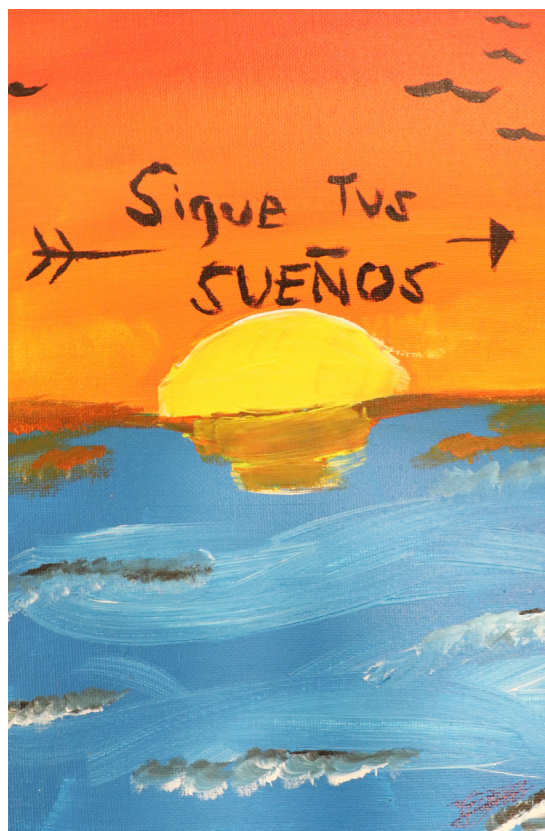
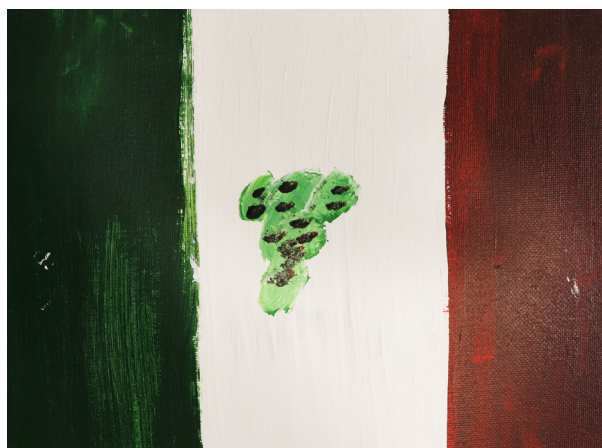


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THE PENDULUM



SYLVIA MUÑOZ, DIRECTOR OF EL CENTRO
Estas pinturas son del evento “Pinta mi Latinidad” donde los estudiantes pintaron su interpretación de la identidad Latinx/Hispana.

EXPANDIENDO LA COMUNIDAD Latinx de Elon con El Centro

EXPANDING ELON'S Latinx community with El Centro



SYLVIA MUÑOZ, DIRECTOR OF EL CENTRO
These paintings came from the “Paint mi Latinidad” in which students painted their Latinx and Hispanic identity.

Grace Terry & Hannah Massen | [Elon News Network](https://ElonNewsNetwork.com) | @elonnewsnetwork



Por medio del Informe de un Grupo de Trabajo en el 2018, Elon University ha empezado a aumentar la inclusividad para los estudiantes Latinx/Hispanos

EL CENTRO— EL CENTRO para los estudiantes Latinos/Hispanos de Elon University - no era un lugar que Mackenzie Martínez creyó necesitar. Al llegar a la universidad, Martínez se sentía insegura sobre su identidad mexicana-americana, habiendo crecido en una comunidad de Virginia con muy pocas personas hispanas y sin hablar español como lengua materna.

“Yo pensé ‘No lo necesito,’ porque también existe el estereotipo de que los estudiantes de color solamente se relacionan con otros estudiantes de color,” dijo Martínez. “Yo dije, no,

yo quiero ser parte de toda la comunidad de Elon.”

Pero Martínez sintió que le faltaba algo, así que comenzó a involucrarse en El Centro al final de su segundo año. Martínez, ahora estudiante de último año, dijo que unirse al Centro le ha ayudado a sentirse “orgullosa” de su identidad.

“Cada persona se encuentra en un lugar diferente en lo que se refiere a su propia identidad y la identidad de cada persona se manifiesta de diferentes maneras”, dijo Martínez. “No existe una forma correcta de ser latina en los Estados Unidos.”

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After a 2018 Working Group Report, Elon University has begun to increase inclusivity for Latinx and Hispanic students

EL CENTRO — THE center for Elon University's Latinx and Hispanic students — was not a place Mackenzie Martínez thought she needed. Coming into college, Martínez was insecure about her Mexican-American identity, having grown up in a Virginia community with very few Hispanic people and not being a native Spanish speaker.

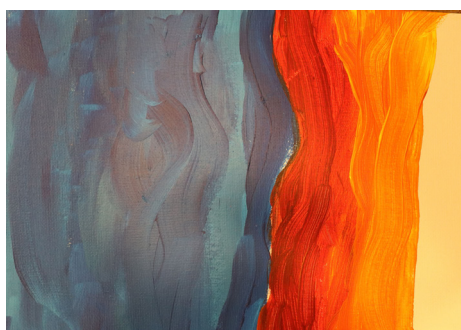
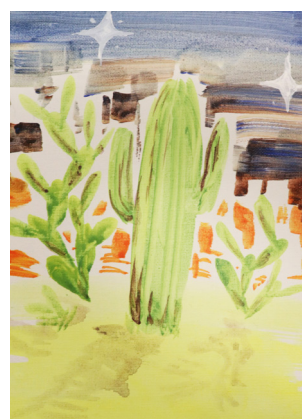
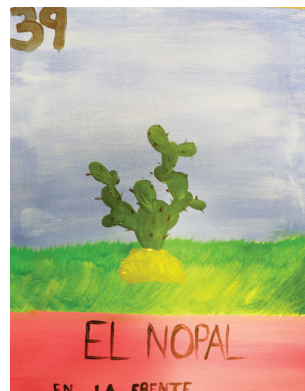
“I was kind of like, ‘I don't need that,’ because there's also the stereotype the students of color only hang out with other students of color,” Martínez said. “I

was like, no, I want to be part of the broader Elon community.”

But Martínez felt like something was missing, so she began getting involved with El Centro during the end of her sophomore year. Martínez, now a senior, said joining El Centro has helped her become more comfortable with her identity.

“Everyone's at a different place with their own identity and everyone's identity manifests in different ways,” Martínez said. “There's no right way to be a Latina in the U.S.”

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Colaboración del Centro con la Escuela de Ciencias de la Salud

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Voces de miembros del profesorado Latinx

LIFESTYLE • PAGE 6

Voices of the Latinx faculty members



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAULA DIBIASIO

Estudiantes del programa de Terapia Física de Elon durante el programa de oportunidades de aprendizaje global en Perú. Según Nan Yang, el programa de español conversacional para profesionales de la salud la prepara para trabajar en la industria después de la escuela y a conectarse mejor con los pacientes.

Elon Physical Therapy students who attended the global learning opportunities program in Peru. According to Nan Yang, Elon's Conversational Spanish for Health Care Professionals class better prepares her for working in the field after school to help better connect with her patients.

Los estudiantes de Ciencias de la Salud aprenden español para sus futuras carreras profesionales

Las clases de conversación para carreras de Ciencias de la Salud serán en línea este semestre

Rebecca Betterton

Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Existía la posibilidad de que las clases de conversación para profesionales de la salud no se llevaran a cabo este año debido a la pandemia.

Sin embargo, el programa de fisioterapia decidió continuar con las clases después de que Nan Yang, una estudiante de fisioterapia y la representante de diversidad, equidad e inclusión de la Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud de la Universidad de Elon, dijo que los estudiantes sintieron que este programa debería estar disponible, incluso si tuviera que hacerse de forma remota.

Las clases de conversación para profesionales de la salud se han dado durante los últimos tres años. Cada semana, los estudiantes de fisioterapia renuncian a su hora de almuerzo para avanzar en su comprensión de la cultura Latinx/Hispana y mejorar sus habilidades en el idioma.

Las clases de este año comenzarán el 28 de septiembre de forma remota.

Paula DiBiasio, Profesora Asociada de Educación en Fisioterapia y uno de los miembros de la comunidad de Elon que ayuda con el programa, dijo que reunirse de forma remota tiene sus beneficios porque ahora más estudiantes tendrán acceso al programa. Se puede lograr una mayor participación con Zoom, ya que muchos estudiantes se encuentran en diferentes partes de la comunidad trabajando en sus rotaciones clínicas.

La colaboración de El Centro en las clases, permite a los estudiantes estar mejor preparados para su trabajo después de la universidad, según Yang.

“La humildad cultural debe aprenderse como estudiante, no en el

trabajo”, dijo Yang.

Aunque Yang aún no habla con fluidez el español, ha ganado una nueva apreciación y comprensión de la cultura Latinx. Incluso pudo usar sus nuevas habilidades en español con uno de sus pacientes.

“Vi que sus ojos se iluminaron cuando hice algo tan simple como eso”, dijo Yang.

“

“LA HUMILDAD CULTURAL DEBE APRENDERSE COMO ESTUDIANTE, NO EN EL TRABAJO.

NAN YANG

LA REPRESENTANTE DE DIVERSIDAD, EQUITAD E INCLUSIÓN DE LA FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS DE LA SALUD DE LA UNIVERSIDAD

Más allá de las clases, Yang y otros estudiantes de ciencias de la salud participan en los eventos ofrecidos por El Centro durante todo el semestre.

Según DiBiasio, las reuniones a la hora del almuerzo son mucho más profundas que solo el aprendizaje del lenguaje. Ella dijo que los estudiantes que asisten a estas clases semanales aprenden a “sentirse cómodos con la incomodidad”, y los alumnos de la Escuela de Ciencias de la Salud de Elon incluso han optado por buscar puestos de trabajo donde se hable español después de su tiempo en El Centro.

“El aprender a interactuar con lo que es diferente, nos permite crear una atención médica más individualizada”, dijo DiBaisio.

Health Science students learn Spanish for prospective careers

Conversational Spanish for Health Care Professionals will be held remotely in the fall

There was a chance the Conversational Spanish for Health Care Professionals classes were not going to happen this year due to the pandemic.

However, the Physical Therapy program decided to continue with the classes after Nan Yang, a physical therapy student and the diversity, equity and inclusion representative of Elon University's School of Health Sciences said that students felt this program should be available, even if it had to be done remotely.

The school's Conversational Spanish for Health Care Professionals classes have been happening for the past three years. Each week, physical therapy students give up their lunch hour to advance their understanding of Latinx and Hispanic culture and improve their Spanish language skills.

The classes this year will begin on Sept. 28 remotely.

Paula DiBiasio, associate professor of physical therapy education and one of the members of the Elon community who helps with the program, said meeting remotely does have its benefits because more students will now have access to the program. Greater participation can happen over Zoom, as many students are in different parts of the community working on their clinical rotations.

The class, which is in partnership with El Centro, allows students to be better prepared for their work after school, according to Yang.

“Cultural humility needs to be learned as a student, not learned on the job,” Yang said.

Though Yang has not yet become a

fluent Spanish speaker, she still has a new appreciation and understanding of Hispanic culture. She was even able to use her new Spanish skills with one of her patients.

“I saw their eyes lightened because

“

CULTURAL HUMILITY NEEDS TO BE LEARNED AS A STUDENT, NOT LEARNED ON THE JOB.

NAN YANG

THE DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

of that simple thing I did,” Yang said.

Beyond classes, Yang and other health science students participate in the events offered by El Centro throughout the semester.

According to DiBiasio, the lunchtime meetings are much deeper than just language alone. She said students who attend these weekly classes learn how to “be comfortable with being uncomfortable,” and Elon School of Health Science alumni have even chosen to seek out Spanish-speaking positions after their work with El Centro.

“By engaging with difference, we can create more individualized healthcare,” DiBaisio said.

¿Qué significa para ti ser un

UN ESTUDIANTE LATINX?

What does it mean
TO BE LATINX?

Estudiantes de Elon comparten lo que significa para ellos ser estudiantes Latinx

El mes de la Herencia Hispana se celebra oficialmente del 15 de septiembre al 15 de octubre, y para celebrar, estudiantes de Elon University comparten lo que significa para ellos ser Latinx y cómo su cultura e identidad impactan su vida diariamente.

