phased retirement period came to an end.

This process of phased retirement reduces faculty members' class load before their final retirement. This agreement allows for faculty members to ease into retirement, as well as work alongside their replacements.

By doing this, Chinworth was able to assure the transition was seamless.

"What we saw last semester was both of them working simultaneously and the torch being passed from one to the other," Neiduski said. "To watch that

happen is really for Sue to pass on her traditions and for the new faculty to be able to work with her and understand the things she has tried."

This commitment to teaching the next generation of not only faculty but also students is something Chinworth and Freund share.

"There is great gratitude around their commitment," Neiduski said. "Commitment means you care enough about the students here to really want to make a difference, to want them to not only be a good physical therapist, but an exceptional physical therapist, who can truly make a difference in every patient they will see."

While the retirement of both Chinworth and Freund will certainly have an effect on the department of Physical Therapy, it won't be nearly as large as the effect all of their students will have on the future communities they will work in.

"The privilege of teaching in a health profession is to not only touch the lives of the students, but through those students, touching the lives of all those patients that they will ultimately treat," Neiduski said. "To have gratitude towards a faculty member for doing that for so many years, you can't even put into words what they have offered the profession of physical therapy."

College of Arts & Sciences

With more than 2,800 students, the College of Arts & Sciences is by far the largest school at Elon. And this year it will be having the largest group of retirees.

The school will have 11 faculty members retiring from nine different departments. There are more faculty retiring this year from the school than in the last three years combined.

Of the retiring faculty members of the College of Arts & Sciences, Henricks has been teaching at Elon the longest.

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

3 of 6

of Elon's Distinguished University Professors will be retiring at the end of this academic school year.

He can recall a time when the university was smaller by thousands of students and a time when he was the youngest faculty member on campus. But now, as one of the oldest, Henricks is ready to leave Elon with his senior students.

"I tell my students that I am graduating too, just like my seniors are," Henricks said. "As you get closer to leaving you realize you are not going to see some of these people face-to-face for the rest of your life, and you know it is a thing to ponder, but you don't want to get hung up on it."

Instead, Henricks advises those faculty and students leaving with him to focus on all their accomplishments at Elon. In Henricks' mind, people who come through Elon will leave the university different from when they first entered.

Over the four decades Henricks has spent at Elon, there are several accomplishments that stand out to him the most. He played a pivotal role in the establishment of the sociology major, which currently has 33 students, according to the 2018 Spring Registrar Report.

Establishing this major and other accomplishments in teaching and research is why Henricks was named a distinguished university professor, one of the most prestigious honors a professor can receive at Elon.

Henricks is one of only six Elon professors to be named a distinguished university professor. Two other distinguished university professors from the College of Arts & Sciences, Professor of Human Service Studies Pamela Kiser and Professor of Religious Studies Jeffrey Pugh, will also be retiring at the end of this year.

But Henricks is most proud of improving faculty scholarship, which he believes has changed what it means to be an Elon professor.

"What my generation did was create the idea of teacher-scholars," Henricks said. "That meant having sabbaticals and release time for different kinds of work. I'm very proud of helping to change the vision of what it means to be an Elon professor."

Henricks also believes this led to the change of what it meant to be an Elon student.

"Back in the old days, like that kid by the door of my first class, some students might just sit and complain about class," Henricks said. "But that is not what it means to be an Elon student anymore. It is a much broader and more complicated role. You are expected to create, to do leadership, and while kids used to do that in the past, it is now just the expectation."

It's been more than four decades since Henricks overheard his student complain about being kept in class for too long. But to this day, every time Henricks thinks about his first class, he just chuckles.

Now, less than a month from graduation, Henricks has found himself referring to the event as commencement rather than graduation.

When defined, commencement means a beginning or start.

As Henricks prepares for his new beginning outside of Elon, he finds himself pausing, just as he did by the door of his first classroom, and once more thinking to himself, "Here I go."



