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2023  
ELON NEWS  
NETWORK

THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF  
ELON NEWS  
NETWORK

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Executive Director of Elon News Network

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Digital Brand Manager

Erin Martin and Sarah T. Moore contributed to the design of this edition. Gram Brownlee, Madalyn Howard and Cooper Lyon contributed to the copy editing of this edition.

EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

CORRECTIONS POLICY:

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

Contact

[corrections@elonnewsnetwork.com](mailto:corrections@elonnewsnetwork.com)  
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CORRECTIONS

In the last edition of The Pendulum, Prego's Trattoria was misspelled in the "Best Of: Italian Food" article. Elon News Network regrets this error.

In the last edition of The Pendulum, the 13 down clue was accidentally omitted from the crossword. Elon News Network regrets this error.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
CALENDAR

THE CENTER FOR RACE, EQUITY & DIVERSITY EDUCATION WILL HOST EVENTS THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH KICK-OFF  
UPSTAIRS LAKESIDE | 6 P.M.

FEBRUARY 1

FEBRUARY 2

IMAM W.D. MOHAMMED: HONORING THE LEGACY SYMPOSIUM  
MCBRIDE GATHERING SPACE | 6:30 P.M.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH RECOGNITION BASKETBALL GAME  
SCHAR CENTER | WBB VS N.C. A&T | 7 P.M.

FEBRUARY 3

FEBRUARY 7

CHEF KABUI DINING TAKEOVER  
LAKESIDE DINING HALL | 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.

RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCE: BLACK TRAVEL PAST & PRESENT  
KOURY BUSINESS CENTER - ROOM 101 | 11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

FEBRUARY 8

FEBRUARY 15

BLACK TABLE TALK WITH FRIENDS: AFROLATINX COOKING CLASS  
MOSELEY KITCHEN | 5:30 P.M.

RACIST ROOTS SCREENING  
DOWNTOWN BURLINGTON THEATRE | FREE ADMISSION | 7 P.M.

FEBRUARY 16

FEBRUARY 21

CARNAVAL CELEBRATION  
MCKINNON - MOSELEY STUDENT CENTER | 5 P.M.

BLACK SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE  
MCKINNON - MOSELEY STUDENT CENTER | NOON - 6 P.M.

FEBRUARY 24

FEBRUARY 24 - 25

BLACK HISTORY MONTH DANCE PERFORMANCE  
FEB. 24 AT 7 P.M. | FEB. 25 AT 2 P.M.

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3. CLICK ON THE POP-UP LINK





CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Vice President Kamala Harris walks on stage of the Duke Energy Center for Performing Arts in Raleigh on Monday, Jan. 30, to talk about Biden-Harris Administration's investments in America's small businesses.



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Four women look at the biography of Isabella Walton Cannon in the 1924 issue of Phi Psi Cli during the College Coffee event on Jan. 31 inside McKinnon Hall which commemorated the centennial of the fire of 1923. Cannon later became the first female mayor of Raleigh in 1977 at the age of 73.



HANA SEDIVY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Members of Elon University's chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi Ryan Kay and Lily Gooding celebrate Bid Day in the Loy Neighborhood. Elon University's Panhellenic Association hosted the last day of recruitment on Jan. 29 and celebrated members who have been invited to join one of its nine sororities on campus.



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Construction workers put a tarp over a newly-installed sign for Greensboro's new urban loop I-840 extension on Jan. 20 at the Yanceyville Street interchange. It opened Jan. 23 and connects Elm Street and U.S. 29. The completion of this segment of highway completes the entire urban loop around Greensboro, cutting down driving times between Elon and Piedmont Triad International Airport, to around 35 minutes.



JACOB KISAMORE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Graduate student guard Jerald Gillens-Butler celebrates after making a three-pointer during the first half of Elon's game against the Drexel University Dragons on Jan. 28 at Schar Center. Elon won 72-58 to snap its 20-game losing streak against Division I opponents.