Elon students share what being Latinx means to them

Hispanic Heritage Month is officially observed from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 and in celebration, Elon University students share what it means to them to be Latinx and how their culture and identity impact their daily lives.

Miranda Ferrante | Elon News Network | @ferrantemiranda



Significa comer comida mexicana auténtica y deliciosa. Significa hablar con mi Abue sobre el clima y sus caminatas de la tarde. Significa conectarse con personas en lugares desconocidos. Significa estar orgullosa de tener una cultura tan colorida y vívida para compartir.

“It means eating delicious, authentic Mexican food. It means talking to my Abue about the weather and her mid-afternoon walks. It means connecting with people in unknown places. It means being proud to have such a vivid and colorful culture to share.”

“Estoy un poco en desacuerdo o por lo menos intentando encontrar un equilibrio con mi identidad hispana. No ‘parezco Latino’ ante los ojos de mucha gente. En casa o con mis parientes, soy ‘el gringo’. En clase o con mis amigos, soy el extranjero. Nací en Colombia y tengo doble ciudadanía. Hablo español, pero se me hace difícil escribir. Disfruto la comida regional, pero no la música. Soy americano, pero a veces no me siento así. Soy colombiano, pero a veces no me siento así. Hay una parte mía que a veces está escondida, que siempre me va a distinguir, esta parte que está en un constante cambio entre mis dos nacionalidades, pero que sigo aprendiendo a aceptarla. Es más que una nacionalidad o etnia, tiene que ver más con la familia, los valores, intereses y experiencias que con el lugar de nacimiento. Ser hispano en los Estados Unidos es un estado constante de tirar la cuerda de las dos culturas que han sido parte de mi vida. No quiero llegar a ningún acuerdo, porque tengo miedo de ser una dilución de mi herencia. Aunque recientemente, me he sentido más positivo de que mi dualidad es algo de lo que puedo estar orgulloso.”

“I am a little at odds or at least working to find a balance with my Hispanic identity. I don’t ‘look Latino’ to many people. At home or with my relatives, I’m the ‘gringo.’ In my classes or with my friends, I am the foreigner. I have dual citizenship, being born in Colombia. I speak Spanish, but I struggle to write it. I enjoy the regional foods, the music not so much. I’m American, but sometimes it doesn’t feel that way. I’m Colombian, but sometimes it doesn’t feel that way. There is a side of me that is sometimes hidden, that will always set me apart, that has to switch back and forth, that I am still learning to embrace. It is more than a nationality or an ethnicity — it has less to do with place of birth and more to do with family and values and interests and experiences. Being Hispanic in the United States has been a tug of war between the cultures I have known my whole life. I do not want to make compromises because I’m scared that I am a dilution of my heritage. Recently though, I’ve been more positive that this duality is something to be proud of.”



“Para mi, ser Latina es una conexión a mis raíces, mi familia, y mis ancestros. Es presente en cada parte de mi vida desde mi comida a mi aspecto. Significa ser parte de una comunidad grande que cuida si misma y celebra nuestra herencia compartida.”

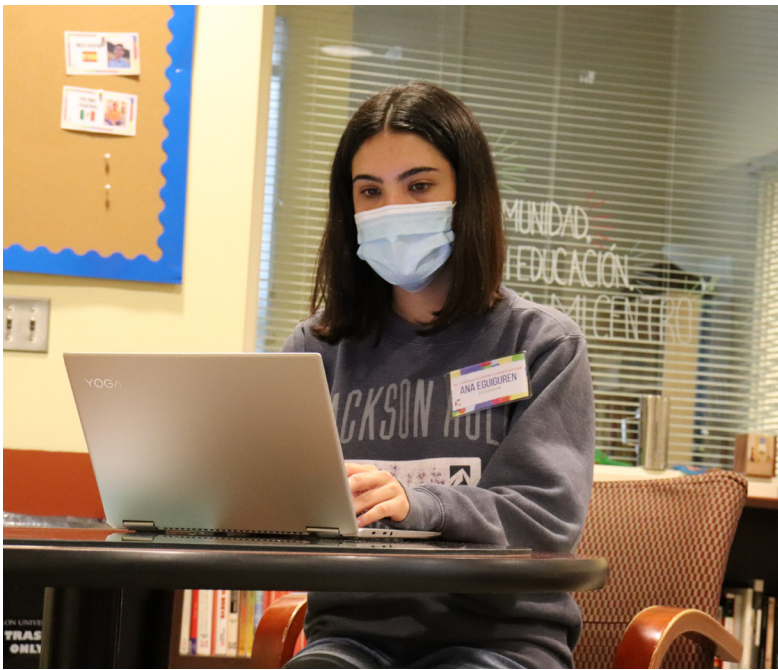
“For me, being Latina is a connection to my roots, my family and my ancestors. It is present in every part of my life from the food I eat to the way I look. It is about being part of a larger community that looks out for one another and celebrates our shared heritage.”

“Ser Latina, en una palabra, es familia. No importa a donde llegues, que lenguajes te encuentres, o en que mundo estés: a donde lleges tienes familia; no de sangre, pero de corazón.”

“Being Latina, in a word, is family. No matter where you arrive to, which languages you encounter or in which world you are, wherever you end up in, you’ll have a family; not of blood, but of heart.”



Aumentando la inclusividad para la comunidad Latinx



La estudiante de último año de Elon, Ana Eguiguren, trabaja en El Centro el viernes 18 de septiembre. El Centro se está transformando de un centro que se enfoca en la enseñanza del idioma a un centro Latinx/Hispano.

Elon's senior, Ana Eguiguren, works at El Centro on Friday, September 18. El Centro is transforming from a place that focuses on teaching language to a Latinx/Hispanic center.

REPORTE | de la portada

El Centro le brindó a Martinez un sentimiento de comunidad con otros estudiantes hispanos donde ella pudo aprender a sentirse “muy abierta y orgullosa” de su identidad, practicar su español y eventualmente obtener un trabajo como coordinadora estudiantil.

Si bien el Centro siempre ha sido un espacio que ha abogado por la educación de la cultura latina/hispana, siguiendo la recomendación del informe del Grupo de Trabajo Latino / Hispano del 2018, el Centro decidió cambiar su enfoque. Comenzaron a trabajar para crear un centro centrado en recursos para estudiantes que se identifican como latinos o hispanos.

Hay otras 46 recomendaciones que surgieron del Informe del Grupo de Trabajo del 2018, que fue escrito por un grupo de profesores, personal administrativo y estudiantes de Elon que utilizaron testimonios de estudiantes, profesores y personal así como investigación sobre prácticas ejemplares. Los temas principales incluyen admisiones y reclutamiento, ayuda estudiantil, éxito en Elon, comunicación y mensajería y profesores y personal administrativo latinos/hispanos.

Según el libro de datos de la universidad 2019-2020, 6.6% de los estudiantes de pregrado de Elon se identifican como Latinx/Hispanos, un aumento del 0.2% del 2017-2018 cuando se escribió el informe.

Las recomendaciones del informe son supervisadas por un equipo de implementación compuesto de profesores y personal administrativo con varios departamentos de la universidad, incluyendo admisiones y recursos humanos. Algunos miembros del equipo de implementación también estuvieron involucrados en la escritura del informe, como Sylvia Muñoz - la directora asociada del Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education y directora del Centro.

“Este informe no existe porque un día la administración se despertó y dijo,‘hablemos sobre esto’. Lo hicimos porque los estudiantes nos presionan todo el tiempo,” dijo Muñoz. “Cuando ellos piensan en programas o en presionar a la universidad sobre algo, también lo hacen pensando en otras comunidades que puede que sean

más pequeñas ahora, pero que con cualquier cambio que logremos hacer, también se van a beneficiar.”

Tener a los estudiantes en el centro del reporte no hizo el proceso de escritura más fácil. Muñoz dijo que fue doloroso escuchar a los estudiantes Latinos/Hispanos relatar incidentes de prejuicio y discriminación que experimentaron dentro y fuera de la clase.

“Ellos son resilientes, y ellos han estado teniendo éxito incluso antes del reporte”, dijo Muñoz. “Nos dimos cuenta de que estos estudiantes lo han estado haciendo increíblemente bien a pesar de todos los obstáculos, pero imagínense lo que podrían lograr si no los tuvieran.”

Ana Eguiguren, estudiante de último año, fue una de los estudiantes que aportó al reporte. Ella dijo que ha sido el blanco de muchos comentarios racistas durante su tiempo en Elon.

Un encuentro que Eguiguren recuerda fue el de un hombre blanco que, mientras ella caminaba hacia su casa, le dijo que parara de hablar español porque “estamos en América.”

“Tener ese miedo de no responder porque esta persona podría estar realmente loca o hacer algo, fue algo que me estremeció”, dijo Eguiguren. “Ni siquiera puedes defenderte.”

Eguiguren dijo que ella también ha estado en clase donde otros estudiantes han comentado, “Oh, hablas español con fluidez. ¿Por qué estás en esta clase?”

Según una encuesta hecha para el reporte del 2018, el 60% de los estudiantes Latinxs/Hispanos de Elon han recibido algún comentario despectivo, mientras que aproximadamente el 14% de los estudiantes blancos han tenido una experiencia similar.

Eguiguren dijo que durante su primer año ella tuvo dificultad en balancear los diferentes roles que el Centro jugaba en la comunidad de Elon, y ella se sintió “objetivada” por estudiantes que trataban de obtener entrevistas para sus proyectos.

“Me entrevistaban por media hora y nunca me volvían a hablar,” dijo Eguiguren.

Después de regresar de su año en el extranjero durante su tercer año, El Centro había cambiado su propósito.

“Regresé a este lugar donde no estamos para servir a otra gente. Estamos aquí para servirnos

a nosotros mismos en nuestra comunidad,” dijo Eguiguren.

El enfoque actual del equipo de implementación es asegurarse de que los estudiantes Latinos/Hispanos tengan lo que necesitan para tener éxito, incluyendo un espacio comunitario renovado. Una de las recomendaciones del informe menciona un plan de convertir el Centro en un Centro Latino.

Según Vanessa Bravo, profesora asociada de Comunicaciones y jefa del departamento de comunicaciones estratégicas, renovar el Centro beneficiaría más que solo a los estudiantes.

“Creo que es muy prometedor transformar El Centro en un Centro Latino, no solo por todas las posibilidades que se abren para los estudiantes, sino también para los profesores y el personal”, dijo Bravo. “También somos muy pocos ... piense en un lugar donde podamos interactuar mejor, apoyarnos mejor, apoyar a los estudiantes mucho mejor.”

Muñoz dijo que la universidad también está haciendo un esfuerzo para reclutar más estudiantes latinos/hispanos. El sitio web de El Centro y partes del sitio web de admisiones se están traduciendo al español, y los miembros del personal de admisiones ahora reciben capacitación sobre cómo abordar las preocupaciones específicas de los estudiantes latinos e hispanos y sus familias.

Bravo dijo que dos nuevos profesores Latinos fueron contratados el año pasado, así como un consejero quien fue contratado para interactuar con los estudiantes minoritarios del campus.

“Estamos ayudando a que Elon sea un mejor reflejo de la sociedad

donde vivimos,” dijo Bravo. “Si piensas en los Estados Unidos, es un país muy diverso...así que lo que está pasando ahí es importante se refleje también aquí en la universidad.”

Algunas de las recomendaciones del informe del Grupo de Trabajo han tenido que suspenderse por la pandemia del coronavirus. Según Joan Ruelle, Decana de la Biblioteca Carol Grotnes y copresidenta del equipo de implementación, el equipo ha tenido que limitar su enfoque a una o dos iniciativas.

“Este es un semestre de servicio liviano, lo que permite a los profesores concentrarse realmente en cambiar su instrucción a híbrida y remota”, dijo Ruelle. “Todo el mundo no solo está lidiando con las prioridades en competencia habituales, sino con algunas prioridades en competencia específicas y muy desafiantes durante este tiempo de COVID”.