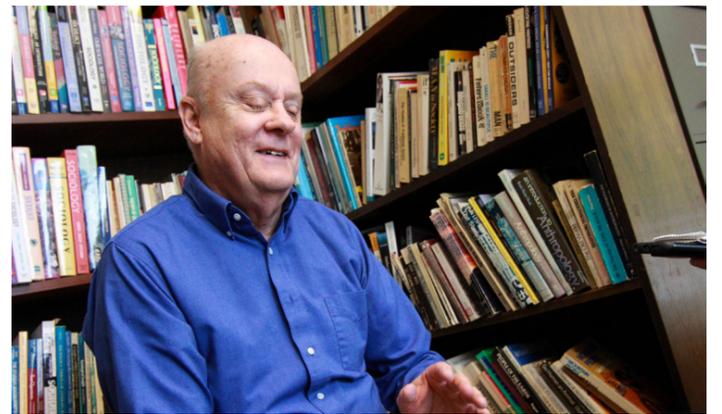
BETTY MORGAN



SHARON SPRAY



ANTHONY WESTON



THOMAS HENRICKS

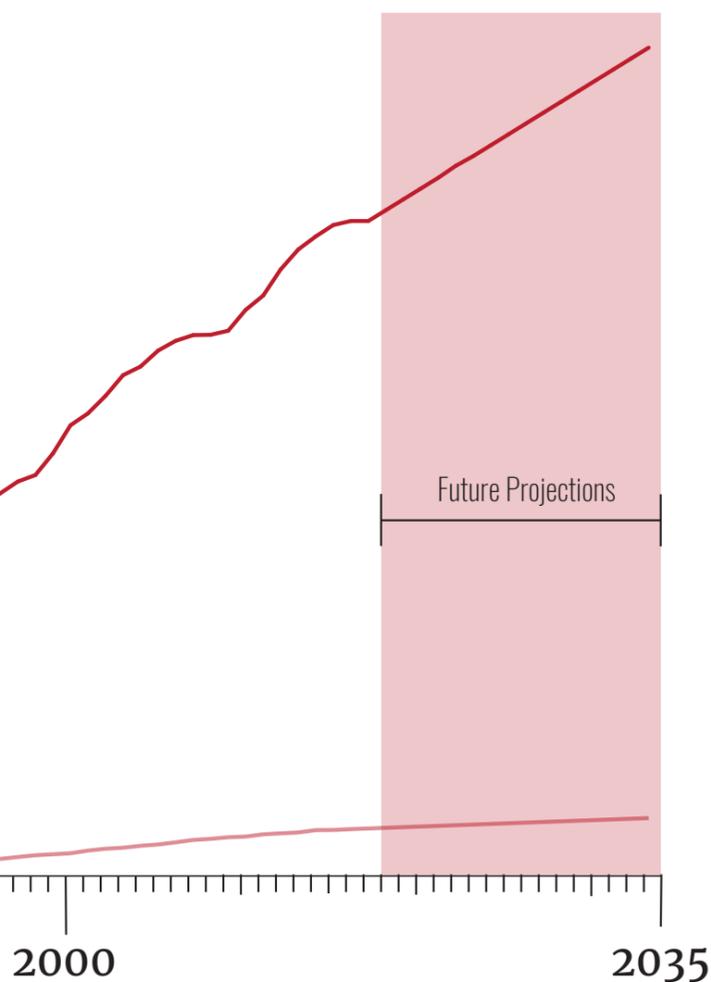


JANE FREUND



JEFFREY PUGH

LTY OVER THE YEARS



SOURCE: THE ELON FACTBOOK BY THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT

Meghan Kimberling | Design Chief

DECLINED TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED: BARRY BEEDLE AND PAUL FROMSON



ALEX TOMA | DESIGNER

STAFF EDITORIAL

HOW WE SEE IT

It's easy to ignore the ugliness of the United States' history, but the challenge is confronting the systematic issues that continue to affect us.

