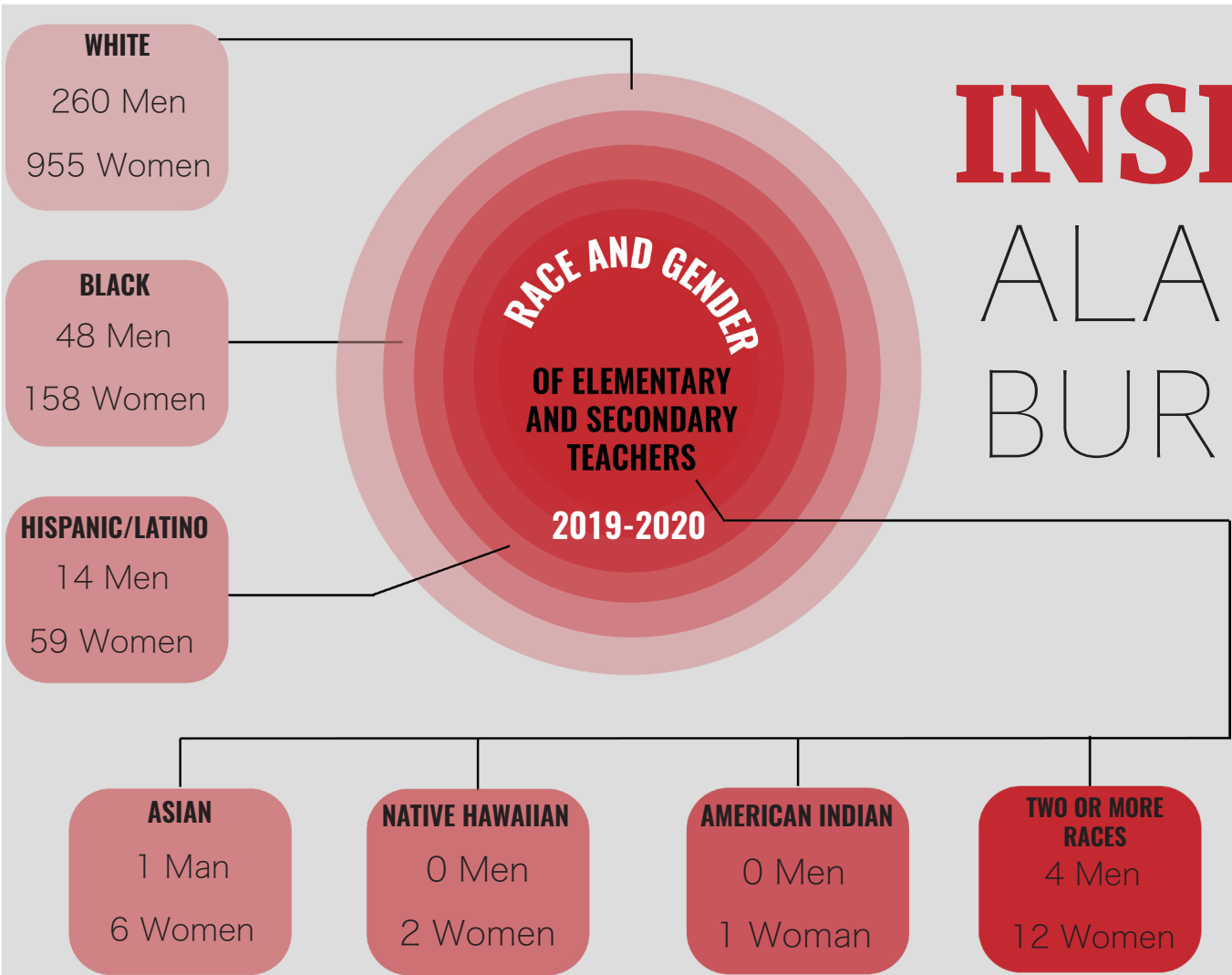


WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020
VOLUME 50, EDITION 5
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

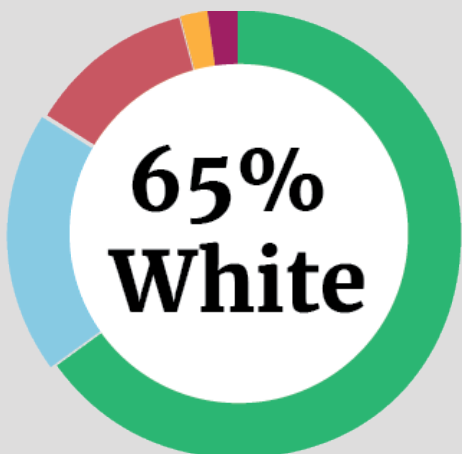
INSIDE THE ALAMANCE- BURLINGTON SCHOOL SYSTEM



Graph representing race and gender of teachers from elementary and secondary school teachers in the Alamance-Burlington School System.

NYAH PHENGSIITTHY | DESIGN CHIEF

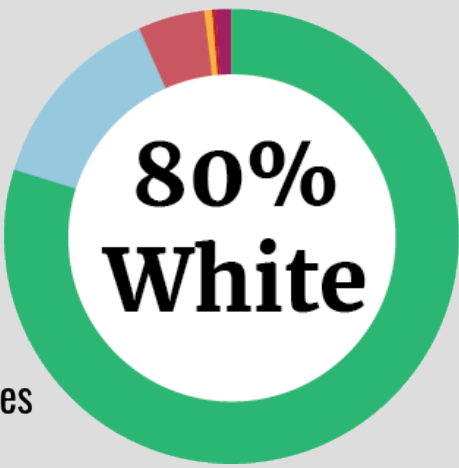
ABSS STUDENT RACE/ETHNICITY



- White
- Black
- Hispanic/Latino
- Asian
- Two or more races

Source from National Center for Education Statistics on Alamance-Burlington schools.

ABSS TEACHER RACE/ETHNICITY



NYAH PHENGSIITTHY | DESIGN CHIEF

The county school district's teachers do not match the diversity of the student body.

Emery Eisner | Elon News Network | @EisnerEmery

THE ALAMANCE-BURLINGTON SCHOOL SYSTEM covers the city of Burlington and surrounding areas in Alamance County. The district is set to release employee demographics for the 2020-2021 school year in October. While ABSS is working to increase diversity amongst its teachers, according to Public Information Officer Jenny Faulkner, the district has historically employed a vast majority white teachers.

ABSS is one of North Carolina's larger school districts, composed of 36 schools and 22,771 students as of 2019, according to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. The student body consists of about 65% white students and 35% students of color, according to data from the National Center for Education Statistics covering 2014 to 2018.

The proportion of total employees has historically hovered around three-quarters white, declining every two years from 80% in 2010 to about 74% in 2018, according to data reports by ABSS human resources.

See **ABSS** | pg. 4

A look inside Elon University's quarantine spaces

Students needing to quarantine or self-isolate will receive assistance from the university

Miranda Ferrante
Elon News Network | @ferrantemiranda

Elon University's quarantine policy, still unfamiliar to a majority of the student body, is becoming a reality that more and more members of the Elon community have to grapple with.

As of Sept. 8, there have been 25 total positive tests reported

on campus since Aug. 14 and 69 students are currently in quarantine or isolation. The COVID-19 dashboard is updated daily at 4 p.m. and only includes cases that the university has been made aware of.

Elon University sophomore Bella Roy said she had to go into quarantine after an individual she had been in close contact with tested positive for COVID-19. Roy had a negative test result, but still had to undergo a two-week quarantine.

See **QUARANTINE** | pg. 5

Panhellenic recruitment moves to online



FILE PHOTO BY DIEGO PINEDO

Panhellenic sorority bid day celebration in 2017. In 2021 sorority recruitment will likely be held virtually.

As recruitment shifts to online, potential new members and affiliated member wonder about the process

Kira Silbergeld
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

For freshmen like Sarah Dodman, who do not necessarily know what the process looks like, sorority recruitment can be a nerve-wracking experience. Now that Elon University's Panhellenic Association has announced that 2021 sorority recruitment will be officially moved to a virtual format because of the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, many freshmen like Dodman are wondering what joining a fraternity or sorority will look like this year.