Incluso con menos recursos para trabajar, Bravo dijo que la universidad aún ha encontrado formas de continuar con sus esfuerzos de reclutamiento. El 1 de octubre, Admisiones de Elon organizará ¡Viva Elon!, un evento virtual para futuros estudiantes latinos e hispanos y sus familias, que se centra en el éxito académico, la comunidad y su futuro en Elon.

Bravo dijo que este evento puede ser más difícil de organizar, pero tiene el potencial de llegar a posibles estudiantes que de otra manera nunca hubieran podido asistir a este evento. Ella y Muñoz están de acuerdo en que la pandemia de COVID-19 ha planteado cuestiones que el grupo de trabajo no había

considerado antes, como el costo financiero que la pandemia ha tenido para las familias.

“He estado pensando en tantos miembros de la comunidad latinx que se han visto afectados incluso más que otros miembros solo porque la tasa es más alta para esta comunidad”, dijo Muñoz. “Sí, COVID nos ha impedido remodelar El Centro, pero creo que en este momento, eso no es realmente importante en comparación con asegurarnos de que nuestros estudiantes tengan todo lo que necesitan para tener éxito y continuar su educación”.

Muñoz y Ruelle esperan que las recomendaciones del informe beneficien a todos los estudiantes de Elon, no solo a un grupo en particular.

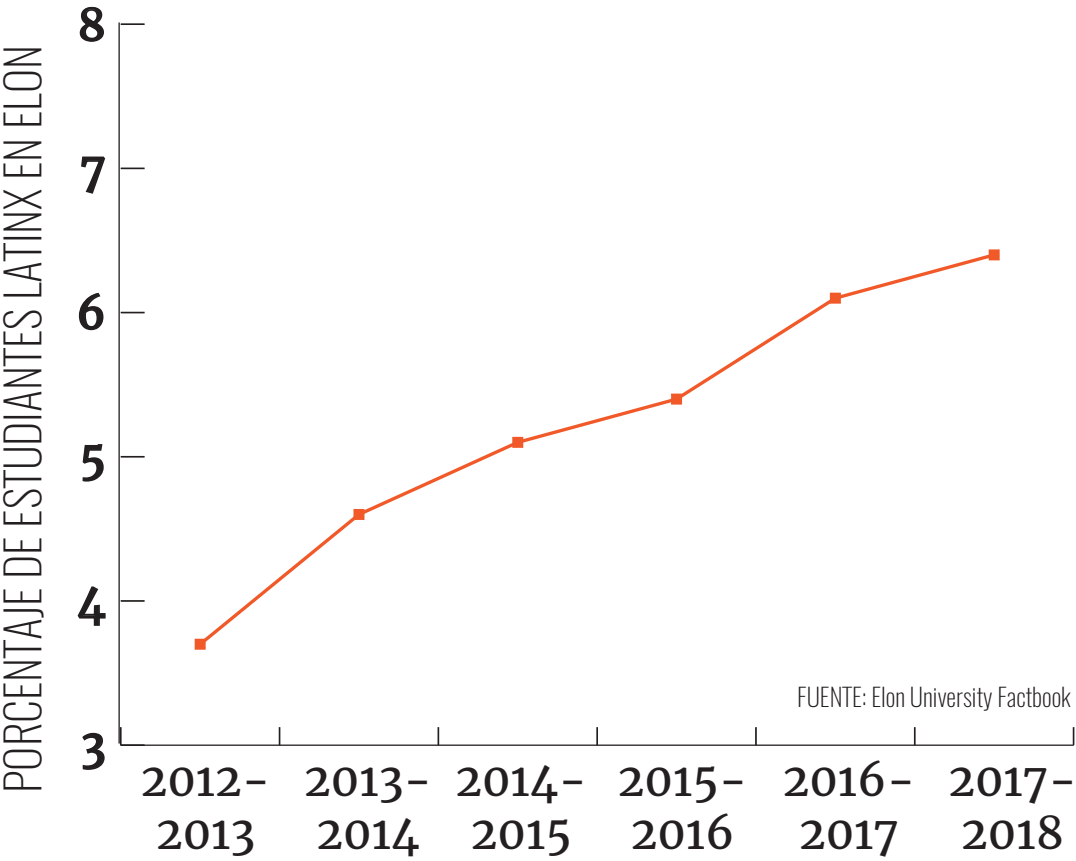
“Espero que algún día, cualquier grupo que sea convocado para trabajar en identidades minorizadas pueda enfocarse en aumentar las riquezas de la diversidad y lo que eso hace para toda la universidad, en lugar de lo que estamos haciendo actualmente, que es tratar de eliminar o disminuir barreras”, dijo Ruelle.



Sylvia Muñoz, Directora Asociada del Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education

Sylvia Muñoz the Associate Director of the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education at El Centro.

CRECIMIENTO DE ESTUDIANTES LATINX EN ELON



Increasing inclusivity for the Latinx community

REPORT | from cover

El Centro provided Martinez with a sense of community with other Hispanic students where she was able to learn to be “very open and proud” about her identity, practice her Spanish and eventually get a job as a student coordinator.

While El Centro has always been a space that championed Latinx and Hispanic culture education, after a 2018 Latinx/Hispanic Working Group report recommendation, the center decided to shift their focus. They began working to create a resource-focused center for students who identify as Latinx or Hispanic.

There were 46 other recommendations that came from the 2018 Working Group Report, which was written by a group of Elon faculty, staff and students with additional testimonials. The major themes include admissions and recruitment, student aid, success while at Elon, communication and messaging

and Latinx and Hispanic faculty and staff.

According to the 2019-2020 university factbook, 6.6% of Elon undergraduate students identify as Latinx or Hispanic, a rise of 0.2% from 2017-2018 when the report was written.

The report’s recommendations are being overseen by an implementation team of faculty and staff in conjunction with several university departments, including admissions and human resources. Some of the implementation team members were also involved in writing the report, like Sylvia Muñoz — the associate director of the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education and director of El Centro.

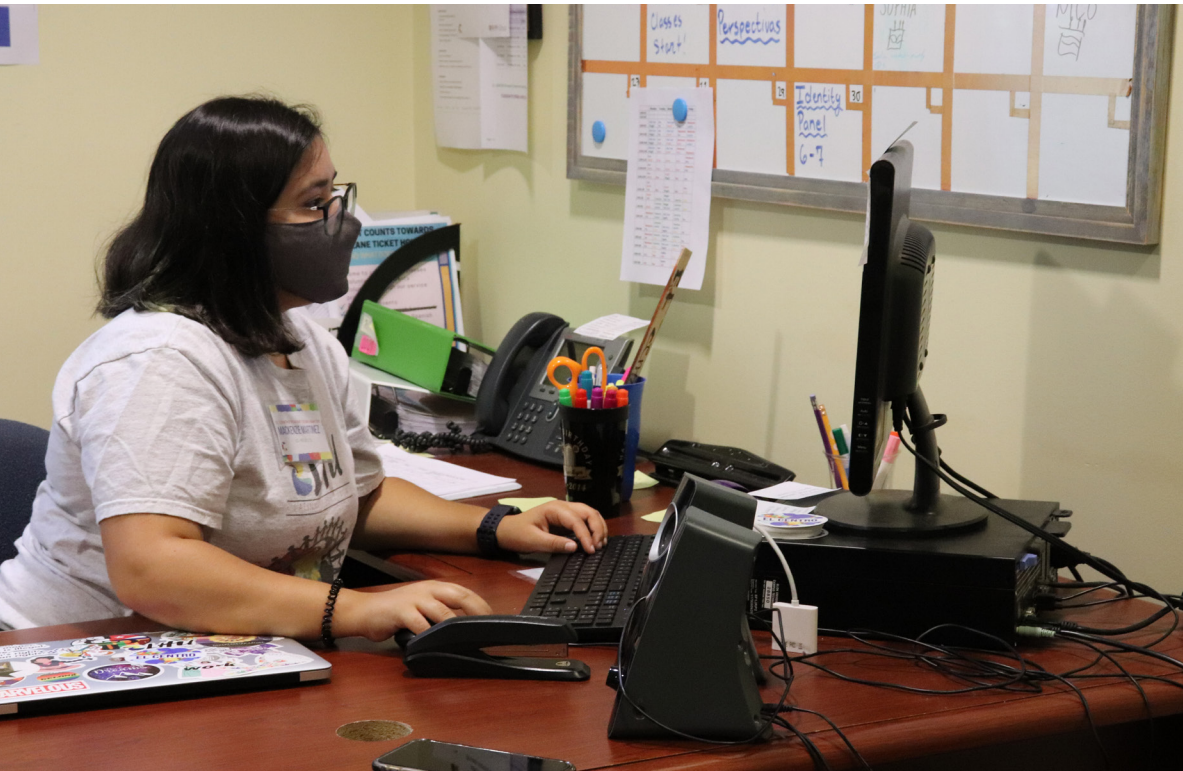
“This working group report isn’t here because one day, senior administration woke up and said, ‘let’s talk about this.’ We did it because the students push us all the time,” Muñoz said. “When they think about programs or pushing the university for something, they’re also thinking of those other communities that might be smaller in number right now, because whatever change we can make is going to benefit them, too.”

Having students at the heart of the report did not make the writing process any easier. Muñoz said it was painful to listen to Latinx and Hispanic students recount incidents of bias and discrimination they encountered both in and out of the classroom.

“They’re resilient, and they have been succeeding even before we started doing this,” Muñoz said. “There was a realization that these students have been doing so amazingly well even within these constraints, but imagine what they could do if none of this happened.”

Senior Ana Eguiguren was one of the students who helped with the report. She said she has been the target of several racist remarks during her time at Elon.

One encounter that sticks with Eguiguren was being told by a white man as she was walking



La estudiante de último año de Elon, Mackenzie Martinez, trabajando en el Centro el viernes 18 de septiembre. El Centro se está transformando de un centro que se enfoca en la enseñanza del idioma a un centro Latinx/Hispano.

Elon senior, Mackenzie Martinez working at El Centro on Friday Sept. 18. El Centro is transforming from a center that focuses on Latinx and Hispanic culture education to a resource for Latinx and Hispanic students.

home to stop speaking Spanish because “we are in America.”

“Having that fear of not replying because this person could be actually crazy and do something, it was something; like, it shook me,” Eguiguren said. “You can’t even stand up for yourself.”

Martinez said she has also been in a classroom setting where other students have commented, “Oh, you’re fluent in Spanish. Why are you even in this class?”

According to the survey taken for the report in 2018, 60% of the Latinx and Hispanic students at Elon have had disparaging comments made to them, while only approximately 14% of white students have had a similar experience.

Eguiguren said that during her freshman year, she struggled with balancing the different roles El Centro played in the Elon community, and she found herself being “tokenized” by students trying to get interviews for their projects.

“They would interview me for half an hour and never talk to me again,” Eguiguren said.

After returning from her junior year abroad, El Centro had changed its purpose.

“I came back to this place where we’re not here to serve, like, other people. We’re here to serve ourselves in our community,” Eguiguren said.

The implementation team’s current focus is to make sure Latinx and Hispanic students have what they need to succeed on campus, including a renovated community space. One of the Working Group Report’s recommendations outlines a plan to convert El Centro into a Latinx Center.

According to Vanessa Bravo, associate professor of strategic communications and chair of the department of strategic communications, renovating El Centro will benefit more than just students.

“I think there’s a lot of promise in transforming El Centro into a Latinx Center, not only because of all the possibilities that that opens for students, but also for faculty and staff,” Bravo said. “We are also very few ... think of a place where we can interact better, support each other better, support the students much better.”

Muñoz said the university is also making an effort to recruit more Latinx and Hispanic students. El Centro’s website and parts of the admissions website are being translated into Spanish, and admissions staff members now receive training on how to address the specific concerns of Latinx and Hispanic students and their families.

Bravo said two new Latinx professors were also hired last year, as well as a counselor who was brought on to engage with minoritized students on campus.

“We are helping Elon be more reflective of the society where we live,” Bravo said. “If you think of the United States, it’s a very diverse country ... and so what’s happening out there, it’s important to reflect that also in the university.”

Some of the Working Group Report’s recommendations have been put on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic. According

to Joan Ruelle, dean of the Carol Grotnes Belk Library and co-chair of the implementation committee, the implementation team has had to narrow their focus to one or two initiatives.