With the opening of the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama, the United States has the opportunity to face a dark sect of its past that is hard to do. The museum commemorates the lynchings of more than 4,000 African Americans from the late 1800s to 1950. The new museum contains 800 dark, rectangular steel columns that represent the counties where lynchings took place in the United States. Some of the columns even hang from the ceiling, which is an accurate portrayal of how black bodies hung from trees in towns and cities across the southern part of the country. As Billie Holiday famously sang in 1939, "South-

ern trees bear strange fruit, with blood on the leaves and blood at the root."

At times, it can be uncomfortable to publicly acknowledge such heinous, vile acts. But in order to move forward, it has to be done. There are at least 100 recorded lynchings in North Carolina, including at least one in Alamance County. That instance was the lynching of Wyatt Outlaw in 1870. According to the Burlington-Times News, his body hung from a tree next to the Graham's Sesquicentennial Park. Now, in that very city, a Confederate statue proudly stands next to the Alamance County Courthouse. The dichotomy of this story

and these locations proves that there is still work to be done to improve race relations in America and in the South — and Alamance County isn't immune to this.

The only way to initiate reparations for the United States' racist history is by facing it, especially for an issue in which the effects are still felt today. The black community still faces racism and prejudice today as a result of the United States' attitude toward blacks in the late 1800s, and moving to resolve that can only happen if people don't dance around the issue.

It's no secret that today's society is deeply divided. Beginning to piece the nation back together requires looking at the mistakes and wrongdoings of our past, which is exactly what the National Memorial for Peace and Justice is doing — by laying out the United States' history for all to see. Confederate's Day, coming up on May 10, is still celebrated in places such

as Graham, and organizations such as Taking Back Alamance County are still active. It's clear that racism is largely present in our surrounding community, and ignoring it isn't doing anyone any favors. Forcing the United States and the Alamance community to face its racist history is not meant to be damaging, but rather meant to be a way to begin stitching the country back together.

The memorial is the brainchild of Bryan Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) and author of "Just Mercy," the common reading book for the 2016-2017 academic year. Stevenson dedicates himself and his organization toward ending mass incarceration and unfair systemic injustices embedded in this nation's policy and attitudes. The EJI poses a challenge to U.S. citizens with the establishment of this memorial: Face our history and learn from it, don't ignore it.

CAMPUS VOICES

Women and climate change: Why their experiences can make an impact



Susannah Anderson
Columnist

When it comes to taking action on climate change, women are often left out of the conversation. Women's voices and perspectives go unheard in decision-making processes and policy reforms that aim to allow the world to adapt to a changing climate.

It is all too predictable that women are excluded from vital conversations at influential levels such as governing bodies, national delegations and intergovernmental forums. But women need to be at the forefront of these discussions.

Considering about two thirds of the world's population lives outside of Western civilization, I will refer to what is often called the "third world" as the "two-thirds world." In the two-thirds world, women and children are often the most exposed to the instability of

the climate.

For example, despite Africa's minimal emission of greenhouse gases, the continent is one of the most vulnerable to climate variability.

Because of the gender division of labor, ecosystem degradation and complex natural disasters tend to affect women and children more than men because they bare the burden of household and agricultural labor. Women are more connected with their ecosystems and environments, which makes them not only more directly affected by changes but also more knowledgeable about issues and possible solutions.

Many women and children in the two-thirds world collect water and firewood for their households and provide up to 80 percent of labor in agriculture. Many Africans reside

in rural areas, but with the changing climate, these areas are experiencing drought, deforestation and contaminated water supplies.

This means women and children have to travel further, find new sources for water and firewood and create alternative ways to provide food for their families.

But because of unequal access to education, information and resources, women and children are more likely than men to become climate refugees because they are ill-prepared for changes in their environments.

Women in rural areas of Africa are the main custodians of environmental conservation and sustainability, yet they are often marginalized from the decision-making processes related to solving problems on climate change. Women

often have greater knowledge of indigenous plant and seed varieties and their important nutritional and medicinal values, but economic policies continue to negatively affect the environment and threaten the roles of women. Though agricultural and service policies affect mostly women, they are minimally involved in these new technologies and service discussions.

A critique of the global economy as a continuation of colonialism has risen as Western societies continue to extract resources from the two-thirds world. Western worlds and corporations reap the benefits while ecosystems are devastated by these extractions. These economic processes undeniably impoverish and disenfranchise women in the two-thirds world.