See **RECRUITMENT** | pg. 4



NEWS • PAGE 6-7

A look at freshman Student Government Association candidates



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 8

The effects of the lack of socializing on humans



SPORTS • PAGE 10

Elon basketball player discusses race in athletics

THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF
ELON NEWS
NETWORK

Established 1974
Volume 50, Edition 5

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

MACKENZIE WILKES	Executive Director of Elon News Network
GRACE TERRY	Managing Editor of The Pendulum
JACK NORCROSS	News Director of Elon Local News
LAUREN SINGLES	Event Coverage Coordinator
ELLIS CHANDLER	Social Media Coordinator
CAITLIN RUNDLE	Sports Director
THOMAS DENOME	Chief Copy Editor
MARGARET FAUST	New Member Coordinator
NYAH PHENGSI'TTHY	Design Chief
CLARE GRANT	Photo Editor
KIERAN UNGEMACH	Politics Editor
KYRA O'CONNOR	Enterprise Story Coordinator

Ted Thomas, Andrew Zagari, Arielle Brochin and Caroline Bunder contributed to the design of this edition. Kyra O'Connor contributed to the copy editing of this edition.

EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

CORRECTIONS POLICY:

ENN is committed to accurate coverage. When factual errors are made, we correct them promptly and in full, both online and in print. Online corrections state the error and the change at the top of the article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page.

Contact
corrections@elonnewsnetwork.com
to report a correction or a concern.

WHEN WE PUBLISH:

- The Pendulum**
publishes weekly on Wednesdays
- Elon Local News**
broadcasts Mondays at 6 p.m.
- ELN Morning**
broadcasts Thursdays at 10 a.m.
- ENN Radio Podcast**
publishes Friday at 8 a.m.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

- Facebook**
Elon News Network
- Twitter/Instagram/Snapchat**
[@elonnewsnetwork](#)
- YouTube**
Elon News Network

CORRECTIONS

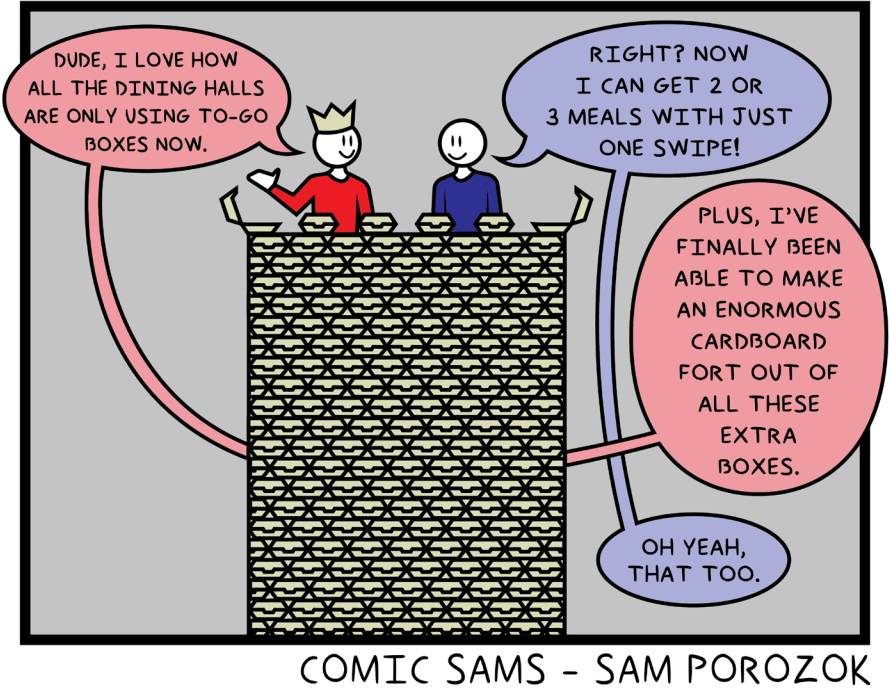
No corrections were issued for the last edition of The Pendulum.

GAMES

How to Play: Guess the missing word in the five clues, then find them in the word search below. Words can be found backwards, diagonal, etc.

- Panhellenic recruitment this year will be held _____. *See Page 4 for answer.*
- Students who are close _____ of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 will have to undergo a two-week quarantine. *See Page 5 for answer.*
- The ____ Step Dance Team performed last spring at the Relay for Life event. *See Page 8 for answer.*
- Elon men's basketball player Chuck Hannah said he carries a _____ with him from a discussion about racial issues hosted by Elon Athletics. *See Page 10 for answer.*

OUTSIDE THE BOX



SCAN FOR MORE COVERAGE FROM ELON NEWS NETWORK
OR VISIT ELONNEWSNETWORK.COM



1. Open your phone camera
2. Focus on the QR code
3. Click the pop-up link

N	P	M	J	Z	S	T	C	A	T	N	O	C	M	U
Z	Y	Q	E	Q	U	V	J	J	U	N	E	Q	O	L
I	V	Q	Y	N	Y	Z	J	T	I	E	H	Y	L	R
Q	M	B	U	Z	T	I	I	M	R	F	P	Q	Y	A
I	J	I	K	H	N	Z	O	P	Z	T	P	R	I	H
C	L	X	P	Q	S	D	C	X	T	H	I	T	E	P
Y	V	Y	S	P	B	A	J	I	V	A	I	I	Z	T
B	H	F	L	C	J	R	L	R	R	I	L	L	E	F
U	I	M	D	S	N	V	Q	R	X	I	Y	Z	K	T
A	N	S	X	K	Y	Y	R	Z	L	J	S	O	B	A
V	R	N	F	W	K	X	L	J	F	S	L	H	U	F
T	T	S	K	M	T	X	M	L	Y	K	X	R	X	H
S	B	Q	Q	N	I	K	T	K	A	S	V	V	P	M
K	A	P	W	J	D	Q	V	K	J	U	W	S	K	E
F	Q	I	O	I	G	V	S	G	Q	T	T	A	P	Q
Q	Q	F	V	K	H	J	A	G	J	Z	M	R	P	F
A	B	H	V	M	B	W	B	I	G	R	S	C	I	L
B	H	U	O	F	W	Y	H	S	M	P	N	C	Z	V
T	F	D	U	E	M	I	P	Z	P	V	T	N	N	P
Q	J	Q	S	W	O	W	A	N	W	T	Q	Z	E	Q
P	N	W	L	E	M	A	H	K	N	X	F	F	K	S

Elon University students gather on Young Commons to support and listen Black Lives Matter speakers at a solidarity event held on Sept. 1.



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



BENJAMIN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Volunteers load packaged frozen meals into cars at the Burlington Meals on Wheels on Sept. 3.



MADDIE SHOSTEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John McCutcheon plays the banjo and sings at Elon University for a Labor Day concert in McCrory Theatre on Sept. 7.



JON SARVER JR. | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Protesters hold a banner as they march past the Elon University School of Law in Greensboro for the second anniversary of Marcus Smith's death on Sept. 5.



Due to the lack of diversity among teachers in the Alamance-Burlington School System the district is continuing their efforts to recruit teachers of color.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

ABSS | from cover

The population of teachers in ABSS is no different. As of the 2019-2020 school year, ABSS reported about 80% white teachers and 20% teachers of color. Broken down, this amounts to 1,230 white teachers, compared to just 211 black teachers, the next most populous racial demographic in the district. The least populous demographic was American Indian, with just one teacher in ABSS.

The hiring process for the district begins online, according to Executive Director of ABSS Human Resources Dawn Madren. Prospective teachers can apply for positions through what she called the “NC School Jobs” website. From there, school administrators at each school will review the applications and select people for interviews.

Then, individual administrators can send in recommendations for new hires, and human resources will confirm that a background check and review for teaching license eligibility are both conducted. Individuals can then review their job offers.

ABSS is taking measures to recruit more teachers of color, according to Madren. These include attending more in-person and virtual college fairs, advertising job openings in the Alamance County relocation guide and hiring teachers through Participate Learning, an exchange program for international teachers.