“This is a service-light semester, allowing the faculty to really focus on pivoting their instruction to hybrid and remote,” Ruelle said. “Everyone’s not only dealing with the usual competing priorities, but with some very challenging and specific competing priorities during this time of COVID.”

Even with fewer resources to work with, Bravo said the university has still found ways to proceed with their recruitment efforts. On Oct. 1, Elon Admissions will host ¡Viva Elon!, a virtual event for prospective Latinx and Hispanic students and their families, which is focused on academic success, the community and their future at Elon.

Bravo said this event may be harder to organize, but it has the potential to reach prospective students who never would have been able to attend this event otherwise. She and Muñoz agree the COVID-19 pandemic has brought up issues the working group never would have considered before, like the financial toll the pandemic has taken on families.

“I’ve been thinking about how so many members of the Latinx community have been affected even more than other members just because the rate is higher for this community,” Muñoz said. “Yes, COVID has prevented us from remodeling El Centro, but I think that right now, that’s not really important compared to how we make sure our students have every single thing they need to succeed and to continue their education.”

Muñoz and Ruelle hope that the report’s recommendation will benefit every student at Elon, not just a particular group.

“I hope that someday, any group that’s convened to do work on minoritized identities can focus on raising the riches of diversity and what that does for the entire university, rather than what we’re currently doing, which is trying to remove or lower barriers,” Ruelle said.



Frances O'Connor | Staff Photographer
Ethnicity and Diversity Education y Directora del Centro.
ace, Ethnicity and Diversity Education and Director of

GROWTH OF LATINX STUDENTS AT ELON

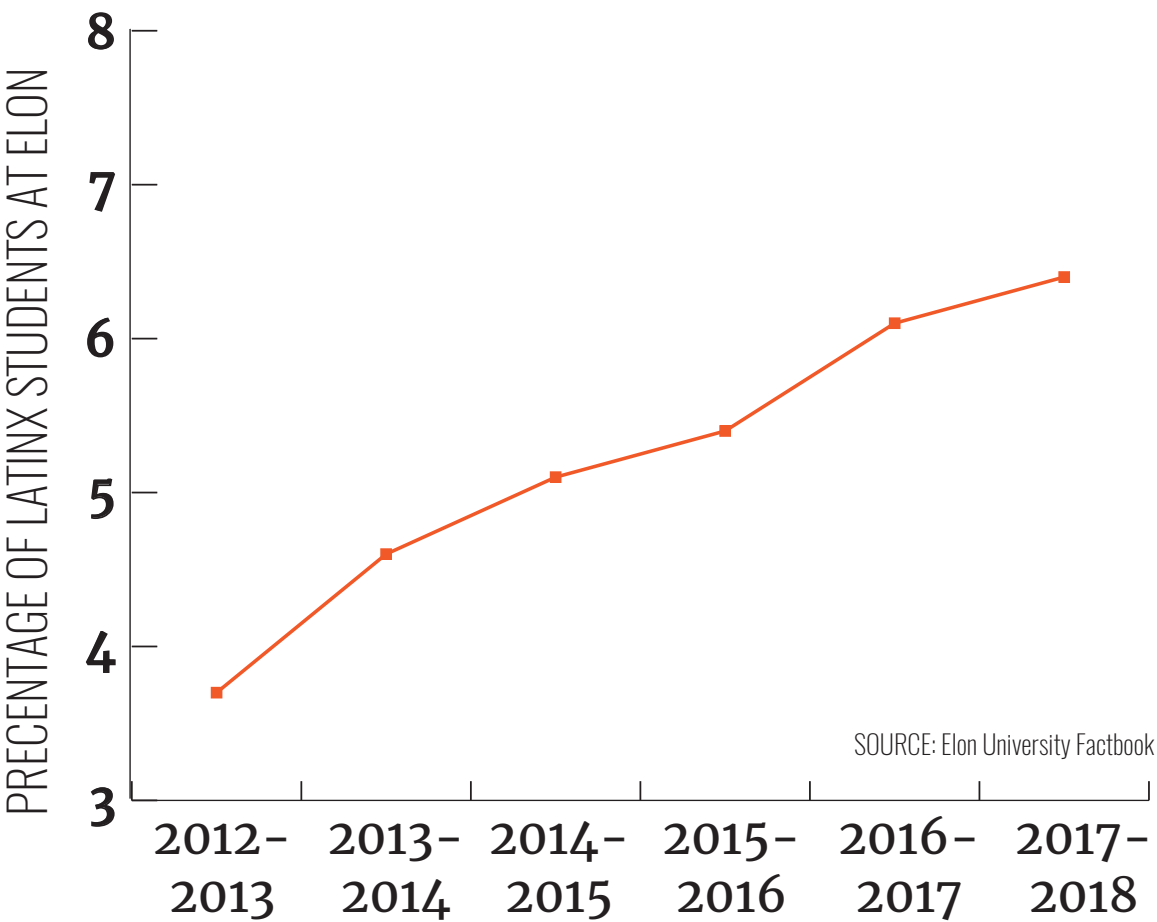




PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON
UNIVERSITY

El profesor de español Federico Pous es uno de los nueve profesores Latinx y Hispanos en la Universidad de Elon.

Professor of Spanish Federico Pous is one of only nine Latinx and Hispanic professors at Elon University.

Professor Hispano, centros de diversidad

continúan la conversación sobre inclusión

Los profesores de Elon hablan sobre los intentos de Elon de crear unidad a través de centros y programas de diversidad

Quinn Corrigan

Elon News Network | @quinn_corrigan

Hay sólo nueve profesores hispanos en la Universidad de Elon, según el Factbook de la universidad 2019- 2020. A pesar de tener pocos colegas con antecedentes similares, el profesor de español Federico Pous dijo que en sus seis años en la escuela, ha encontrado su hogar dentro del departamento de español de la universidad.

“Puedo decir que para mí ha sido muy fácil estar con mis compañeros de mi departamento. Ese es mi hogar dentro de Elon”, dijo Pous.

Pous es originalmente de Argentina, pero vino a los Estados Unidos para obtener su doctorado en la Universidad de Michigan. Ha estado enseñando español en Elon desde 2014.

Pous también es parte de un grupo laboral Latinx que está intentando crear un programa nuevo, el cual ofrecería servicios de tutoría entre unos profesores de Elon. Este programa estaría dedicado a ayudar a los nuevos profesores latinxs e hispanos a sentirse inmediatamente como en casa en Elon.

“Nuestro objetivo es tener una buena comprensión de cómo funciona Elon y cuáles son las necesidades de una perspectiva Latinx que son diferentes desde otra perspectiva”, dijo Pous.

Aunque el grupo aún no ha tomado acciones medidas, Pous dijo que actualmente están hablando actualmente con la administración de Elon para tratar de implementar las ideas del grupo. Elon tiene varios centros diferentes en el campus que promueven la diversidad entre los estudiantes y el personal. Como profesor de español, Pous está familiarizado con El Centro, un espacio común educativo y cultural para que los estudiantes latinos e hispanos colaboren y celebren. Pous dijo que El Centro se ha convertido en un lugar para que los estudiantes hispanos se sientan cómodos con sus diferencias culturales de la mayoría del cuerpo estudiantil.

“Hay grupos de estudiantes que he visto en El Centro trabajando con mucha [la] población hispana, y ellos crean su propia cultura allí, y eso parece ser algo bueno porque se sienten bienvenidos”, dijo Pous.

Aunque espacios como El Centro les brindan a los estudiantes internacionales un lugar para sentir que encajan, Pous dijo que cree que Elon necesita crear más comunidades multiculturales para que haya menos división en el campus.

“Sería mejor crear un tipo de entorno

multicultural que nos permita interactuar y compartir nuestras culturas”, dijo Pous.

Aunque Pous no siente que lo traten de manera diferente debido a su identidad cultural, sí cree que hay un estigma que a menudo se coloca en su departamento.

“Hacemos investigaciones sobre tipos de proyectos de estudios culturales en los que hablamos con personas de la sociología, la antropología [y] las humanidades, y algunas personas lo entienden, y otras personas todavía tienen la mentalidad de que solo hacemos idiomas”, dijo Pous.

Luis Garay

Luis Garay, director del Gender & LGBTQIA Center, tiene una perspectiva diferente sobre la diversidad en Elon. El viaje de Garay a Elon se debió al hecho de que la universidad tenía un lugar donde los estudiantes LGBTQIA podían llamar hogar.

“[Mi] viaje a Elon giró mucho en torno al hecho de que era una pequeña universidad de artes liberales que tenía un GLC, [que] fue realmente inspirador”, dijo Garay.

Elon ha demostrado a los estudiantes y al personal que se preocupan por sus diferencias, dijo Garay. Dijeron que creen que estas comunidades también demuestran un “compromiso institucional” porque la universidad se ha tomado el tiempo para crear y dotar de personal a estos entornos.

Garay dijo que ha visto una buena interacción entre diferentes comunidades, como Elon Admissions y GLC. Ambos grupos colaboran para ayudar a reclutar más estudiantes LGBTQIA.

Garay dijo que su identidad va más allá de ser miembro de la comunidad LGBTQIA, ya que su familia llegó a los Estados Unidos desde México. Garay dijo que ha encontrado una comunidad en lugares como El Centro, Irazu Coffee y el CREDE que están aceptando sus identidades culturales y de su género.

“En los espacios en los que estoy en Elon, traigo mis experiencias de vida con mis identidades que se cruzan”, dijo Garay.

Garay lo hizo el año pasado cuando hablaron en el panel de identidad de El Centro, que hizo que la gente hablara sobre la variedad de identidades latinx presentes en el campus.

“Como una persona queer que habla de mi identidad Latinx o como una persona Latinx que habla de mi identidad queer, espero que mi presencia permita que otras personas Latinx queer se vean a sí mismas”, dijo Garay.

Para continuar promoviendo la diversidad en todo el campus, Garay dijo que lo mejor que puede hacer la universidad es apoyar a los centros que existen actualmente.

Hispanic professors, diversity centers *continue inclusivity conversation*

Elon professors speak out about Elon’s attempts to create unity through diversity centers, programs

There are only nine Hispanic professors at Elon University, according to the 2019-2020 university factbook. Despite having few colleagues with a similar background, professor of Spanish Federico Pous said that in his six years at the school, he has found his home within the university’s Spanish department.

“I can say that for me, it has been very easy to be with my colleagues in my department. That’s my home within Elon,” Pous said.

Pous is originally from Argentina, but he came to the United States to get his doctorate at the University of Michigan. He has been teaching Spanish at Elon since 2014.

Pous is also part of a Latinx task force that is attempting to create a professor-to-professor mentorship program at Elon. This program would be geared toward helping new Latinx and Hispanic professors immediately feel at home at Elon.

“Our goal is to have a good understanding of how Elon works and what are the needs for a Latinx perspective that are different from another perspective,” Pous said.

Although the group has not taken action yet, Pous said they are currently speaking with the Elon administration to try to implement the ideas of the group.

Elon has several different centers on campus that promote diversity among students and staff. Being a professor of Spanish, Pous is familiar with El Centro, an educational and cultural common space for Latinx and Hispanic students to collaborate and celebrate. Pous said El Centro has become a place for Hispanic students to feel comfortable with their cultural differences from the majority of the student body.

“There are clusters of students which I have seen in El Centro working with a lot of [the] Hispanic population, and they create their own culture over there, and that seems to be something good because they feel welcomed,” Pous said.

Although spaces like El Centro give international students a place to feel like they fit in, Pous said he believes that Elon needs to create more multicultural communities so that there is less of a division on campus.

“It would be better to create a multicultural sort of environment that

allows us to all interact and share our cultures,” Pous said.

Although Pous does not feel that he is treated differently because of his cultural identity, he does think that there is a stigma often placed around his department.

“We do research on cultural studies types of projects where we talk with people from sociology, anthropology [and] humanities, and some people get that, and some other people still have the frame of mind that we only do languages,” said Pous.

Luis Garay

Luis Garay, the director of the Gender & LGBTQIA Center, has a different perspective on diversity at Elon. Garay’s journey to Elon stemmed from the fact that the school had a place for LGBTQIA students to call home.

“[My] journey to Elon revolved a lot around the fact that it was a small liberal arts college that had a GLC, [which] was really inspiring,” Garay said.