There is a need to link en-

vironmental issues with issues of gender, race and class. Integrating gender analysis into the study of environmental issues will better equip us to face the mess our global economy has created and find alternative solutions for local and global obstacles. Because the two-thirds world is currently experiencing the consequences of Western world greenhouse gas emissions, policy change and decision-making processes must not only incorporate two-thirds world experiences but also the knowledge and adaptations women are making to survive in their changing world.

With the information and knowledge these women can provide, policy makers will be able to make better decisions and changes that can truly have a positive impact on the environment.

exploring the refugee experience



ABBY GIBBS | PHOTO EDITOR



THEY ARE PEOPLE, AND THEY HAVE AGENCY. THEY CAN CREATE BELONGING, AND THEY ARE NOT PROBLEMS AND DO NOT JUST HAVE PROBLEMS.

NICOLE PLANTE
SOPHOMORE

WHAT IS THE LUMEN PRIZE?

The Lumen Prize is a scholarship that awards rising juniors funds special mentoring to support their research.

FUNDS AWARDED

\$20K

Awarded to Lumen Scholars to fund their research.

Photo above: Professor Sandy Marshall works with sophomore Nicole Plante on her Lumen project regarding refugee families.

A sophomore focuses her research on the hot topic of immigration

Perla Salazar-Rangel
Elon News Network | @PSalazarRangel

WHEN SOPHOMORE NICOLE PLANTE first arrived at Elon University from San Antonio, Texas, she had given some thought to the idea of doing undergraduate research, but not very much – was she was not sure what she wanted to research.

She came to realize her passion for the refugee experience, which led her to apply for the Lumen Prize – a program that awards rising juniors \$20,000 and special mentoring to support their research ambitions and other intellectual goals.

Plante's idea was "to do research that examined [refugees'] agency and their personal experiences through their own lens to give a holistic review of the refugee experience."

During her freshman year, Plante decided she wanted to do something different from what she was used to, so she started taking Arabic classes.

"As a freshman, I entered Elon, and I decided to take Arabic because I have always taken Spanish," Plante said. "I thought it would be a good opportunity to start taking a new language that would be a little challenging to learn, and I knew I would not have any other time in my life to take it, so I am taking advantage now."

She took a chance with a new language and met Shereen Elgamal, lecturer in Arabic in the department of world

languages and cultures, who encouraged her to practice speaking Arabic by volunteering.

"My professor, Shereen Elgamal, recommended that I started volunteering with Elon Volunteers Immigrant and Refugee Outreach just as a way to practice my Arabic," said Plante. "[Elgamal] knew I was passionate about refugee and immigrant rights, and I started tutoring the refugee kids."

Plante started to think about research more seriously after she was laterally accepted into the Elon College Fellows program in the spring of her freshman year.

Her passion for refugee rights and working face-to-face with families inspired her to pursue research on refugees. She began searching for a mentor to help guide her through her research and met Sandy Marshall, assistant professor of geography.

"I started looking for a mentor and found Sandy Marshall, who is new to Elon this year," Plante said. "His research expertise is in the Middle East and in refugees, specifically human geography and geographies of belonging. I met with him, and we started talking about what research we wanted to do."

She looked at previous research done on refugees and noticed a pattern in the literature she was reading.

"I started reading literature, and I just realized that a lot of the current research and literature that I read talks about refugees and how they have problems or how they can be problems," Plante said. "I reflected on any time I spoke with a refugee, and it seemed like they had a whole

story to tell. They are people, and they have agency. They can create belonging. They are not problems and do not just have problems."

Her research proposal was finally in place. She titled it, "Examining How Refugee Parents and Children Create Belonging in the United States," and she submitted it as a part of her application for the Lumen Prize.

Plante was shocked and excited when she found out she was awarded the prestigious scholarship because she knew it meant she would be able to investigate her topic further. Her friends were excited for her as well.