Teachers hired through Participate Learning either work in the district’s dual language programs or fill existing vacancies, according to Madren. Teachers hired through the program “provide students with a variety of cultural experiences,” Faulkner wrote in a statement to Elon News Network.

“The relationships we form with Participate teachers have been especially powerful for our schools with a global language and cultural focus,” Faulkner said, “and they are helping us, in part, to fulfill our desire to increase diversity among our professional staff. We have more work to do in this area and continue to look for ways to increase our diversity.”

Faulkner acknowledged the disparity amongst ABSS teachers.

“Currently our workforce more closely aligns with the broader Alamance County population (per census data) than the children we serve,” Faulkner wrote in her statement, “so our goal is for our highly-qualified workforce to more closely mirror the faces we see in our classrooms.”

ABSS administration also recognizes the disparity, according to Faulkner, who said Superintendent Bruce Benson oversaw the creation of the Superintendent’s Equity, Diversity and Opportunity committee last year.

“Part of the committee’s work is to examine ways we can work to improve our progress toward achieving our equity and diversity goals across the district,” Madren wrote in a statement to Elon News Network. “This committee has been examining data like our professional teaching staff diversity in comparison with our students’

“

WE VALUE DIVERSITY OF BOTH CULTURE AND THOUGHT AS ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY’S GREATEST STRENGTHS. IT IS OUR DUTY TO WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT EVERY VOICE IS HEARD AND VALUED

BRUCE BENSON
ABSS SUPERINTENDENT

demographic diversity. We’ve made progress but we have more work to do.”

Benson wrote a letter to the community following the termination of a teacher for social media comments criticizing George Floyd protesters.

“We value diversity of both culture and thought as one of our community’s greatest strengths. It is our duty to work together to ensure that every voice is heard and valued,” he wrote.

Both Madren and Faulkner agreed that a national decrease in enrollment in teacher preparation programs has contributed to the lack of diversity in the district.

“As colleges graduate fewer teacher education candidates, ABSS and other districts in NC have had to rely on additional provisionally licensed candidates to fill teacher vacancies,” Madren said, adding that ABSS has “been intentional” with hiring candidates who are qualified for both a one-year provisional emergency license and a one-year provisional residency license in order to reduce turnover.

Citing the shortage of candidates, Faulkner said the district’s demographics are unlikely to see “dramatic shifts” when the new report is released in October.

“As recruiting highly-qualified educators continues to be more challenging, we expect that our efforts to improve the diversity of our teaching staff will continue to be slow and steady,” Faulkner said. “We don’t anticipate dramatic shifts to occur but our efforts to recruit and retain a diverse staff that reflects the faces in our classrooms remains our focus.”

The 2020-2021 demographic report will be released in early October. Faulkner said districts are required by the federal government to file reports in even-numbered years by Oct. 1, covering new hires from the beginning of July through the end of September. At the state level, a similar report must be filed each year. Faulkner said data for this year is not yet available as some positions are still being filled.

New recruitment process due to social distancing requirements

RECRUITMENT | from cover

Elon’s Panhellenic Association informed the recruitment chairs of every sorority chapter on Aug. 28 that recruitment will take place virtually this year. According to Elon’s Panhellenic Association, recruitment will likely take place over Zoom and utilize breakout rooms. Since the school year has started, the Panhellenic Association has been meeting with recruitment chairs every other week to discuss new developments and receive their input about the specifics of virtual recruitment.

Senior Sarah Burton, the Elon Panhellenic Association’s vice president of recruitment, said the National Panhellenic Conference has been considering the switch since this summer.

“Recently, Panhellenic shifted their guidelines to recommend that all schools do fully virtual recruitments,” Burton said.

Burton said that while the Panhellenic Association made backup plans for recruitment during the summer, they have not presented a definitive plan for virtual recruitment to sorority recruitment chairs yet. However, Burton said that plans are currently coming together.

Dodman said Elon’s greek life played a large part in her college decision process because she liked how prominent of a role it played on Elon’s campus. She said she was expecting the Panhellenic Association’s announcement, but was nonetheless disappointed when it was made official.

“If they were having it in-person, it would have been a little more surprising,” Dodman said in reference to the decision. “But I was expecting it.”

Dodman said she heard the news from a friend after the Panhellenic Association announced their decision. She also said she is more nervous about the virtual process due to an inability to read body language through a camera, which prevents her from gauging how a conversation is going.

“The whole point is to make

personal connections with people,” Dodman said. “So I am a little more nervous about how the process is going to go.”

Burton and Jarrod Rudd, the assistant director for fraternity and sorority leadership development, do not think recruitment will lose much value from being online and remote. Specifically, Rudd said that it will allow sorority members and potential new members to conduct conversations in a comfortable environment.

“It’s going to be the same situation for everyone involved in the process,” Burton said.

Rudd said potential new members will actually receive a greater experience from virtual recruitment. He believes the potential new members will be able to share more about themselves through online recruitment.

“No longer are we worried about the songs, or any of the extra components of recruitment,” Rudd said. “We are able to really focus on sharing our values and having great conversations.”

Both Burton and Rudd said recruitment will look very similar to prior years. There will still be philanthropy, sisterhood and preference rounds, and potential new members will still have daily schedules and recruitment counselors, also known as Pi Chis.

Freshmen like Dodman still have concerns about the virtual format. Mostly, Dodman thinks it will limit her ability to make friends with everyone involved in the process, not just the women involved in the different sorority chapters.

Burton and Rudd, however, both believe that the process will still run smoothly, despite its virtual status.

“While recruitment will look very different, we are still going to be able to form those connections and get to know a lot of people in different chapters,” Burton said.

As of right now, no definitive plans have been made for the virtual recruitment process, but Burton said potential and members of on-campus chapters can follow Elon’s Panhellenic Association Instagram for updates about the recruitment process.



FILE PHOTO BY DIEGO PINEDA

Panhellenic sorority bid day celebration on Jan. 29, 2017. In 2021 sorority recruitment will likely be held virtually.

University provides quarantine spaces after COVID-19 exposure

QUARANTINE | from cover

The two-week quarantine period for close contacts are the guidance and directives of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the Alamance County Health Department, according to Jana Lynn Patterson, associate vice president for Student Life and dean of students.

“More than anything, it was a little boring,” Roy said. “It was a bummer that a negative test doesn’t allow you to leave quarantine, but I feel like Elon did everything they could while still following CDC guidelines and state laws.”

Roy was able to quarantine in her residence hall on campus because she lives in a single and had access to her own bathroom.

“It was hard to quarantine because I knew that I wasn’t sick, which was more of a nuisance than anything,” Roy said.

Roy said being in her own space made quarantining much easier. She knows of individuals who live in pods on campus who had to relocate to hotels or other facilities off campus.

“I know for them, it was definitely a little harder than it was for me because you’re in a foreign space,” Roy said. “You have to pack a bag to go to a hotel and start doing classes from there.”

According to health department guidelines, quarantined students are confined to an individual space and not permitted to leave or travel back home.

“We know it is really hard for students, but those who are COVID-positive or direct contacts should never leave and go home,” Patterson said.

Quarantine Protocols

Elon students who need to quarantine or self-isolate after contracting or being potentially exposed to the coronavirus will receive assistance from the university, according to Patterson.

Patterson — who serves alongside Ginette Archinal, university physician and medical director for Student Health Services, as the incident commanders for the Infectious Disease Response Team — said the university’s current quarantine protocols were built off of a basic plan that began last fall during the mumps outbreak.

Quarantined students fit into one of three categories, according to Patterson: COVID-positive students, symptomatic students awaiting testing and close contacts of people with a confirmed case.