# COMMITTEE ON ELON HISTORY AND MEMORY UNPACKS COMPLEX PAST

“

IT'S PERHAPS THE WHITEST CAMPUS HISTORY YOU COULD POSSIBLY SEE, SO WE COULD REWRITE THAT TO INCLUDE DIVERSE STORYLINES.

CHARLES IRONS  
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY



AVERY SLOAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Charles Irons, former committee chair, speaks during planning week on Aug. 16, 2022, on the work of the Committee on Elon History and Memory.

Since 2018, it has educated and taken strides toward restorative justice for Elon's history around race

Avery Sloan  
Politics Editor | @AveryLSloan

Elon University, originally founded in 1889 as an all-white institution, launched what is now known as the Committee on Elon History and Memory in 2018. This committee has been working to educate members of the Elon community about some of the institution's complex history around race.

Charles Irons, the committee chair from 2018-21 and professor of history, said the goal of the committee when it was created was "to explore questions related to historical memory and collective identity at Elon University." The committee submitted a report focused specifically on Black identities in fall 2020. Evan Gatti, the current chair of the committee, is on sabbatical.

"Elon started as a white-only institution, but no one had wondered about the implications of that or the extent to which Elon's leaders participated in the white supremacy that characterized the age," Irons said. "This work just hadn't really been done."

One example of the committee's work has been their effort to understand the experiences of one of the first Black staff members, Pinkney Comer.

According to the report, Comer was not treated with dignity by groups on campus while working to maintain Elon's athletic fields during the 1910s, and he died in unknown circumstances on the train tracks.

"White students in Elon's Clio Literary Society made Comer the butt of a very public and ugly joke in early 1920," the Committee on Elon History and Memory wrote. "They scripted an elaborate 'Black-face playlet in three acts,' which they performed to the delight of their audience. According to the Greensboro Daily News, 'The second act consisted of a

mock trial with a local setting, in which the case of Pickney Comer who was charged with beating his wife was tried."

Irons said this is an example of Elon's complicated history. The university honored Comer by dedicating an athletic field to him, yet his experience at Elon was not one that should only be celebrated.

"Pickney Comer, on the one hand, is the first Black person for whom a university facility was named," Irons said. "But it is also undeniable that Comer labored under a segregated system and was treated poorly by at least some white students. So, two things are true at the same time: even the honor of naming the field, 'Comer Field,' was compromised by the difficulties of Comer's lived experience."

Simone Royal, one of the assistant directors of the Center for Race Ethnicity and Diversity Education and Elon '17 alumna, said while in her role in the CREDE she doesn't work directly with the history and memory committee, both campus organizations work to support each other.

"The history and memory committee are working toward what are some actionable steps and changes that they can put in place on campus to continue to educate not only our current students, but prospective families students," Royal said.

Royal said even though she was a student here, much of Elon's history was not something she was familiar with.

"As a Black student, there's information, things that I knew about that was public," Royal said. "For instance, when our first Black students attended Elon, when our first Black student graduated. Those are very open and public information that Elon shares both downstairs in Moseley. We have different awards to celebrate those folks, but outside of that there's a lot of ins and outs in details that I did not know."

Irons said this was the starting place of the committee and from there it has been working on next steps of restorative justice.

"What do you do if you find out that your university is implicated in a certain way?" Irons

said. "How do you respond to the discovery of historic injustice? These questions about what to do with the information we've been learning have been somewhat divisive."

In 2020, the university dedicated the Janice Ratliff building, the first building named after a Black person. Irons said while this is something the committee was happy to see, there hasn't yet been a system put in place to make the process for naming buildings more inclusive. Irons said this is something that some universities have started doing, such as Duke University, but a commitment to inclusive naming practices is not yet commonplace.

Another step that the committee has discussed is adding physical markings on admissions tours so Elon's Black history is better highlighted and other small changes that can be made.

"That would be a concrete change," Irons said. "There are also other things that seem to

me to be low-hanging fruit, like changing the timeline of images outside of Belk Library that tells the campus story. It's perhaps the whitest campus history you could possibly see, so we could rewrite that to include diverse storylines."