"I was not surprised when Nicole received Lumen," said sophomore Ashley Jutras. "She has been working on this project for a very long time, and it is a project she is passionate about. I am so excited for her to begin her research on the acculturation of refugees, especially now with the ongoing crisis in Syria and the current political environment within the United States."

Jutras met Plante through her Arabic classes, which they have been taking together since their freshman year. Later on, the two went on an alternative spring break trip to the International Rescue Committee in Atlanta, Georgia. Jutras hopes Plante will capture a variety of voices in her research.

"I really hope she gets to speak with a wide range of people through her research," Jutras said. "It is really easy to generalize about 'the other,' but there are so many different perspectives out there to hear. I also really hope she gets to use her Arabic skills in some of the interviews."

Though Plante hopes to have the opportunity to practice her Arabic, she plans to allocate some of the money she received through the Lumen Prize to hire interpreters. She will be traveling to Greensboro to meet with refugees and listen to their stories.

There are three main questions Plante will use to guide her research: How do refugees create belonging within the U.S.? How do they create belonging within the current U.S. political rhetoric? How do the differences in the ways parents and children create belonging affect family dynamics?

To begin to answer these questions, Plante will conduct six focus groups: three with adults and three with children. She will also speak to 15 key informants about refugees and spend a lot of time interviewing refugees and collecting information through The Center for New North Carolinians.

She plans to use whatever money she has left over to continue traveling, specifically abroad to the Middle East.

This summer, she plans on completing an internship with a refugee center in Lebanon. In the future, she plans to work with these centers and may even pursue a Fulbright Scholarship.

"Through all my classes and experiences, I became passionate about the refugee experience," Plante said. "I started to want to do research because I had a lot of questions I wanted to get answers to. I love my research. I really love working with refugees and hearing their stories. This all truly excites me, and I'm really grateful to have been awarded the Lumen Prize to be able to do this research."



SCHAR CENTER NEARS COMPLETION

Athletics staff expected to move in over summer, but no set opening date

Erik Webb
Elon News Network | @erikwebbelon

Just down North Williamson Avenue, a shiny new building awaits the day when it can open its doors and greet the community.

The Schar Center, named after the family who donated the majority of money to build it, is the 5,100-seat arena that will be the new home of the Elon University women's volleyball team and men's and women's basketball teams. The arena will replace the current, 1,600-seat Alumni Gym, which the teams and coaching staffs of those three Phoenix squads currently call home.

According to Director of Athletics Dave Blank, the building is a giant leap for the university.

"To see something like this on Elon's campus - it's incredible what's happened at this institution, and this is part of it," Blank said.

Grand Opening

No date has been set for the grand opening of the arena, but Blank said that each team will use

its first game of their respective seasons to break in the new arena. An official dedication ceremony will take place, but no date has been set for that either.

The Elon men's basketball team will play its first regular season game in the Schar Center against the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's powerhouse basketball team. Head Coach Matt Matheny said that the game has been in the making since the arena first started taking shape.

"There were plenty of conversations with students, with alums, with administrators about exactly how we should open the building," Matheny said. "As the Schar Center became a reality, we wanted to have an opener that would draw as many people as possible into this new facility."

According to Matheny, everybody chipped in ideas of how to do that. He said that there's no greater opener than playing a program right down the road.

"We knew getting a mark name would be something that was not only great for Elon University, but great for Alamance County and the surrounding area," Matheny said.

"Getting to play a top program like UNC will be a lot of fun," said junior guard Steven Santa Ana. "Lot of motivation for the summer - just got to keep working because we've got a big task ahead of us against that, but we're defi-