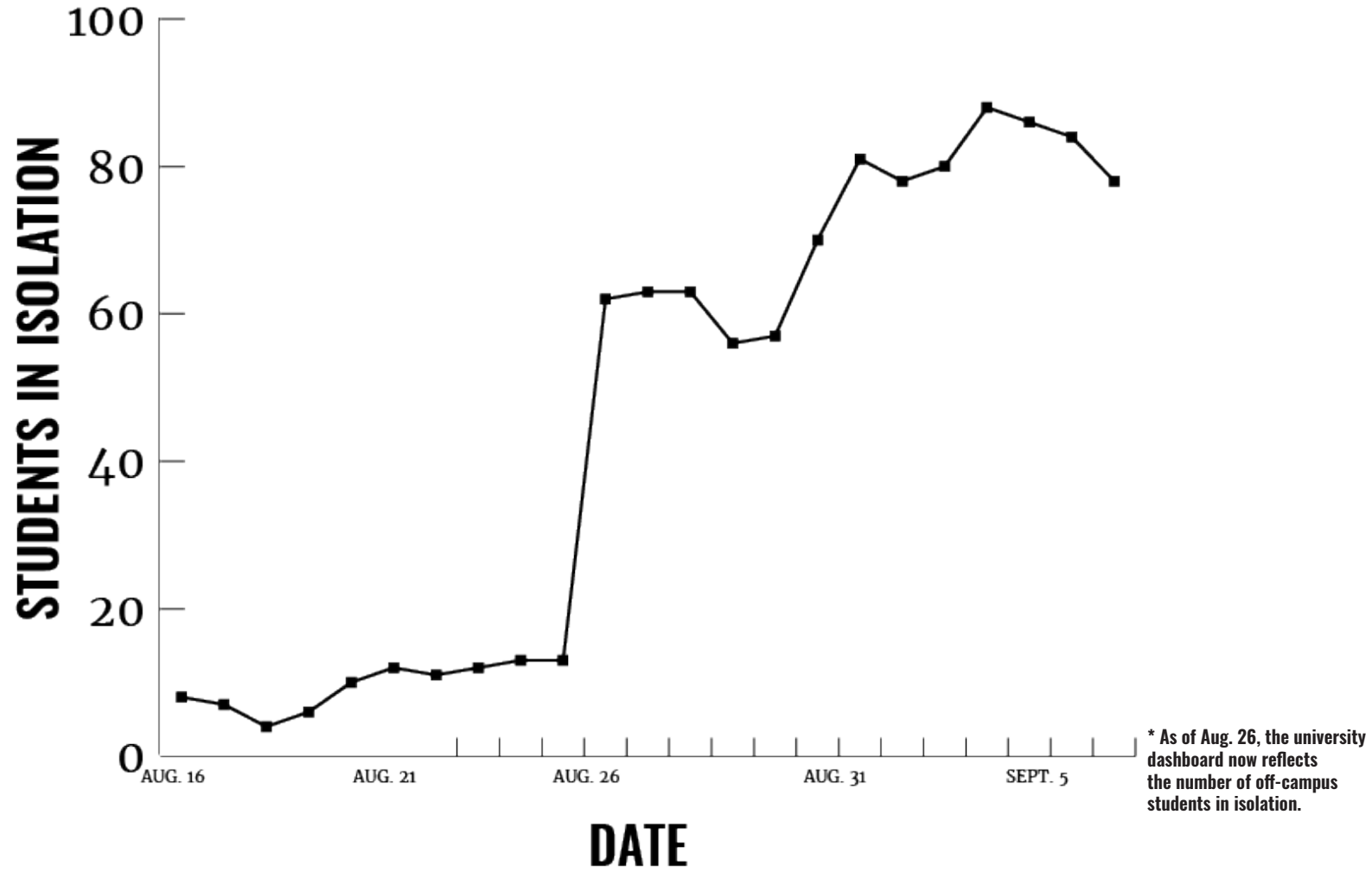
Patterson said the term “quarantine” is generally used to describe the first group of students, those who have tested positive for COVID-19. Students who fall into this category are placed in isolation for a period of time prescribed by the CDC.

The same guidelines apply to students in the second group: those who have symptoms and are awaiting testing.

According to Patterson, symptomatic students and close contacts with transportation are tested at one of the off-campus testing sites, such as the Alamance County Health Department, FastMed Urgent Care or the Kernodle Clinic. If a symptomatic or close contact student does not have transportation, they can be tested on campus at Student Health Services.

“If students have symptoms

NUMBER OF ELON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN ISOLATION



that are concerning, we send them for testing or they may be assessed virtually, and then they go into isolation pending the outcome of their test results,” Patterson said.

The third group is defined as close contacts of people who have a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Roy was considered a close contact and said she was called by the Alamance County Health Department, who through contact tracing, deemed her as someone directly exposed to COVID-19.

Roy said she was exposed to the virus on Aug. 18, and began her quarantine Aug. 20 immediately after she learned her friend had tested positive for the virus.

According to Patterson, if the health department identifies an individual as a close contact of a positive student and they meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s criteria — being within six feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more, or had direct physical contact with the person — then those students are also placed in quarantine for 14 days.

Regardless of any test result, students who are close contacts will complete the full 14 days of quarantine as that is the incubation period for the coronavirus, according to Patterson.

Accommodations

Patterson said the university is doing all they can to ensure the experience is as stress-free as possible and there has to be a proper reason for a student to be subject to quarantine.

According to Patterson, once a student is placed in quarantine someone from the university will notify their faculty members to allow remote learning to be instituted for the duration of their quarantine period.

Students in the same position as Roy are assigned a point-of-contact to follow up with them each day of their quarantine.

Roy said she had a staff member from student life assigned to check in her each day.

“A lot of my professors were super helpful in reaching out

to me, making sure they were livestreaming the classes if they were hybrid, recording them if they weren’t already and being really accommodating to everything I needed for the past couple of weeks,” Roy said.

In addition to aid from professors, students in quarantine have access to a meal ordering and delivery service.

“Students can go online to order their meals and dining services deliver those,” Patterson said. “If a student has a meal plan, we just take it off their meal swipes. If not, we put it on their student [account], but they don’t have to pay for it immediately. We make sure they have meals.”

According to Roy, a link was sent to students in quarantine to order meals each day.

“You could order up to three meals each day, selecting anything from the Lakeside [Dining Hall] menu and [dining services] would deliver it to your door,” Roy said. “You just had to order what you wanted by 5 p.m. the day before.”

Roy said the meals she had during quarantine were free because she had a meal plan, but according to Patterson, if the student does not have a meal plan, the meal costs are charged to the student’s account.

Patterson said Student Life is constantly clarifying and working with their partners at the health departments to make sure students in quarantine have everything they need.

“The most helpful part was having someone through the Elon health services that reached out to me every day to check in, update me, and answer any of my questions which was nice,” Roy said.

According to Patterson, faculty learned from students in quarantine that dining staff had a hard time getting to students staying in residence halls, and they have since adjusted protocols to ensure that would no longer be an issue.

Patterson said daily check-ins with students ensure all their needs are being met.

“

WE KNOW IT IS REALLY HARD FOR STUDENTS, BUT THOSE WHO ARE COVID-POSITIVE OR DIRECT CONTACTS SHOULD NEVER LEAVE AND GO HOME

JANA LYNN PATTERSON
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT LIFE



BELLA ROY
SOPHOMORE WHO PREVIOUSLY WENT INTO QUARANTINE



JANA LYNN PATTERSON
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT LIFE

“If they are running out of shampoo, toothpaste or basic necessities, we make sure we get that over to them,” Patterson said.

After Quarantine

Faculty and staff from Student Life are committed to taking care of their students, according to Patterson.

“Every time a student comes out of quarantine, we do an assessment with them,” Patterson said. “92% of those students were satisfied or very satisfied with what they had. When things have not gone right, we have learned from students.”

Individuals that have tested positive for COVID-19 will not only be followed up with by university staff, but the county and state as well, according to Patterson.

Patterson said the biggest thing students have control over during this time is not being a close contact and following all guidelines the university and state have set.

According to Patterson, the demographic on Elon’s campus is one where individuals can be very asymptomatic, and she suggested students assume everyone is positive and never let down on safety measures: wearing a mask at all times, being six feet or more apart at all times and for less than 15 minutes cumulative.