Elon has shown students and staff that they care about their differences, Garay said. They said they believe these communities also demonstrate an “institutional commitment” because the university has taken the time to create and staff these environments.

Garay said they have seen a good amount of interaction between different communities, such as Elon Admissions and the GLC. Both groups collaborate to help recruit a larger number of LGBTQIA students.

Garay said their identity goes beyond being a member of the LGBTQIA community, as their family came to the United States from Mexico. Garay said they have found a community at places such as El Centro, Irazu Coffee and the CREDE that are accepting of their gender and cultural identities.

“In the spaces I’m in at Elon, I bring my life experiences with my intersecting identities” Garay said.

Garay did so last year when they spoke at El Centro’s identity panel, which had people speak about the range of Latinx identities present on campus.

“As a queer person talking about my Latinx identity or as a Latinx person talking about my queer identity, I hope my presence allows others queer Latinx people to see themselves,” Garay said.

In order to continue promoting diversity across campus, Garay said the best thing the university can do is support the centers that are currently in place.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON
UNIVERSITY

Luis Garay, director del Gender & LGBTQIA Center

Luis Garay, the director of the Gender & LGBTQIA Center

DJ ecuatoriano comparte sus raíces en Elon

Ecuadorian DJ shares roots at Elon

Kevin Alvarado, ya en su último año, comparte su tiempo entre la Unión Latinx/Hispana “Latinx-Hispanic Union”, su fraternidad y los clubes donde trabaja como DJ

Graysen Shirley
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Kevin Alvarado, un estudiante de último año en Elon University, vio a través de las cortinas detrás del escenario y vio una pista de baile vacía. Alvarado estaba trabajando como DJ en un evento en Chapel Hill. Un amigo de Alvarado le dijo que la fila para entrar le daba la vuelta a la cuadra y que el club ya estaba a capacidad.

Después de un par de canciones en su set, Alvarado- quien utiliza el nombre de “DJ Alexis” mientras trabaja- comenzó a tocar una canción de Bad Bunny, un rapero puertorriqueño. Alvarado detuvo la canción y miró a su público, el cual continuó cantando aun sin la música.

“Ese momento me dio una explosión de energía,” dijo Alvarado. “No sonaba ninguna canción, pero la gente se sabía la letra de la canción porque estaban pasando un buen rato. Este es uno de mis mejores recuerdos; ósea, todo eso pasó en un momento tan corto.

Como DJ, Alvarado puede compartir su herencia latinx-hispana a través de la interpretación de música latina en clubes nocturnos en Chapel Hill y Greensboro y para eventos privados como bodas, quinceañeras- una celebración que sucede cuando una niña cumple los 15 años- y eventos de la universidad de Elon.

Si bien la música ha formado una gran parte de la cultura de Alvarado, las raíces de su familia en Ecuador también han tenido un efecto en la persona quien es hoy en día. Durante su infancia, Alvarado pasó un verano con sus abuelos en Cuenca, donde pudo sumergirse en la cultura de sus padres.

Un día durante ese verano, Alvarado asistió a un festival cultural en Cuenca, el cual era para celebrar un santo. Durante el festival, comió salchipapas, un plato de salchichas de carne de res en rodajas finas y papas fritas, y conoció a individuos de otros barrios en Ecuador. Estas conexiones interculturales formaron la visión del mundo de Alvarado y le inspiraron a explorar y compartir su cultura localmente.

Las raíces de Alvarado en Ecuador lo han inspirado a seguir compartiendo su cultura con otros estudiantes, profesores y miembros de la comunidad a través de su participación en la Unión Latinx-Hispana y su Fraternidad Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity Inc.

Alvarado se desempeña como miembro ejecutivo de la Unión Latinx-Hispana. Durante su primer año, fue invitado por un amigo a varios eventos que la organización estudiantil estaba organizando. A través de estos eventos, Alvarado

se acercó a otros estudiantes que creían en la misión de esta organización.

En la primavera del 2018, Alvarado decidió aplicar como tesorero de la Unión Latinx-Hispana. Ya que estudia negocios en la universidad, Alvarado quería adquirir experiencia en un puesto donde las tareas y responsabilidades se alinearan con su especialidad.

Alvarado también es miembro fundador de la Fraternidad Lambda Upsilon Lambda en Elon. Como estudiante de primer año, se interesó en la vida griega y quiso crear una organización para otros estudiantes Latinx. Alvarado y cinco compañeros decidieron establecer un capítulo

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FUE UNA GRAN EXPERIENCIA. APRENDÍ MUCHO DE SUS ESTILOS DE VIDA EN COMPARACIÓN CON EL MÍO.

KEVIN ALVARADO
ESTUDIANTE DE ÚLTIMO AÑO

de Lambda Upsilon Lambda en Elon, con la esperanza de crear una comunidad para que los estudiantes Latinx en el campus se involucren en eventos culturales.

La participación de Alvarado con Lambda Upsilon Lambda le ha permitido ser mentor y tutor de estudiantes en las escuelas secundarias locales, ayudándoles con las tareas escolares y las solicitudes de la universidad. Alvarado ha sido testigo de las mejoras en el trabajo escolar de los estudiantes y ha visto el impacto positivo que puede tener en ellos.

A pesar de que la experiencia de Alvarado en España durante sus estudios en el extranjero se vio interrumpida la primavera pasada debido a la pandemia del coronavirus, él pudo reflexionar sobre cómo sus experiencias moldearon la percepción de su propia cultura.

Se dio cuenta de la importancia de difundir su cultura a través de otras personas, a través de su participación con organizaciones estudiantiles en el campus y el trabajo de servicio a nivel local y en la comunidad más amplia del Condado de Alamance.

Alvarado dijo que ha podido tomar ejemplos del estilo de vida español, como el tiempo en familia a la hora de comer y la preparación de alimentos en familia, y ponerlos en práctica en su vida en los EE.UU.

“Fue una gran experiencia. Aprendí mucho de sus estilos de vida en comparación con el mío,” dijo Alvarado.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN ALVARADO

Para ayudar a compartir su herencia Latinx/Hispana, Kevin Alvarado trabaja como DJ en una variedad de eventos como clubes, bodas, quinceañeras y eventos de Elon.

To help share his Latinx-Hispanic heritage, Alvarado DJs at nightclubs for a multitude of events such as nightclubs, weddings, quinceañeras and Elon University events.

Senior Kevin Alvarado splits his time between the Latinx-Hispanic Union, his fraternity and clubs where he DJs

Elon University senior Kevin Alvarado peered out from behind the curtains backstage to view an empty dance floor. Alvarado was set to DJ an event at a nightclub in Chapel Hill. A friend of Alvarado came up to him and told him that the line was looping around the block and the club was at capacity.

A couple of songs into his set, Alvarado — who goes by DJ Alexis while performing — started to play a song by Bad Bunny, a Puerto Rican rapper. Alvarado stopped the song and glanced at his audience, which was continuing to sing without the music playing.

“That moment gave me a nice hype-up,” Alvarado said. “There was no song playing but people knew the lyrics because they were having a great time. That’s one of my best memories; like, all that happened in one little moment.”

As a DJ, Alvarado is able to share his Latinx-Hispanic heritage through playing Latin music at nightclubs in Chapel Hill and Greensboro and for private events such as weddings, quinceañeras — a celebration of a girl’s 15th birthday — and Elon University events.

While music has been a large part of Alvarado’s culture, his family’s roots in Ecuador also have impacted cultivating the person he is today. During his childhood, Alvarado spent a summer with his grandparents in Cuenca, where he was able to immerse himself in the culture of his parents.

One day that summer, Alvarado attended a cultural festival in Cuenca, which was held to celebrate a saint. During the festival, he had salchipapas — a dish of thinly sliced pan-beef sausages and French fries — and met individuals from other barrios in Ecuador. These cross-cultural connections shaped Alvarado’s worldview and inspired him to explore and share his culture locally.

Alvarado’s roots in Ecuador have inspired him to continue sharing his culture with fellow students, faculty and community members through his involvement in the Latinx-Hispanic Union and the Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity.

Alvarado serves as an executive member of the Latinx-Hispanic Union. During his freshman year, he was invited by a friend to several events the student organization was hosting. Through these events, Alvarado became close with fellow students who believed in the

union’s mission.

In the spring of 2018, Alvarado decided to apply to be treasurer for the Latinx-Hispanic Union. Being a business major, Alvarado wanted to gain experience in a position where tasks and responsibilities aligned with his major.

“

IT WAS JUST A GREAT EXPERIENCE. I LEARNED A LOT FROM THEIR LIFESTYLES COMPARED TO MY OWN.

KEVIN ALVARADO
SENIOR

Alvarado is also a founding member of the Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity at Elon. As a freshman, he was interested in greek life and wanted to create an organization for other Latinx students at Elon. Alvarado and five fellow students decided to establish a Lambda Upsilon Lambda chapter at Elon, hoping to create a community for Latinx students on campus to become engaged in cultural events.

Alvarado’s involvement with Lambda Upsilon Lambda has allowed him to mentor and tutor students at local high schools, assisting them with schoolwork and college applications. Alvarado has witnessed improvements in the students’ schoolwork and has seen how he can make a positive impact on them.

Despite Alvarado’s study abroad experience in Spain being cut short this past spring due to the coronavirus pandemic, he was able to reflect upon how his experiences shaped his perception of his own culture. He realized the importance of spreading his culture through to other individuals through his involvement with student organizations on campus and service work locally and in the broader Alamance County community.

Alvarado said he has been able to take small niches of Spanish lifestyle, such as family time at the dinner table and preparing food as a family, and implement it into his life in the United States.

“It was just a great experience. I learned a lot from their lifestyles compared to my own,” Alvarado said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON LAMBDA Upsilon LAMBDA

Para ayudar a crear una comunidad para los estudiantes Latinx en el campus para que se involucren en eventos culturales, Kevin Alvarado y otros cinco estudiantes establecieron un capítulo de la fraternidad Lambda Upsilon Lambda en Elon.

To help Latinx students on campus become engaged in cultural events, Kevin Alvarado and five other students established a Lambda Upsilon Lambda chapter at Elon.

UNA MIRADA HACIA DENTRO



TIME TO LOOK INSIDE

OPINIÓN

Ana Eguiguren

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2020 HA SIDO UN año que siempre será recordado. Se siente como si estuviésemos en la última temporada de una serie que debería haber terminado hace mucho tiempo. Hemos vivido una combinación de adversidades inesperadas y levemente catastróficas que parecen el intento desesperado de los productores de mantener a la audiencia interesada en su espectáculo. Sin embargo, a pesar de los titulares abrumadores que se han acumulado mes a mes, este año ha unido a la gente en Estados Unidos para luchar por el cambio social.

El movimiento Black Lives Matter resurgió después del asesinato de George Floyd a manos de agentes de la policía. Las calles del país se llenaron de carteles y marchas de ciudadanos indignados que se unieron para exigir justicia, igualdad y respeto para los afroamericanos. Este movimiento provocó un efecto dominó y, mientras la lucha seguía en Estados Unidos, el resto del mundo comenzó a hablar

La noticia del asesinato de George Floyd y las protestas llegaron a los titulares de los periódicos y redes sociales ecuatorianos. Innumerables usuarios de Instagram se unieron al “Blackout Tuesday” y se apresuraron a publicar un cuadrado negro en su feed. Era difícil no sentirse indignado por un video tan gráfico, compartido en todas las redes sociales con el hashtag “I can’t breathe” (no puedo respirar).

Es difícil saber los motivos de mis amigos de Ecuador que publicaron BLM en sus redes sociales. Tal vez era la presión social al ver que todos lo hacían, o tal vez se tomaron el tiempo de entender lo que este movimiento significaba y la importancia de la muerte de George Floyd y otros. No sé si los ecuatorianos sintieron que podían hacer más que publicar sus historias o si estas personas fueron un paso más allá para apoyar a BLM. Pero sí sé que era más fácil comprender lo que estaba sucediendo en Estados Unidos que mirar la realidad de nuestro propio país.