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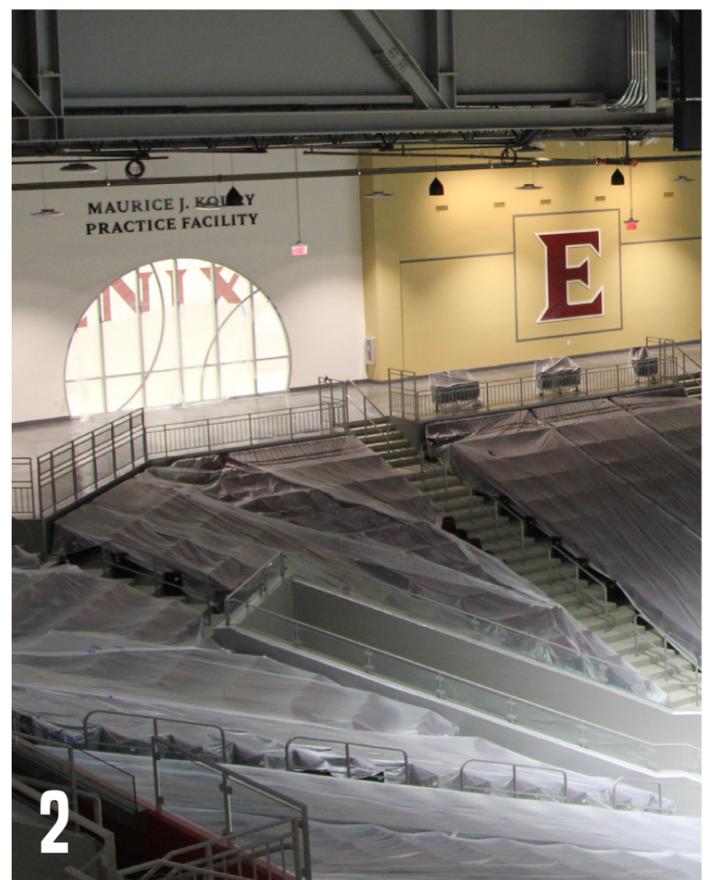
THIS IS JUST SUCH AN IMPORTANT PIECE FOR THE CAMPUS, AND I THINK THAT'S WHAT ALL OF US WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT ARE MOST PROUD OF.

DAVE BLANK
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

nately excited and happy to open it up with that game."

Filling the arena shouldn't be a problem for the first regular season game against UNC, but could pose an issue when the big name leaves and the arena remains triple the size of the current Alumni Gym.

"I would say the litmus test is how are we going to go from 1,600 seats to 5,100 seats," Blank said. "You know, the answer to that is exactly what is going to happen and then we're going to grow into it, and it won't be too many years until people will say, 'I wish we had a bigger one.' That's what we hope for. It's all part of the growth of Elon University. Just look at this



campus over the last 35 years - it's unbelievable."

Blank said the Phoenix will be relying on the students to help make the dream of filling the arena a reality.

"We're going to have upwards of 1,000 seats reserved for our students," he said. "We're counting on our students in a big way to come and support our events. But, if you think about it, we're trying to give them a choice of where they want to sit. Do they want to be sideline or do they want to be endzone? We don't want to tell them where to sit - we want them to be able to experience it."

For Jake Young, the president of Elon's student pep club, the Phoenix Phanatics, filling all of the student seats might be a tall task.

"It's obviously going to be a challenge and we understand that," he said. "We understand that it's not going to change overnight,

and it's going to take dedication from our executive board, which we truly think we have. There's a lot of enthusiasm around the executive board and we're really excited to start turning this program into something you can be proud of."

But Young said he hopes that fandom from other Phoenix sports will extend into the Schar Center.

"If football can have a good season and basketball is competitive against UNC, that could really help our organization out," he said. "It's a fantastic facility and we're definitely excited to fill it up and be as loud as we can in there."

For some members of the men's basketball team, filling the gym is not a priority.

"Our goal is not to fill the gym," Santa Ana said. "We enjoy the support that we have and we enjoy the people that come out. But, at the end of the day, we're there to play, and whoever is there



3

PHOTOS BY ERIK WEBB | ELON NEWS NETWORK

1 The main entrance of the Schar Center.

2 The concourse level of the center features a window overlooking the practice courts below.

3 Director of Athletics Dave Blank walks past lyrics to the Elon fight song, fixed to the wall in large letters on the club level of the arena.

4 Schar's state-of-the-art weight room reduces scheduling conflicts of having just one weight room for all teams in Alumni Field House.