“Students have agency,” Patterson said. “Students have empowerment over that. It is really important that students follow all of these health guidelines because that’s going to make you least likely to get close enough, long enough to someone that might be positive.”

Roy said that she was content with her experience and believed that Elon did everything they could to ensure she was being supported.

“It is kind of hard to not go a little stir crazy though when you’re doing your classes, eating and living and sleeping all in the same space,” Roy said. “I am just grateful that I wasn’t sick. I would rather be bored than sick.”

SGA

FIRST YEAR CANDIDATES

FRESHMEN STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION elections will begin on Monday, Sept. 14 at 9 a.m. and will continue until Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 5 p.m. The results will be announced an hour after voting closes at 6 p.m. All voting will be done through Phoenix Connect.



Gabby Gutierrez
President

"I want to ensure that Elon's sense of community and respect on and off campus is maintained even with our current situation. Even if we may not be having completely in-person classes and activities or a regular start to the year, we are still connected as a community. I want to work to find a sense of normalcy for all of us in these uncertain times."



Andrew Lymm
President

"College is supposed to be the best four years of our lives. My goal is to make sure that remains true. I think that Elon is a great university with so much potential to be better. Let's work together to make it the best."



Jackson Schubert
President

"These last few months have made it evident that empathetic and strong leadership is needed now more so than ever. As first-year class president, I will work to improve the growth and development of Elon students as a diverse, engaged, ethical and caring community."



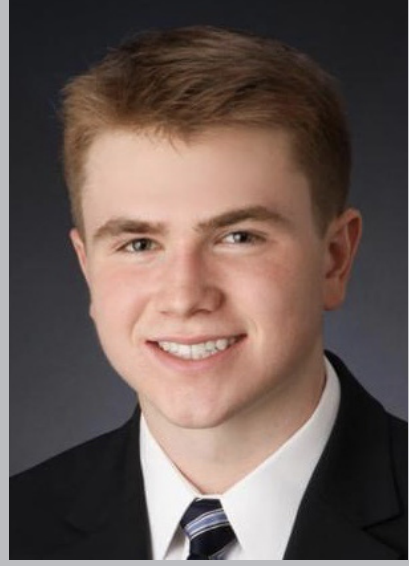
Charlotte Mattimiro
President

"I am running for freshman president because my passion for politics inspires me to make positive change in our Elon community while keeping us safe and healthy. I value inclusive communication and know when to take a step back and listen to those around me, while also taking the lead when necessary. Every student brings something valuable to Elon, and I believe I am the candidate who can make their ideas heard."



Leo Darling
President

"I Intend to work with students to devise innovative ways to connect with each other within the Covid-19 restrictions and provide them with a voice for their suggestions and concerns on how we accomplish this."



Trevor Boehm
President

"I am running for freshman class president because I want my fellow classmates to have a say in decisions made here at Elon. Students should be able to offer their advice or concerns regarding decisions which will affect the student body."



Xaun Huynh
Senator

"Passionate about community development and peacebuilding, I'm motivated to represent the Asian community and amplify the voices of BIPOC students. I aim to apply my skills gained from community organizing and youth development to serve on the Student Inclusive Campus Committee. There, I plan to collaborate with organizations that promote racial and ethnic diversity in order to spearhead racial justice initiatives. Vote Xuan Huynh for Senator!"



Brandon Fowlin
Senator

"In an age where racial divisions are at an all-time high, I want to give voice to the underrepresented and work towards building a more inclusive campus where no one feels afraid to share their views and we can all coexist in the community Elon has set forth for us."



Solan O'Malley
Senator

"What I want to accomplish is to help everyone, since everyone deserves a chance to be wanted and heard. I especially want to promote inclusivity; now feels like the hardest time to feel needed and part of something so I want to make that easier. I know I cannot do everything, but all I can promise is to do my very best."



**Nicholas
Ullian**
Vice President

“Elon’s Class of 2024 is having a unique introduction to college life. In spite of this, my first three weeks at Elon have been among the best in my life. I am excited to take a leadership role to represent our class as new policies and procedures are put into place. I want to represent my classmates so we have a voice in these decisions. I also look forward to becoming a resource to help my classmates take advantage of all Elon has to offer. Most importantly, it is my goal to make sure that all of our classmates feel included, wanted and recognize that they are an important member of the Elon community. I look forward to working hard on behalf of the class of 2024.”



**Chloe
Higgins**
Vice President

“My value for authentic change and motivation to ignite progress has influenced me to run for vice president. I strive to be an advocate for others and desire to see everyone’s ideas represented. It would be an honor to serve as a leader in our Elon community.”



**William
Wood**
Vice President

“I believe that Elon is not just another higher education institute, but a community for all. Student Government Association is a great place for change, but not everyone has the chance to be heard. That’s something that I want to shake up. I pride myself of being sociable, and I love having conversations with others in which both parties can grow. Elon is for everyone, not just a few select people, and I believe this is a place in which everyone deserves a voice. As the vice president of the class of 2024, I take it upon myself to engage in dialogue with both my fellow student body and the Student Government Association in order for the values and desires of our entire class to be best reflected.”



**Whitney
McDonnell**
Vice President

I served as student body president at my high school last year, where my agenda was geared toward promoting inclusivity. This involved merging our SGA’s efforts with the school’s Social Justice Committee to ensure that every student had representation. As VP for the Elon Class of 2024, I want to give a platform for diverse voices so that everyone feels like they have a place here and a say in their government. Given the events of this summer, which threw our nation’s values into stark relief, it is clear that focusing on equity and inclusion is needed now more than ever. Change starts with us, the class of 2024, and I believe we can make a positive impact on the greater Elon community.



**Patrick
Burke**
Vice President

“Hi everyone! My name is Patrick Burke, I am running for vice president of the class of 2024! If elected I will take time to listen to concerns or ideas present by the student body and work with those to make our experience amazing!



**Genesis
Tolbert**
Secretary

“Along with my duty as secretary, I plan to promote inclusivity, strengthen our Elon community, and actively listen to every student’s opinions and concerns. Together we will stimulate positive change.”



**Demetria
Hall**
Secretary

“Vote Demetria Hall as freshman class secretary! Determined, enthusiastic, motivated, inclusive and creative, she’s your star candidate!”



**Abby
Wright**
Secretary

I’m Abby Wright and I’m running for class secretary. After our chaotic yet underwhelming end to senior year, I want to work to make sure that the class of 2024 has an amazing four years at Elon. As secretary, I will work to promote collaboration across Elon’s many organizations to help students meet others and branch out. I will listen to my peers and initiate change that will ensure the class of 2024 feels safe and at home at Elon.



**Avery
Paulen**
Secretary

“Being a brand new student, the energy I felt when I first got to campus was contagious and I want to bring that same energy to the class of 2024, keeping social distancing guidelines in mind. One of my main initiatives as secretary would be to come up with different Zoom events and programming that will engage the entire class, combining the Elon culture with a sense of community.”



**Daria
Lapidus**
Senator

“I hope to connect with the student body and hear individual stories of resilience to create an atmosphere where students can admit if they are struggling and speak openly about mental health. I want everyone to know that your voice and your experiences matter.”



**Britt
Mobley**
Senator

“I want to make positive change. Especially in the times that we’re in, we need leadership that will continue to strive for progress in our community! Whether it be racial justice issues, issues that pertain to gender equality, COVID or any other issues that you feel are affecting the living and learning environment of Elon, I am here to be your voice. While this job takes someone who is confident and accountable, you also need someone who is willing to listen and keep an open mind. So I hope that you, specifically the class of 2024, will join me in making Elon a better and brighter place.”



**Alexandra
Borda**
Senator

“I believe in students having a voice to build an equitable Elon. Diversity and inclusion on campus will be my top priorities, allowing for different students of different backgrounds to share their perspectives and values. Together, we can continue to build an accepting and uplifting campus that benefits every student.”

LIFESTYLE

Pandemic messes with in-person connections

Sociology Professor Thomas Arcaro suggests difficult replacement for face-to-face interactions

Quinn Corrigan
Elon News Network | @quinn_corrigan

A key component of every introduction to sociology class is the “looking glass self,” a concept created by American sociologist Charles Horton Cooley. The looking glass self describes how people develop their characters from interactions with others. But due to COVID-19 physical distancing regulations, interactions with others have changed, leaving some to wonder what the long-term impact on mental health and interpersonal relations will be.