Ecuador es un país pequeño, pero inmensamente diverso en sus razas, etnias y culturas. La mayoría del país se identifica como mestizo, muchos reconocen que hay sangre española e indígena dentro de ellos. Sin embargo, Ecuador tiene muchos grupos indígenas, así como una gran comunidad de afroecuatorianos. Estos grupos suelen estar minorizados y marginados y nadie se sorprende de comentarios y estereotipos racistas; son parte del día a día.

Es fácil ignorar la desigualdad cuando eres tú quien se beneficia de ella. Nunca me había dado cuenta de lo injusto que es mi país hasta que me fui a la universidad. Había idealizado la idea de un país pequeño y diverso escondido en el corazón de la cordillera de los Andes. Nunca me sorprendió demasiado la falta de agua potable en el pequeño pueblo junto a la casa de la playa donde íbamos de vacaciones con mi familia. Ver niños vendiendo caramelos en la calle era parte de mi realidad.

Cada verano que he regresado a mis

montañas y playas, he comenzado a notar cómo las desgracias que había visto antes como mala suerte, son en realidad parte de un patrón de opresión y desigualdad conectado a la raza y la clase social. Recibir la educación en un colegio bilingüe que me llevó a estar en una universidad estadounidense hoy, no fue suerte, nació en mi vida privilegiada. Después de regresar de Elon, empecé a notar que los carteles de publicidad utilizan modelos con pelo rubio y ojos azules, aunque la mayoría de ecuatorianos compartimos pelo y ojos oscuros. Los estándares de belleza se arraigan en parámetros europeos, con el mensaje subliminal de mientras más blanco, mejor. Con el tiempo, he reflexionado sobre todas las cosas que aprendí y todo lo que debo desaprender.

Este verano, traté de iniciar conversaciones sobre raza, identidad y racismo con quienes me rodeaban. No siempre fueron conversaciones cómodas, especialmente cuando me refería a nuestro propio contexto. Hablar de la raza era más fácil cuando se juzgaba a Estados Unidos desde fuera. Parecía fácil señalar las fallas y los defectos de un sistema ajeno. Sin embargo, reconocer que somos parte de nuestro propio sistema defectuoso era difícil de escuchar para muchos a mi alrededor y casi imposible de aceptar para la mayoría. Esché el mismo argumento alarmante; “No, no tenemos racismo en Ecuador. Quizás clasismo, pero no racismo”. Esta expresión nace desde una posición privilegiada, ya que la desigualdad a menudo es invisible para el opresor.

Quizás esta percepción errada sea el resultado de la representación del racismo solo en los medios de comunicación, que han creado una única narrativa de la desigualdad en la sociedad estadounidense. Tal vez es la consecuencia de siglos de racismo internalizado, implementado en el sistema colonial español que clasifica a los indígenas como solo tres cuartas partes personas y negros como completos salvajes.

Sin embargo, hay una falta de aceptación y comprensión de este tema en Ecuador, así como en otros países de América Latina. Cuando llegué a Elon, una universidad predominantemente blanca, fue la primera vez que tomé conciencia de esta parte de mi identidad. La combinación de ignorancia y negación puede ser mortal, y las conversaciones sobre la raza deben comenzar a suceder en Ecuador para que haya algún progreso y cambio. Lo que no se habla no existe y, a pesar de que el racismo es muy real, si se ignora o no se reconoce, nada cambiará en el sistema.

Creo que América Latina tiene que encontrar su propio camino hacia la igualdad racial y la justicia, porque un proceso que ha funcionado en un lugar no necesariamente será efectivo en otro. Ecuador en particular es un país alucinante, pero si no hay justicia para uno, no hay justicia para todos. Por lo tanto, debemos comenzar a hablar sobre nuestro privilegio a la hora de la cena, publicar en las redes sociales después de investigar un poco y enfocarnos en las luchas de nuestro propio país reconociendo que a menudo somos parte del problema.

THIS YEAR HAS BEEN one that will forever be remembered. It feels as if we are in the last season of a show that should have ended long ago. The events we have witnessed seem like an unlikely combination of catastrophic plot twists added by the producers to keep the show interesting. Nevertheless, despite the overwhelming headlines that have accumulated month by month, this year has united people in the U.S. to fight for social change.

The Black Lives Matter movement gained momentum after the killing of George Floyd, a Black man, by police officers. Protests surged across the nation as outraged citizens took the streets to demand justice, equality and respect for Black Americans. This movement caused a ripple effect, and as the world was looking at the U.S., difficult conversations have been initiated everywhere, including in my home country, Ecuador.

Ecuador is a small country, but it is immensely diverse in its races, ethnicities and cultures. The majority of the country identifies as “mestizo,” or mixed race. Many people recognize that there is Spanish and indigenous blood within them. However, Ecuador has many indigenous groups, as well as a large community of Afro-Ecuadorians. These groups are often minoritized and marginalized; racist comments and stereotypes are common in everyday life.

The news of the killing of Floyd and the protests reached headlines of Ecuadorian newspapers and social media. Countless Instagram users joined the “Blackout Tuesday” protest on Instagram and were quick to post a black square on their feed. It was hard not to be outraged by such a graphic video that was reposted on Instagram stories with the hashtag “I can’t breathe.”

Whenever I opened Instagram, Facebook or Twitter, I saw many people from my social circle from home posting to support the BLM movement. It is hard to know if my friends from home who were posting this had succumbed to peer pressure, or if they had done the research to understand all that the death of George Floyd and others encompassed. I don’t know if my Ecuadorian friends felt like they could do more than post in their stories or if people took further actions. But I do know that the conversation of race was around the context of the U.S., and not around racism that happens in our own context to Indigenous or Afro-Ecuadorian groups.

It is easy to be oblivious to inequality when you are the one benefiting from it. I had never noticed how unjust my country is until I left for college. I had romanticized the idea of a small, diverse country hidden in the heart of the Andes mountain range. I was never too surprised by the lack of running water at the small town next to the beach house where my family vacationed or the 15-year-old pregnant girl who sold the produce at the corner store, believing me

not being in that situation was pure luck.

Each summer that I have gone back to my mountains and beaches, I started noticing how disgraces that I had seen as unfortunate events before are actually part of a pattern of oppression and inequality tied to race and social class. Receiving the level of education I did in a bilingual school that led me to be in an American college today was not luck; I was born into my privileged life. After coming back from my semesters at Elon, I have realized that white features are praised by society and the beauty industry; the advertisements on the streets portray people with blond hair and blue eyes even though most of the country has tan skin and black hair. I have reflected on internalized stereotypes that I learned when I was younger.

This summer, I tried to start conversations about race, identity and racism with those around me. These were not always comfortable conversations, especially when I referred to our own context. Discussing race was easier when judging the U.S. from an outsider’s perspective. It seemed easy to point out the faults of a foreign system. However, recognizing that we are part of our own faulted system was hard to hear for many around me and almost impossible to accept for most. I kept hearing the same alarming argument; “No, we don’t have racism in Ecuador. Maybe classism, but no racism.” This phrasing is bathed in privilege as inequality is often invisible to the oppressor.

Perhaps this stained perception is the result of the media’s portrayal of racism that has created a single narrative of American society. Maybe it is the consequence of centuries of internalized racism, implemented in the Spanish colonial system, which classified indigenous people as three-fourths human and black people as complete savages. Nevertheless, there is a lack of acceptance and understanding of this issue in Ecuador, as well as other Latin American countries. When I came to Elon, a predominantly white university, it was the first time I became aware of this part of my identity.

The combination of ignorance and denial can be deadly, and conversations about race must start happening in Ecuador if there is to be any progress and change. What is not talked about does not exist, and despite racism being very real, if it is ignored or unrecognized, nothing will be changed in the system.

I believe Latin America has to find its own way to racial equality and justice, for a process that has worked in one place will not necessarily be effective in another. Ecuador in particular is an astonishing country, but if there is no justice for one there’s no justice for all.

So we must start talking about our privilege at the dinner table, posting on social media after doing some research and focusing on the struggles of our own country by recognizing that often we are part of the problem.

OPINION

SEIU FILES CHARGES AGAINST ELON UNIVERSITY

on behalf of former adjuncts

The SEIU Workers United Southern Region filed charges for alleged retaliation against adjunct faculty members

Kyra O'Connor | Elon News Network | @ko_reports



Robin Gary



Catherine Bush

SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION Workers United Southern Region filed charges against Elon University on the behalf of two former Elon adjunct faculty members, Robin Gary and Catherine Bush.

The two charges, which both allege Elon University violated the National Labor Relations Act by allegedly retaliating against Bush and Gary for engaging in union activity, were filed Sept. 21, according to a National Labor Relations Board Spokesman.

“Our career experts in Region 10, Atlanta, will investigate to determine if the charges have merit,” an NLRB Spokesman told Elon News Network.

The allegations leveled against the university included concerted activities — which can be related retaliation — discharge and discipline, as well as discharge — which can be related to the laying off of employees and an employer’s refusal to hire employees.

Both Gary and Bush were members of the Elon Faculty Forward Union and had contracts that were not renewed for this fall. Non-tenure faculty have limited-term contracts with no guarantee for reemployment.

Owen Covington, director of Elon University News Bureau, said on Monday that the university just received notice of the filing and does not have a response at this time.

See **UNION** | pg. 4

Homecoming goes virtual this year to keep community safe

The event involves Zoom events ranging from college coffee to a town hall with President Book

Cailey Cetani
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

This year’s Homecoming is set to be on Zoom. The time usually spent at a football game or College Coffee will now be replaced by Zoom events. Instead of the traditional weekend, Elon has made it a week-long with over 100 opportunities for alumni to get involved in the Elon community.

The events hosted this year will range from virtual tours around campus to a town hall with President Connie Book. According to the Senior Director of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving, Brian Feeley, the university is going to be using Zoom for most events, but will also take advantage of video reporting.

A new addition to the normal Homecoming events will be the social media challenge. For each day of the week, there will be a new task and will possibly be posted on Elon’s social media account. For example, on Monday, participants must wear maroon to show their Elon pride and will have the chance to be featured on Elon’s social media platforms.



ZACH OHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rapper T-Pain performs in Schar Center for Elon’s 2019 Homecoming Concert.

See **HOMECOMING** | pg. 5



NEWS • PAGE 6
A look at the Class of 2024 SGA representatives



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 7
A new organization helps freshmen find mentors



NEWS • PAGE 5
The California wild fires effect on one student

THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF
**ELON NEWS
NETWORK**

Established 1974
Volume 50, Edition 7

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.

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Caroline Bunder, Jacob Kisamore, Naomi Littenberg, Catie Mannato, Ranya Russo, Ted Thomas, Andrew Zagari and Henry Zinn contributed to the design of this edition. Kyra O’Connor, Ellie Cook and Sophie Rosenthal 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.

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WHEN WE PUBLISH:
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CORRECTIONS

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

GAMES

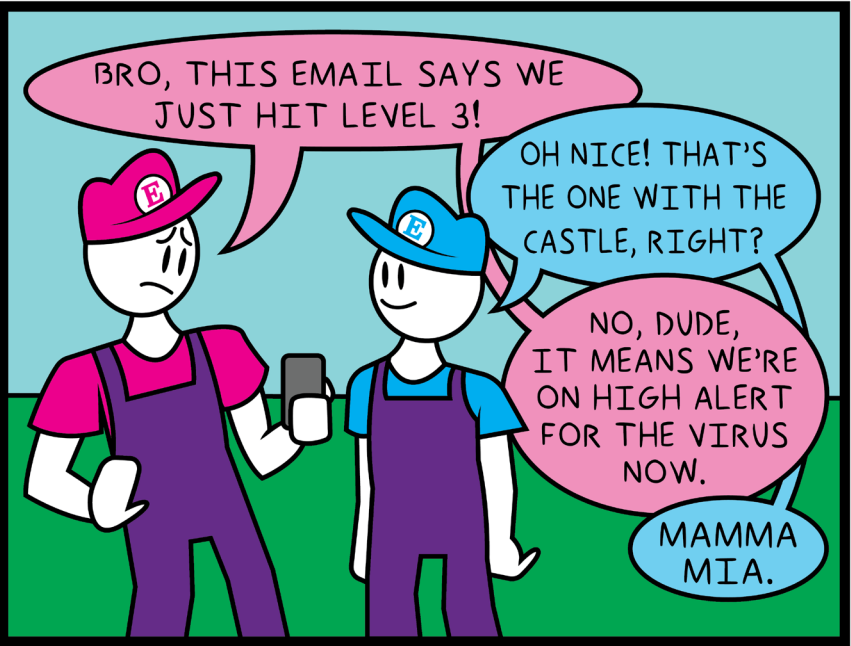
How to Play: Guess the missing word in the five clues, then find them in the word search below. Words can be found backwards, diagonal, etc.