SCHAR CENTER BY THE NUMBERS

\$13M

Dwight and Martha Schar's donation helped fund the center and expand the Communications building.

160K

The building will be approximately 160,000 square feet.

5,100

There will be 5,100 seats in the new center, compared to 1,600 in Alumni Gym.

700

There will be 700 parking spaces available for visitors.



4

cheering us on, I'm sure we'll have plenty of people there. We've got a big support group already – those guys will still support us whether that's this gym or another gym."

No matter where the patrons or Phanatics sit, having a building of this size will immensely affect the Elon community and Phoenix athletics.

Impact on Elon

Walking around the arena on the afternoon of April 24, Blank was impressed by the building.

"As many times as I've been in here, there's still a 'wow' factor when you're in the main arena," he said. "The size of the main arena – there are 5,000 seats. I've been in a lot of 5,000-seat facilities that don't feel like major arenas. This one has a great feel to it because of all the space."

Blank remembers sitting in the space with former President Leo Lambert, reflecting on what this building will mean to the community.

"Every time we've come in we've talked about the impact this is going to have on so many people. Not just the student-athletes that are participating in here, but

the campus itself," Blank said. This is just such an important piece for the campus, and I think that's what all of us who have been involved in this project are most proud of."

The Schar Center will not only serve Elon athletics, but will function as a gathering space for large Elon events such as convocations, commencements and concerts.

"You can build a basketball facility – that's one thing. But to build something like this that's going to benefit the whole campus, the community and who knows beyond that has been a great experience," Blank said. "It's been trying at times, but I think the outcome is going to be a great facility that everyone is going to enjoy."

"I definitely think going from an arena that holds 1,500 to 5,000 is a big attraction," Santa Ana said. "I think it will also create a little more buzz around the team and the community."

Helping that along the way will be the future players who call the center home, and that starts with recruiting incoming classes every year. Junior guard Dainan Swoope says that will be the biggest impact the building has on the program.

"I think it will help a lot with

recruits," he said. "Now you can see a more typical [Colonial Athletic Association] gym. That's a gym like everybody else in the CAA plays in, so that will help us be able compete being able to take recruits from other CAA schools."

Walking around

The 160,000-square-foot building was named after Dwight and Martha Schar, whose donation of \$13 million helped fund the project and expand the School of Communications facilities half a mile down the road.

The building is modeled off of the arena at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and features more than 700 parking spaces for visitors to use. The main difference in the design is the addition of the practice facilities that wasn't incorporated into the Trojans' floor plan.

"To me, it's a necessity. But you're talking to a former coach," Blank said. "I really like the element of having two courts in here and the ability to subdivide things. I think that's really important, and I think our athletes will benefit from this. In essence

you can have three courts going at the same time and also allowed us to put permanent seats all the way to the floor."

"Just having a consistent gym that we can get into ... somewhere where we can go get shots up 24/7, ... it's exciting because that wasn't always something that we could do with Alumni Gym," Swoope said.

Originally slated for 5,400 seats, the designers had trouble fitting them all into the space and had to reduce the number down to 5,100. Regardless, the players say they are thrilled to have a building with everything all in the same place.

"I just like how central everything is," Santa Ana said. "You have the weight room in there, the training room in there, the basketball court, the practice court – It's nice to have it all right there."

As the Schar Center prepares for the games ahead, Blank says the atmosphere is what will be the biggest difference.

"You feel like you're in an arena, and that's a really neat thing for student-athletes," he said. "We went from how do you go from a small one to a big one to a wow factor. It's incredible."

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GRACE MORRIS
JUNIOR



JOINING ENN WAS THE GREATEST DECISION I HAVE MADE AT ELON. NOT ONLY DID I MAKE AMAZING FRIENDS, BUT I LEARNED ABOUT MYSELF AND MY FUTURE IN JOURNALISM."

ALEX ROAT
JUNIOR

COME TO ASSIGNMENT MEETINGS:

TUESDAYS AT 5:30 P.M. MCEWEN 108

EMAIL US:
ENN@ELON.EDU