Elon University professor of sociology Thomas Arcaro said that the lack of social interaction may have an effect on people’s sense of self. Arcaro has been teaching sociology at Elon for 35 years, and has developed a deeper understanding of person-to-person interactions through his studies. Arcaro said he connects the looking glass self to a mirror.

“Everyone around us is a mirror — is a looking glass — and we have our sense of self affirmed and even modified by the feedback we get from others,” Arcaro said.

Arcaro said that people may not notice a difference in themselves overnight; it is instead a gradual process. He refers to it as “death by one thousand cuts.” Arcaro said that the looking glass theory becomes flawed in times when people cannot interact as much as they are used to.

“Spending a week in isolation, not being able to physically touch your friends or only being with family; each of those moments

alone are not traumatizing, but over time we feel exhausted, anxious, stressed,” Arcaro said.

Freshman Catherine Valente was in isolation for her first three days of college after showing symptoms of COVID-19 upon her arrival to campus.

“It wasn’t that I missed social interaction, it was the fact that if I wanted to hang out with friends and meet new people, I couldn’t,” Valente said.

For some people, Arcaro said that a lack of social interaction may not have a lasting impact, but for others, it can change their sense of self and future interactions. These two different types of people are often described as “inner-directed” and “other-directed.”

“Inner-directed people don’t need validation from the outside world, whereas other-directed need that input from others,” Arcaro said.

Although Valente considers herself inner-directed, she said it was still tough not being able to be with people for a few days. As if being in isolation was not difficult enough, Valente said it has also been harder to get to know people with all of the physical distancing restrictions.

“It is very hard to meet people or even build a connection with the face masks on and limited social events,” Valente said.

Arcaro said the feeling of disconnect many people are experiencing can lead people to have a sense of malaise, or general discomfort.

With apps like Facetime, Zoom and Skype, people are still able to connect with people on a much smaller scale. Arcaro said that this type of interaction can help ease social anxiety, but will not fill the void.

“They are just a picture on the screen, it is so much different both physically and mentally when you are directly interacting with someone,” Arcaro says.

While Arcaro said he could not speak to the impact the pandemic has had on mental



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

Students gather in Snow Atrium in Schar Hall to do work while maintaining social distancing measures on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

“

IT IS VERY HARD TO MEET PEOPLE OR EVEN BUILD A CONNECTION WITH THE FACE MASKS ON AND LIMITED SOCIAL EVENTS

CATHERINE VALENTE
FRESHMAN

health as a whole, a recent study done by Dartmouth suggests that the impact may be widespread in the future.

Despite many ways to connect virtually, the report suggests that mental health is still affected by the lack of in-person interactions. This study found that students were more anxious and depressed at the time when many were sent home and switched online last spring.

Arcaro said he believes that within the next few years there will be an abundance of scholarly articles that analyze how the changes in communication during the pandemic have affected people.

Irish step dance teammates reflect on past performances

Juniors explain what it takes to be part of the Elon University Irish Step Dance Team

Livi Lesch
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Hands on her hips, Elon junior Ellie Mitchell alternated between light kicking and agile jumps while on stage alongside her peers, the rest of the Elon Irish Step Dancing Team. While the spotlights’ beam descended onto their costumes at the 2020 Spring Relay for Life, the team soaked up the audience’s praise. After the celebratory dance concluded, Mitchell took a moment to observe how the team’s hard work paid off in the crowd’s reaction.

Mitchell and Kate Batchelder, a junior on the team, both regard the most memorable part of that evening as feeling the energy from the crowd post-performance.

“It was our first time in front of an audience that semester and we had so many new members, so getting to perform all together for the first time was so much fun,” Batchelder said. “So many of our friends came to support us and relay, and it was a lot of fun for a great cause.”

Mitchell also shares similar regards about the team’s performance at Relay for Life.

“[Relay for Life] was our first performance of the new year, and we were very excited to show off some of our new routines,” Mitchell said. “We saw lots of our friends from the crowd, which was very fun for them to cheer us on. It is always exciting for us to perform for our peers and put on a good show. We were really proud of ourselves and how our performance went after many hours of practice before.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIZABETH MITCHELL

Members of the Irish step club get ready to perform at the International Food and Dance Festival, which was hosted by the Elon International Society in March 2020.

Irish dancing consists of a combination of rapid footwork and a still upper body. It is based on traditional Celtic dance forms. In Ireland, the dance is a means of expressing nationalism. It grew in prominence in the late 19th century when many Irish people immigrated to America.

Mitchell and Batchelder both described the preparation for performances as a communal effort. All members are welcome to create their own routines and pitch ideas for the performance.

“We do all our own choreography,” Batchelder said. “We get together in the studio and choose music, and then anyone can suggest ideas. Our dances are bits and pieces of everyone’s ideas, which is really fun when it all comes together.”

While the Irish Step Dancing Team does not compete, they do perform each semester

at events around Elon’s campus. Since her freshman year, Mitchell said she has seen very few changes to the team other than minor changes in routine and choreography. The team’s relaxed environment is one of the aspects that drew in Batchelder.

“I don’t think the team presents many challenges, which is what’s so nice about it,” Batchelder said. “We understand that some weeks are just busy, and we don’t make practices or performances mandatory so everyone can just have fun.”

This semester, however, does pose the challenge of how to practice from a distance. Mitchell said that while there are not any concrete plans yet, there will still be opportunities for people to participate on the team.

“My favorite part is performing for people and putting a smile on their face,” Mitchell

“

WE DO ALL OUR OWN CHOREOGRAPHY. WE GET TOGETHER IN THE STUDIO AND CHOOSE MUSIC, AND THEN ANYONE CAN SUGGEST IDEAS. OUR DANCES ARE BITS AND PIECES OF EVERYONE’S IDEAS, WHICH IS REALLY FUN WHEN IT ALL COMES TOGETHER

KATE BATCHELDER
JUNIOR

said. “I joined the dance team here freshman year because I wanted to continue my passion for dance and thought it would be a nice way to make friends who share the same passion as me.”

While both Mitchell and Batchelder have years of experience in Irish dancing, they said that the team welcomes newcomers of varying experience.

“I think the best part of being on the team is the friendships we’ve made. We love hanging out together at practice, going out to get ice cream together, or watching movies,” Batchelder said. “We have dancers from all skill levels and we love being able to perform for fun without the pressure.”

OPINIONS



NYAH PHENGSIITHY | DESIGN CHIEF

CAMPUS VOICES



Matthew Barker
Freshman

One of the girls in my hall introduced herself on move-in day. I was overjoyed to have found somebody to talk to. We spoke for a while, and then she gestured to the crowd at the end of the hall. She asked me which one of the masked strangers was my roommate.

I squinted at the cluster of covered faces and told her the truth: “I have no idea.”

I’d already met him and walked the entire Historic Neighborhood with him, and still I struggled to pinpoint which of the veiled faces was his. That experience, coupled with one I had the next day, when I suddenly didn’t recognize the unmasked people I’d sat down to dinner with, made it clear that not only was I in a new place, but everything about how the new place operated was now completely new as well.

We freshmen have been tasked with navigating one of the most considerable junctions in our lives with the added challenge of not being able to catalogue the physical features of our peers. We’ve been stripped of arguably the most valuable thing a social creature can have: recognition. Most of the people we’ve met thus far are only identifiable to us from the nose up.

Face masks are a necessary accessory, and I’m greatly appreciative for the mask policies here at Elon. But they’re also, in simplest terms, the worst things ever. They’re the most frustrating, agonizing, terrible, awful, horrible, annoying things we’ve ever consistently forgotten on our way out the door. They either fit too snugly or they slip down our noses. They turn our ears red and make our cheeks break out. And, worst of all, they mockingly force the vision-impaired among us to view life through a hot, foggy haze.