- After a report from a Latin/Hispanic working group, El Centro de Español is shifting focus to create a more _____-based center for students with Latin and Hispanic heritage. *See Page A4 for answer.*
- Professor of Spanish Federico Pous grew up in _____ before coming to the United States to get his doctorate. *See Page A6 for answer.*
- Senior Kevin Alvarado goes by DJ _____ while performing his sets. *See Page A7 for answer.*
- The new group College Coaches was started in an attempt to connect freshmen with _____ in their first year of campus. *See Page B7 for answer.*

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

COMIC

LEVEL UP



COMIC SAMS - SAM POROZOK

SCAN FOR MORE COVERAGE FROM ELON NEWS NETWORK
OR VISIT [ELONNEWSNETWORK.COM](https://www.elonnewsnetwork.com)



- Open your phone camera
- Focus on the QR code
- Click the pop-up link

Students gather outside of Alumni Gym for food and festivities on Sept. 15 for the Hispanic Heritage Month kick-off event. Hispanic Heritage Month goes from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 and includes many events that celebrate the history and culture of the Latinx/Hispanic communities.



KAITLYN VIGEANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



A line of vehicles pass through Elon's campus on East Haggard Ave. at a pro-Trump parade on Sept. 19.

GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR



A truck drives past Elon University's Alumni Gym on East Haggard Ave. at a pro-Trump parade on Sept. 19.

JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Elon University freshman JR Martin rides his scooter during Hurricane Sally on Thursday, Sept. 17.

FRANCES O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COMPLAINT ALLEGES UNFAIR TERMINATION BY UNIVERSITY

UNION | from cover

Gary had been an adjunct professor at Elon for over five years and served in the departments of sociology, poverty and social justice. Gary said the SEIU filing these charges on her behalf made her feel very supported, something she said she has not felt since her contract was not renewed in July.

“That’s one of the reasons I fought for the union in the first place,” Gary told Elon News Network in an interview. “So that adjuncts and non-tenured faculty have some support, and a network they could turn to.”

Bush was an assistant professor in biology and had worked at Elon for eight years. Bush, who has been a member of the Elon Faculty Forward Union since its inception, fought for the union’s “Humane Budget” proposal last spring. Bush said she feels like she was “retaliated against” by the university, and “just the idea of filing” is a win.

“I spoke up a lot, and they didn’t want me to speak. They wanted me to be erased. They wanted what I said, the truth I spoke, to be erased,” Bush said. “And with Professor Gary next to me as a dear friend, we’re saying we’re not going to be erased.”

While Gary said she hopes the university responds “in a positive way,” she said her lawyer has told her to have “moderate expectations.”

Sophomore Rachel Goldstein, a student of Gary’s this past spring, signed a letter of support over the summer for Gary, Bush and all adjunct faculty at the university. Goldstein said while she had hoped Gary would regain her position at the university, she said she hopes the university takes the current situation with adjunct professors as a learning experience.

“It’s very interesting to see how the university is responding to the student body on many issues, [and] I think Robin Gary is just one of them,” Goldstein said. “A

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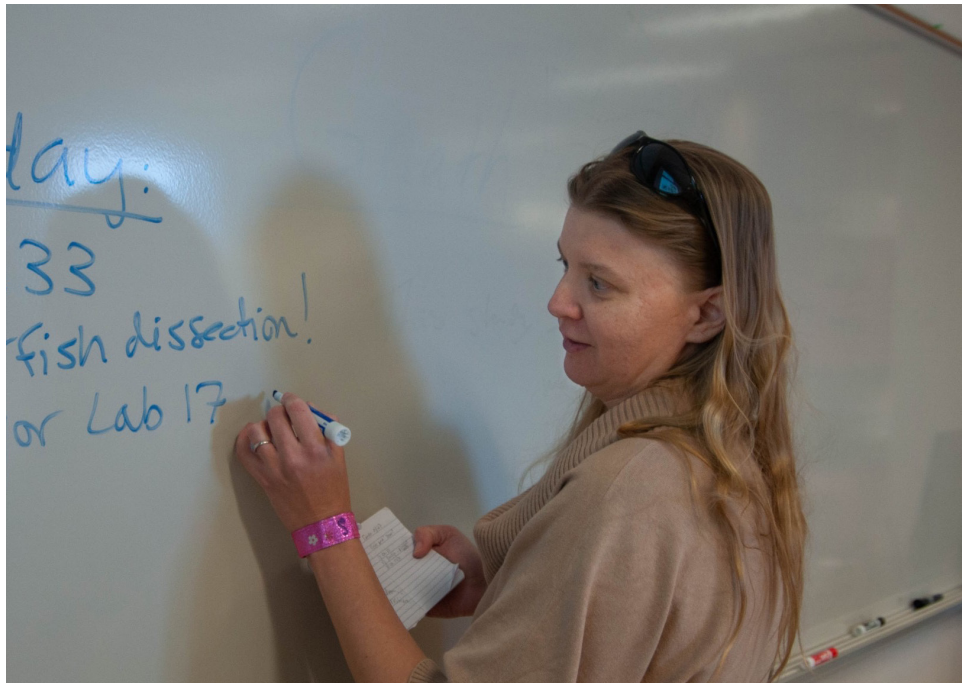
I SPOKE UP A LOT, AND THEY DIDN’T WANT ME TO SPEAK. THEY WANTED ME TO BE ERASED. THEY WANTED WHAT I SAID, THE TRUTH I SPOKE, TO BE ERASED.

CATHERINE BUSH
FORMER ELON ADJUNCT FACULTY
MEMBER

BY THE NUMBERS

~400

students, parents and supporters signed the letter of support for former Elon adjunct faculty members Robin Gary and Catherine Bush



FILE PHOTO BY ELON NEWS NETWORK

Former Elon University adjunct professor of biology Catherine Busch teaches. Busch is one of two former Elon professors the SIEU is filing a charge on behalf of.

lot of us outwardly expressed our outrage and our sadness and nothing happened ... These are all learning experiences for how campus addresses the students, and makes them feel seen and heard.”

Associate professor of law Eric Fink said filing charges like this is an alternative to a regular lawsuit and is not uncommon.

“It is a normal part of the framework of the law that when disputes between the union and an employer ... the law has special procedures for bringing those disputes in front of someone to resolve that,” Fink said.

Unfair labor practices, which is what the charges are described as in the Elon Faculty Forward press release, is a term used for any violations under section 8 of the Federal Labor Act. Fink said any conduct by an employer or by a uni on that violates the statute is called an unfair labor practice.

Fink said the next step in the procedure will include investigating the charges to decide whether or not there is enough information to issue a complaint. According to Fink, Elon University is not required to participate in the investigation; however, if a complaint is issued, the case can go to trial, and the university would be required to participate at that point.

The university did file a “Request for Review” in 2018 just after the Elon Faculty Forward Union was certified by the regional NLRB, but Fink said the request will not impact the charges filed against Elon.

“The question that’s on appeal has to do with whether it was proper to certify the union at all, whether the adjuncts should be excluded because they’re considered managerial employees,” Fink said. “And these charges are not really related to that question.”



FILE PHOTO BY ELON NEWS NETWORK

Elon University community members attend a protest in support of the Elon Faculty Forward Union outside of Lindner Hall last year.

Elon moves Homecoming to virtual platform this year

Homecoming | from cover

According to Feeley, this innovation to Homecoming allows for more people to participate and become actively involved with the Elon community.

“There’s aspects of the technology that allow us to connect across geographic boundaries and those that are not able to normally come to a signature event or program that we can now connect with,” Feeley said.

For parents wanting to learn more about Elon, there are multiple academic discussions by faculty scheduled for Homecoming Week. For instance, on Thursday, associate professor MIS Haya Ajjan will be leading a discussion about the power of analytics and how the increase in data processing has created a larger field of opportunities for the world.

According to Feeley, Elon’s faculty has made it so that the online Homecoming feels more inviting and engaging.

“What we’re trying to do is provide platforms for alumni to engage. That includes the class of 2020 in their first year as alums. And then we’re working to find some ways that we can do some things specific. So as they log in, they’re not just mingling and interacting with their fellow alumni across different years, but specifically some of their classmates, and really provide a positive way to engage,” Feeley said

Elon is still keeping up the normal traditions that would usually take place. These include College Coffee, tours and networking events. However, these will all be on Zoom. Each day of the week, there will be a new virtual tour people can watch, such as a tour of Loy Farm.

Alumni can join the celebration by connecting with current students. For example, The school of communications is hosting “Networking from Bed.” This event will connect communication students with alumni to talk about their

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THERE’S ASPECTS OF THE TECHNOLOGY THAT ALLOW US TO CONNECT ACROSS GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES AND THOSE THAT ARE NOT ABLE TO NORMALLY COME TO A SIGNATURE EVENT OR PROGRAM THAT WE CAN NOW CONNECT WITH.

BRIAN FEELEY
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI
ENGAGEMENT AND ANNUAL GIVING

experiences, possible internships and career opportunities.

According to the former class of 2020 SGA President, Noor Irshaidat, the move to Zoom is nothing new and was expected. She adds that alumni need to take advantage of this change and see this as a positive experience.

“I think it really gives you something to look forward to in October. I mean, it’s something different, but at the same time, I feel like we’re all kind of used to having experiences through Zoom and online in some form or way, like if it was for school, if it was even for family members or even if it was for your job,” Ishaidat said.

Elon has published all events and their date and times on the university’s website by searching “Homecoming and Reunion Week 2020.”



ZACH OHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

T-Pain performed with openers Gianni & Kyle during the 2019 Homecoming concert in Schar Center on Nov. 2, 2019. The concert was hosted by the Student Union Board and was open to students, faculty, alumni and the public. Elon University’s Homecoming for the fall of 2020 is set to be online and instead of a weekend it will now be a weeklong event.

West coast wildfires affect students away from home

Elon senior feels the effects of watching the west coast wildfires get close to her family’s home in Oregon

Julianne Quinn
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Wildfires raging along the west coast are hitting closer to Elon University than one would expect. The fires have destroyed many residential areas throughout Oregon and California, causing thousands of people to be displaced from their homes.

Elon senior Katie Jones is from West Linn, Oregon, a suburb of Portland. Her home is located within 30 miles of the nearest wildfires. Jones’ parents have been informed by local authorities that they need to be prepared to evacuate their homes if the fires continue to spread.

“It’s really weird, like, thinking about what you would want in a fire if your house was to burn down,” Jones said. “It kind of makes you realize that the most important things are that your family is safe and at the end of the day, it’s just a house.”

The areas surrounding the fires are being classified into three categories by the State of Oregon. “Level 1: Get Ready” are areas that are at a low-level of risk. Level 1 areas need to be prepared for the possibility of evacuation. “Level 2: Be Set” must be ready to evacuate their homes at a moment’s notice. “Level 3: Go” areas must evacuate immediately and are in immediate danger of contact with an approaching fire. West Linn, where Jones lives, currently is at Level 0 and not in any of the danger zones. However, the nearest danger zone is only a fifteen-minute drive from her house

The fires have also severely affected air quality in surrounding areas. From September 12th to 16th, Portland’s Air Quality Index was “hazardous,” the highest rating on the AQI’s scale. Jones’s parents have been stuck inside of

their house.

“They can’t go outside,” Jones said. “They were outside for like an hour to pack the car and my mom said that she and my dad both felt horrible migraines.”

Since then, the air in Portland and surrounding areas has returned to safe levels

“

IT KIND OF MAKES YOU REALIZE THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS ARE THAT YOUR FAMILY IS SAFE AND AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT’S JUST A HOUSE.

KATIE JONES
SENIOR

of atmospheric particles, the metric by which AQI is measured.

There are still about 20 active fires in Oregon and California. According to the state of Oregon, there are still 11 active fires and more than 900,000 acres have been scorched. “Some of the little towns ... don’t exist anymore because they’ve just been burned to the ground,” Jones said.