Through the first weeks of classes, in a fantastic demonstration of unity and school pride, we’ve all endured the torture of mask-wearing. But, I’ve realized something: these masks aren’t torture devices. They’re a blessing, albeit a sweaty one. As dreadful as they can be, they’re invitations for us to start honing the qualities that make us proud to be who we are.

To begin with, there are tremendous everyday benefits to wearing the infuriating things. A mask is — among other things — an untapped opportunity for a fashion statement, a perfect place to secure advertising deals, a provider of a free, under-the-radar breath-checking service, a sneeze-muffler and a private place for tongue-rolling practice. But their nondescript goodness yields something a little more philosophically advantageous as well.

Throughout my life, the dangers of wearing a figurative “mask,” a disguise or a false-face put on to hide my feelings of inferiority, were made painfully clear to me. There were plenty of times I acted like somebody completely different so as not to let the

real me shine through. This type of mask, of course, was completely invisible to everyone else, but I hid behind it anyway.

Right now, living in a world where masks are no longer intangible self-soothers but mandatory pieces of apparel, it’s become even easier for us to slip into complacency and use our mask as a shield. At the same time, however, we’re all going through the same thing. We can all see the masks. And, most essentially, we’re learning how to interact despite their presence, overcompensating for the speech barrier by talking louder and making our motions more illustrative. That’s why, unlike the metaphorical masks that hide who we know we are, these real-life ones are presenting us with a chance to cultivate exactly who we want to be.

Teachers are leaning in closer to hear what we have to say, so we may as well give them something worth listening to. If we do, they may remember our name because of the great response we give, not because we sit in the same seat every day. Our peers are trying to find new confidants, and it couldn’t hurt to show them through our actions that we can be excellent friends. A whole new social concept is emerging on campus. Shallow relationships are on hiatus. Deep, meaningful connections are ripe for the picking.

Our eyes, for example, which are so often shoved aside to the recesses of conversation, are now our chief modes of expression. I, personally, have noticed for the first time in my life what color eyes my classmates have. It’s fascinating how much people say with those things, and how much easier it is to relate to them when they use them to tell their story.

We’re being forced to either cower behind our face mask and take cover or become an authentic version of ourselves. We can stay concealed and peek out over our covering as the world passes by, or we can take a deep breath, loosen up, and tell ourselves we’re proud of what we have to offer. I think it’s time to express our signature aspects without restraint and connect with those around us in a completely new way.

My point is simply that we have a chance to stand out using our talents, our words, and our actions as opposed to solely our looks, which many of us aren’t always comfortable exhibiting.

Sure, there’s always the chance that somebody will forget meeting us or confuse us with somebody else, but faces start to blend together at some point anyway. It’s our deeds that set us apart.

People remember us because we say insightful things, sit with them at lunch, listen to their concerns and make them laugh. They watch us create things and they value their relationships with us. Popularity and recognition, however each

of us define them for ourselves, are not gained because we have good teeth or strong cheekbones. They are a product of the things we do. When we do outstanding things, our own ideal version of notoriety will find us.

It’s incredibly difficult to act like a person without any inhibitions, but now is as good a time as ever to give it a shot. Turn around and talk to the next person in line. Start a card game at your masked, distanced gathering. Sit up front in class and try answering one of your professor’s trick questions. Smile (with your eyes) at random people as you walk by. Audition for something and leave it all out there. Show up to a club meeting in a superhero costume. Tell somebody else to put their mask on. Do the things you’d do if nobody could make fun of you.

We’re collectively incognito. Granted, our cheeks are breaking out and we’re all going to contract sunburns on the upper halves of our faces, but we can let down our guard. Our faces are virtually invisible when we’re not on Zoom, so there’s no need in feeling self-conscious about them — or any part of us, for that matter. If we can eliminate our insecurities now, under the security of a concealing guise, there may not be any need to feel insecure at all when we finally get to strip our masks off and breathe in the sweet North Carolina air.

So let’s think of it like a free pass to try becoming who we believe we are. We’ll tell jokes, sing in public, dance in the dining halls. We’ll be something new. And if people think we’re crazy, who cares?

Nobody knows what we look like anyway.

SCAN TO READ
MORE OPINIONS ONLINE
OR VISIT
ELONNEWSNETWORK.COM



1. Open your phone camera
2. Focus on the QR code
3. Click the pop-up link

DIVERSITY IN ATHLETICS

The experience of one athlete and athletics’ place on Elon’s campus

Caitlin Rundle
Sports Director | @caitlinr_21

Chuck Hannah was just a high schooler when he started to become aware of what “code-switching” was. Growing up in suburban areas, the now-Elon University junior and men’s basketball player found himself changing his appearance and actions to fit in with his peers.

“If I’m in a professional environment, I’m not going to be wearing a do-rag, I’m not gonna be wearing a hoodie or anything like that. I’m gonna fit the professional image of a button-down and trying to really pronounce my words, not using slang terms and things like that,” Hannah said.

Hannah said he felt pressured to act this way because he already came into school being of “a lesser group,” as he described it. He didn’t want to fit the stereotype of “being a Black kid from the inner city.”

“I kind of realized, like, ‘This isn’t normal, this isn’t something I should have to do,’ but it’s what I felt like I needed to do,” Hannah said. “I’ve literally had people telling me like, ‘Hey, you’re not what I expected you to be.’ When you hear that, that’s when you know that you’ve done a really good job at code switching, or people just don’t try and take the extra mile to get to know you besides looking at you and having their own biases about you.”

Now at Elon, he’s felt more accepted as a person of color because of his constant exposure with other people of color within athletics. The men’s basketball team of 14 players features 10 people of color, with high ratios in women’s basketball and football as well.

“I’m not trying to discredit any sport, but I do feel like athletics as a whole does contribute a lot to the university’s overall percentage of people of color,” Hannah said. “At the same time, even though we are growing everything, it’s nice to form relationships outside of athletics. I think that with things like the [Center for Race, Ethnicity & Diversity Education] and stuff like that, those resources that are in place to support people of color are helpful as well.”

Faith Shearer, senior women’s administrator and chief diversity officer within the athletic department, said athletics play a special role in Elon University’s diversity. She said athletics not only has a high percentage of people of color, but also has a high percentage of first-generation students, international students and students in lower socioeconomic strata.

“Generally, it’s right around 35 to 36% of the African American males or the Black males on campus are student-athletes, and it’s sort of lingered around 20% of the Black female students on campus,” Shearer said. “When I got to Elon many years ago, that number was actually above 40%, at one point, for Black male students.”

Hannah said he has recognized the efforts made by the university to increase diversity on campus since he came to Elon. He has had insightful conversations with Elon President Connie Book where she has talked about her commitment to change the school’s culture and try to make students of color on campus feel more comfortable. As both Shearer and Hannah said, however, student-athletes can face their own forms of discrimination on college campuses.

“I think that their experience here certainly has something to do with their identity as who they are racially, but also being a student-athlete,” Shearer said. “Just like there are stereotypes for any other group, there are stereotypes for athletes as well. In some cases, our students of color are carrying around both sets of stereotypes.”

Hannah said he sometimes does face a sort



Elon men’s basketball team after their game against the Northeastern Huskies at their CAA tournament in Washington, D.C. in March 2020. Currently, of the 14 men’s players, there are 10 people of color. Forward Chuck Hannah has talked about how he feels that athletics as a whole contributes to Elon’s overall percentage of people of color.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

Elon University junior and forward Chuck Hannah became more aware of “code-switching” during his high school years, but since arriving at Elon has felt more accepted about who he is.



“

I’M NOT TRYING TO DISCREDIT ANY SPORT, BUT I DO FEEL LIKE ATHLETICS AS A WHOLE DOES CONTRIBUTE A LOT TO THE UNIVERSITY’S OVERALL PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE OF COLOR

CHUCK HANNAH
JUNIOR MEN’S BASKETBALL PLAYER

of athletic discrimination, something he said he feels when people assume that he plays basketball or assumes he plays a sport.