In a conversation with her father, Jones said, “Next time we’re driving through the mountains, it’s going to look a lot different.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIE JONES

The view of the sky from Katie Jones’ home in West Linn, Oregon. Jones’ home is within 30 miles of the nearest wildfire and need to be prepared to evacuate should the fires get closer.

CLASS OF 2024 SGA REPRESENTATIVES

Abby Goretsky | Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

The class of 2024 student government was elected on Sept. 15.

ANDREW LYMM IS THE newly elected freshman class president, and comes from Middletown, Connecticut. He hopes to bring more inclusion to the Elon community through increasing diversity in admissions and faculty hiring.

Lymm attended a private boarding school in upstate New York. Although his high school did not have a student government association, he was still able to participate as a

student leader through a variety of clubs. He chose to run for president after working as a judicial intern for a judge in the New York Supreme Court for the past two summers.

“This was a very unique opportunity and what I saw and learned there solidified my commitment to public service, inspiring me to be heavily involved here,” Lymm said.

Lymm, who plans to pursue a dual major in international business and international



ANDREW LYMM
PRESIDENT

relations on the pre-law track, is excited to help make the school even better. Besides inclusion, some of his goals for the Elon community are safety, normalcy and improvement.

Lymm hopes he can represent the class of 2024 as best as he can and is primarily focusing on the issue of diversity.

“Elon is an amazing school, but we can’t continue to teach and preach on the importance of diversity and not practice it

ourselves,” Lymm said.

Outside of SGA, Lymm loves to play music and cook and is involved in community service. He is looking to start a not-for-profit organization that will offer free music lessons to children in local communities.

Lymm hopes to get to know his classmates and would like open communication with them.

“If you ever see me, say hello! I would love to get to know more of you,” said Lymm.



CHLOE HIGGINS
VICE PRESIDENT

CHLOE HIGGINS IS THE new freshman class vice president. Higgins would like to see an increase in diversity and inclusion within both the student body and faculty of Elon.

“My goal is to help our campus become more inclusive and equitable,” Higgins said. “To make it a place where everyone feels safe and valued.”

The Cape Cod native was not involved in student government during high school, but did hold leadership position in soccer and was the president of her school’s Distributive Education Clubs of America program. She chose to run for vice president because of her love for the Elon community and wanted to be able to make

a positive impact while making sure that everyone’s voices can be heard.

Higgins, who plans to double major in political science and economics, would like to incorporate feedback from the Elon community while vice president. She hopes by doing this, she can “truly be a representative of the people.”

Aside from being vice president, Higgins is also a Leadership Fellow and a member of the yoga club, Design for America and the East Student Neighborhood Association. She said she hopes the Elon community can stick together in these hard times in order to ensure a “brighter future.”



GABBY GUTIERREZ
SENATOR

GABBY GUTIERREZ IS ANOTHER of the three senators elected. Gutierrez’s goals are to make Elon more inclusive so everyone’s voices are heard.

“I would like to see Elon come together as a community despite our differences and understand the culture and background of our peers,” said Gutierrez.

Gutierrez, who is from Chesapeake, Virginia, was part of the student government in her

high school from sophomore to senior year. Her love of student government in high school is part of the reason she ran for senator at Elon. She wants to make Elon feel even more like home.

The entrepreneurship major wants to emphasize the importance of coming together and respecting each other as a community that is different, and is looking forward to working with her fellow representatives and learning how to handle some of those differences.

Gutierrez is also a member of club swim and club lacrosse at Elon, and wants her peers to know that she is always available to talk either about a specific issue or just in general.

She remains optimistic for the year to come.

“We will have an amazing year, despite the challenges,” Gutierrez said. “And I am hopeful that changes will be made to better our community and make it an even more caring and respecting community of scholars.”



GENESIS TOLBERT
SECRETARY

THE NEW CLASS OF 2024 secretary is Genesis Tolbert. Tolbert, a Charlotte native, plans to increase diversity and the sense of community on Elon’s campus and expand diversity in terms of race within students.

“Elon is a majority white institution and there are only a few people of color,” Tolbert said. “Students of color should be able to interact and see other students in their classrooms that look like them.”

While she was not involved with student government in high school, Tolbert served as leadership for her school’s Black Student Union, including as president one year. The sense of

involvement is one that drew her to running for secretary at Elon.

As secretary, the chemistry major plans to improve communication between students, faculty and administration. She also wants to make sure that students of color feel safe and appreciated on campus.

Outside of SGA, Tolbert is also an Odyssey Scholar and a member of the Sustainability Living Learning Community. She wants students to know that they can always talk to her, whether it is to address an issue or because they need someone to talk to.

“I would like Elon to know that a positive change is coming, and SGA is working hard to make it happen,” Tolbert said.



XUAN HUYNH
SENATOR

XUAN HUYNH IS ONE of the three class of 2024 senators. Huynh’s main goal for the Elon community is inclusivity, and assessing the diversity initiatives that are in place now to make sure that they are effective.

“It’s important that students and faculty acknowledge the experiences of minority peers and, not only that, but that they prioritize diversifying their network too,” Huynh said.

Huynh, a native of Fairfax, Virginia, is passionate about “youth development and peacebuilding.” She chose to run for senator so she could be in a position that would allow her to improve injustices in her community. She also wanted to be able to increase diversity.

“I was motivated to increase Asian representation and amplify the voices of BIPOC students,” Huynh said.

Besides SGA, the undecided business major is also involved in CREDE programs such as the SMART Mentorship program, API Initiatives and Sisterhood Circle. She is also a Business Fellow and a member of APSA and club tennis.

Huynh is excited to get to know her peers. She encourages people to reach out to her, even if it’s just to talk. She also promotes students taking some time for themselves.

“Please check in with yourself and schedule time to decompress,” Huynh said. “Also, if you have the emotional capacity, reach out to your friends to see how they’re doing.”



BRITT MOBLEY
SENATOR

ONE OF THREE FRESHMAN class senators elected is Britt Mobley. The Raleigh native hopes to make a difference in the Elon community. Mobley wants to reach a point where the community becomes “comfortable with having uncomfortable conversations.”

“I think the turmoil and stress in this world and specifically our community is the lack of honest, open and transparent conversations,” Mobley said. “And I believe if we can change that mindset, then we all can work together to get things done.”

Mobley was involved with his high school’s student government since his freshman year. He was a member for his first three years and then elected as the student body president in his senior year. This helped shape his view that

SGA is a great outlet for advocacy and progress, which is part of the reason he ran for senator.

Mobley, who plans to double major in strategic communications and media analytics with a minor in political science, is focused on serving the class of 2024.

“I wanted to have a part in representing BIPOC students on campus and help build that bridge so that all students can feel a sense of belonging and safety on campus,” said Mobley.

Mobley is also a Communications Fellow and an Odyssey Scholar. He is “ecstatic” already about being a member of SGA and can’t wait to represent his classmates.

“My job is to represent the class of 2024 and the only way that I can do that is by getting to know each and every one of you,” Mobley said.

LIFESTYLE



COLLEGE COACHES brings constellation of mentors

Top to bottom: Elon University juniors Zoe Kurtz, Sarah Myers and Maryann Newcomb. The trio founded College Coaches with the goal of creating a mentorship program for freshmen.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ZOE KURTZ

Building a support system is important for freshmen, say the creators of College Coaches

Cailey Rogers

Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

At the beginning of their Leadership for Social Change class, Elon University juniors Zoe Kurtz, Sarah Myers and Maryann Newcomb were casually discussing their shared passion for mentorship and helping others. This conversation became the catalyst to the trio starting College Coaches.

College Coaches is an organization started with the mission of helping freshmen make connections and find mentors. Their hope is that first-year students are able to make connections with upperclassmen and find people who can offer them advice throughout their time at Elon and beyond.

The three Leadership Fellows created the program with the idea of focusing on students who are not involved in Greek life or fellowship, both programs where students traditionally get a mentor.

“We wanted to make it feel like

you don’t need to be involved in these [programs] to have a mentor, because everyone should have a mentor,” Myers said.

Since all three leaders are part of both Greek life and leadership programs, they were able to gain valuable experiences and advice from their own mentors, which they wanted to pass on to other freshmen that may not already have had such an opportunity with upperclassmen.

“They’ve been able to give me their own perspectives, which have enabled me to grow tremendously on campus and given me insight into the best way to achieve different things,” Kurtz said. “I know that without them that first year, I would have been really confused. I want other first-year students to have that same opportunity.”

College Coaches posts about upcoming events on their Instagram page. For in-person events, there will be sign-up sheets, and for events hosted on Zoom, there will be a link provided in their bio. Newcomb said starting an organization during the pandemic has offered some unique challenges, but there have been positive effects on the organization.

“We knew we wanted to do something

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WE WANTED TO MAKE IT FEEL LIKE YOU DON'T NEED TO BE INVOLVED IN THESE [PROGRAMS] TO HAVE A MENTOR, BECAUSE EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A MENTOR.

SARAH MYERS
JUNIOR

with mentorship, we knew we wanted to create a culture of mentorship at Elon, but [COVID-19] shifted our focus to helping first-year students. I think that was the best thing that could have happened to us,” said Newcomb.

This semester, College Coaches is hosting activities that all freshmen are encouraged to attend. Every Sunday at noon, they meet at the downtown picnic tables for “Coffee and Conversation,” and on Tuesdays at 9:40 a.m. they host a “Walk and Talk” event, which meets at Phi Beta Kappa Commons. For those who don’t want to attend events, the organization also conducts Q&As on their Instagram.

The trio’s main hopes for the future are to continue to host physically distanced activities to create an inclusive and fun environment for freshmen, as well as to offer any help they can to improve their time at Elon. Myers said they aim to help freshmen build a good foundation of mentors so that they can thrive not only in their first year, but throughout the rest of their college experience.

“We want to create the best possible environment for new students as we can because they are the future of Elon,” Myers said.

‘The Golden Taco’ truck caters quick, delicious bites

The Elon Bite column reviews restaurants and food vendors in and around the town of Elon

John Chambers

Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

The first spot I decided to go was a place on my “Elon Bucket List.” What seems to be a humble food truck parked at an Exxon station near the Food Lion on Church St. in Burlington is actually some of the best Mexican food around. The Golden Taco delivered some of the freshest, most authentic and most delicious tacos I have ever had.

I ordered three tacos — one pork, one chicken and one steak — and a pineapple agua fresca, all for \$8. Out of the three, the al pastor pork taco was most delicious, as the crunchy and fatty pork mixed in well with the acidity of the lime juice. The freshness of the ingredients was the most prevalent

sensation as I took the taco and put it in my mouth. The grilled meat and fresh herbs combined to create an explosion of mouth feel. The corn tortillas were clearly handmade, cooked fresh and brought a strong foundation to the tacos I ate.

Next best was the chicken taco, seasoned perfectly with a spice blend that paired superbly with the onion and cilantro it was garnished with. The heat from the spice did not overwhelm, and it perfectly balanced the lean chicken, creating a perfect bite of warmth, spice and acidity that had my taste buds dancing.

Last was the steak taco. While it was extremely delicious and had the classic bite of meat you want from a steak taco, I thought it was the weakest of the three. It was under seasoned and overcooked for my liking; however, the garnish of grilled onion, radish, salsa and fresh lime juice redeemed it when it was said and done.

However, the best item I ordered from the truck was not a taco, but the drink. The pineapple agua fresca was a diluted pineapple juice that was too good to put down. Served in a massive cup with ice, this drink had real pineapple pulp and was not overly sweet. It had a refreshing quality to it that fit the hot, late summer day I was eating it on. It was so delicious that once I finished it, I nearly got back in my car to get another one. You could tell it was made fresh and it left you wanting more.

Overall, I would score the Golden Taco as an 8 out of 10 and highly recommend it to friends who want a quick bite, or to visiting family who want something delicious that is “grab and go.” And while the menu has a variety of sandwiches, tacos, burritos and soups, I would recommend the pork taco and the agua frescas, especially for the low cost. On your next trip to Walmart, take a second to drive in and grab a bite.



JOHN CHAMBERS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Steak, chicken and pork tacos from the Golden Taco truck.

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