“Sometimes I kind of do this thing where, like, I’m trying to mess with people a little bit when they assume I play basketball. I tell them I did, like, water polo or something just to see how they react. If they lean backwards, then I’m like, ‘Alright, cool, I just broke every bias you had towards me,’” Hannah said.

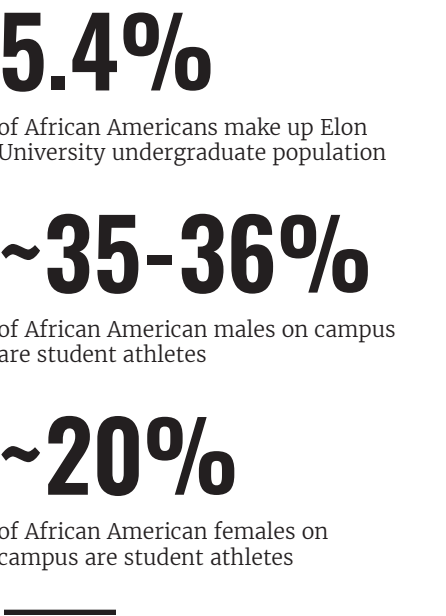
“Growing up, I had teachers in middle school ... the first time they ever spoke to me and they told me, like, ‘Do you know what I’m going to ask you correct?’ And I’m like, ‘I don’t know what you’re gonna ask me. I don’t know who you are.’ And they said, ‘Do you play basketball?’” Hannah said. “Why is it the first question that’s asked to me instead of like, ‘Oh, is it your first year here?’”

This summer, Hannah and the members of the Elon athletic community had conversations about race relations due to the increase of Black Lives Matter protests in response to police brutality across America. Shearer said coaches have tried to have more conversations with their teams, and she also said that Elon Athletics is forming a diversity advisory committee to help lead these conversations.

On June 4, Elon Athletics hosted a discussion with all student- athletes and a panel of athletics coaches and staff, university staff, a retired highway patrol trooper, local pastors, and a former Elon student- athlete of Elon and former town of Elon police chief. At the end of the discussion, everyone was given a domino. Chuck Hannah, a junior and men’s basketball player, was at the discussion, and has kept that domino in his bag since the discussion.

“The whole point was for it to flip every day, and that symbolizes that you’ve impacted

BY THE NUMBERS



one person or somebody throughout that day,” Hannah said. “So I keep it in my bag and I look at it. I open up the front part of my bag to see if it’s flipped sides. Then if it does, I think about the whole day and what I’ve done to maybe have it flip sides.”

Professional sports teams across the United States have taken part in “silent protests” that include kneeling during the national anthem, taking a moment of silence once a game starts and even walking off the field or court during play. Hannah said that although his team has not specifically talked about silent protests yet, he said that if the team does decide to participate in one, he does not fear resistance from his coaching staff. He said they are “all on the same page.”

“When talking about race relations, when talking about Black Lives Matter, anything that involves injustices that are going on, it’s important to understand that it’s not, it’s really not a political issue,” Hannah said. “It’s just asking for people like me and myself to just be seen on an equal playing field, not that when we start the race I’ll start 50 yards back compared to somebody that way.”



Elon University now senior and guard Ariel Colón goes on a fast break against the Winston-Salem Rams in Schar Center on Nov. 5, 2019. Over the summer, members of the athletic community had more conversations about race relations and forming a diversity advisory committee to help lead the conversations.



Elon University now redshirt senior and punter Hunter Stephenson punts the ball to the Maine Black Bears in Rhodes Stadium on Nov. 9, 2019. While Elon football is preparing for a possible spring season, Stephenson stressed the importance of staying motivated during this time to the rest of the team.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

Football veterans step up as leaders during delayed season with hopes of a future in the pros

Jon Sarver Jr.
Elon News Network | @sarver_jon

As Elon football sets its sights on a spring season after the coronavirus pandemic squashed a traditional fall campaign, head coach Tony Trisciani said that he is impressed by the leadership his veterans have displayed while preparing for the spring season.

“I’m impressed with our seniors and our senior leadership. As challenging as it’s been, those guys have really focused on what’s important, and that’s team unity, player development and healthy habits. You know, keeping COVID out of our locker room,” Trisciani said. “So really, those three things are what we’ve been focused on and our guys have really stepped up.”

Redshirt senior punter Hunter Stephenson stressed the importance of staying motivated over the coming months.

“I can teach these guys that we’ve got a great team, we’ve got a great coaching staff. And it really only gets better from when you come in freshman year to when you get to my age,” Stephenson said. “So it’s all about really keeping these guys motivated and hungry and showing them that we do have the opportunity to do something special.”

Redshirt senior tight end Donovan Williams is entering his first season with the Phoenix after transferring from the University of Connecticut. While Williams is new to the team, he brings four years of college football experience from his previous school. In his role as a leader, he said it is important to

remain focused during this long delay.

“I think the biggest thing is just not to be too wide-eyed and have tunnel vision focused on that ultimate goal, and that is getting back on the field and just being able to play,” Williams said. “I think if you attack each day with that same mentality, keep a consistent schedule, keeping consistent work ethic and everything else takes care of itself.”

Due to the NCAA Board of Governors deciding that this season will not contribute to an athlete’s eligibility, veteran leaders like Stephenson and Williams will have the opportunity to remain with Elon for another season. Both redshirt seniors expressed an interest in pursuing a football career after college, as has senior quarterback Davis Cheek.

Cheek said that his desire is to pursue a career in the NFL after college, but his present focus still remains with the Phoenix.

“There’s a pretty good chance that I can play in the spring and then come back for the fall for [what] would be truly my final year of eligibility. So I mean, if that’s the case, that’d be awesome. And I’d love to do that,” Cheek said. “My personal goal is to play in the NFL, but at the end of the day, my personal goals don’t outweigh the team goals. So whatever works best for the team, that’s more what I try to do and that’s what I usually stick to.”

Williams noted that remaining with the team an extra season could benefit his development as well.

“Obviously, I’m gonna play in the spring and then it was a no-brainer after talking to Coach A — Coach Acitelli — and Coach Trisciani that it’d be best for me and a bunch of other guys that come back for that extra year,” Williams said. “And that’s just another year of

“IT’S ALL ABOUT REALLY KEEPING THESE GUYS MOTIVATED AND HUNGRY AND SHOWING THEM THAT WE DO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOMETHING SPECIAL.”

HUNTER STEPHENSON
REDSHIRT SENIOR PUNTER

experience, another year to play for a championship, have a successful season and then develop our individual game.”

Trisciani expressed a similar sentiment when discussing what it could mean to the individual players and team if they elect to come back for another season.

“For our guys, this is really a blessing in disguise for them to help develop their skills and get the numbers in the production that are important to be NFL players and prospects,” Trisciani said.

Moving forward, Cheek said the key to finding success for himself is to help his team succeed.

“I think that we’re building a really good team to where everyone’s taking that process very seriously. So I think that we can have team

BY THE NUMBERS

9 seniors and one graduate student are on the football team making them about a 10th of the players on the team.

success and if we have team success, then that means personal success for everyone involved,” Cheek said. “And that’s more that’s more the way that I see it. Is not as much, ‘Hey, I want to go out and get mine.’ More, ‘Hey, I want to go out. And I want to facilitate so that way everyone on our team gets everything they want.”



Elon University now senior and quarterback Davis Cheek throws the ball during a game against the Delaware Blue Hens on Oct. 12, 2019. While Cheek’s dream is to make it to the NFL, his focus remains with the Phoenix as he is able to play this spring and come back next fall for his final year of eligibility.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

INTERESTED
IN LIVING
OFF CAMPUS?
ACT QUICK!

PROVENCE AT 807 EAST HAGGARD | EVELLIEN AT 223 LAWRENCE STREET
More economical than living on campus!

PROVENCE & EVELLIEN TOWNHOMES & APARTMENTS

(336) 266-6666 | www.evellien.com

NOW SOLAR POWERED!

Provence is now completely solar powered with solar panels installed throughout the entire complex.



WASHER/DRYER IN EACH UNIT | WALKING DISTANCE TO CAMPUS | 4 BEDROOMS