Royal said that while she isn't sure how many students are aware of the work of the committee, she said Elon has been working to engage students and she has seen through the work of the CREDE that students are more open to learning about Elon's history.

"I've already always been aware of certain things," Royal said. "But I think it has just brought, for me personally, more awareness to it and it has allowed me to really examine what my purpose is, both in life but more specifically, in this role at this campus supporting these students. ... How do we translate that to students in a meaningful and engaging, impactful way that they can really take from this and go out into the world?"



AVERY SLOAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The plaques commemorating Elon's history are visible on the path next to Belk Library. These show the timeline of the university and Charles Iron, former chair of the Committee on Elon History and Memory said, "It's perhaps the whitest campus history you could possibly see."



# HIGHLIGHTING AFRICAN & AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES AT ELON

## IDS 2210

### SPLIT IMAGE: THE PORTRAYAL OF MINORITIES IN THE MASS MEDIA

“This course will examine the racial stereotypes and portrayals of minorities in the mass media, including African Americans, Native-Americans, Latinos and Asian-Americans in U.S. culture and communication. It will assist students in better understanding the contemporary development of mass communication images and messages in relation to diverse groups. The course is designed to introduce students to some of the complexities of the relationships between race, culture, popular culture and mass media. Students will be introduced to basic tools and techniques for evaluating, analyzing and understanding these relationships as they are communicated through mass media. The course will focus on the news media, including newspapers, television, radio, magazines and the Internet, and entertainment, such as film and music.”

## IDS 2240

### DISARMING INJUSTICE: NONVIOLENCE AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

“In this course, we will examine how civil rights leaders and activists used the theories and tactics of nonviolence to challenge the institutions of segregation in the American South. The course will culminate in travel to sites important to the movement in Atlanta, Montgomery, Birmingham, and Selma.”

## ENG 2250

### AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE BEFORE 1945

“This course traces the development of the themes of protest, accommodation and escapism found in the fiction, poetry and drama of African-American writers before 1945.”

## ENG 3300

### THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

“This course examines the tremendous volume of literary, artistic, and cultural expression by African-Americans between WWI and approximately 1940 and will explore the evolution of American racial reasoning, Afro-orientalism and class conflict. Based in New York but felt internationally, the Harlem Renaissance is roundly viewed as a period of literary and cultural rebirth for African-Americans and of emerging black modernism. Readings may include W.E.B. DuBois, James Weldon Johnson, Jessie Fauset, Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, Nella Larsen, Jean Toomer, Countee Cullen, Marcus Garvey, Arthur Schomburg, Alain Locke, Zora Neale Hurston, George Schuyler, Sterling Brown, Wallace Thurman, Helene Johnson and others.”

## MUS 3404

### AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMPOSERS

“This course looks at the lives of African-American composers, their music and the social structure within which they lived. The course allows students to investigate the artistic impact of American historical events and trends such as Jim Crow laws, segregation and cabaret cards.”

## HST 3630

### AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY, 1850-PRESENT

“Beginning with the slave system in the mid-19th century, this course examines recurring issues and problems in African-American history through the post-Civil Rights era. Study focuses on three themes: the similarity and differences of African-American experiences; the extent to which they were oppressed yet also had choices; and their strategies to cope with their social and political situations.”

## AAA 3610-3680

### SEMINARS IN AFRICAN AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

“Interdisciplinary seminars focus on modern scholarship in African and African-American Studies. Topics vary according to course theme.”

## IDS 2220

### THE BLACK MAN IN AMERICA

“Blacks in the US continue to grapple with the deleterious effects of racial discrimination and inequality in the areas of housing, incarceration, education, employment, law enforcement and justice. This course investigates the lives of Black men in these areas to better understand how racial inequality, discrimination and oppression have (and continue to) adversely affect them and the wider population of blacks in the US. This course introduces students to some core readings in Black Studies and Critical Race Theory. It also exposes them to some empirical and analytical studies of contemporary racial injustice and discrimination of the Black male in the US. The course starts off by examining the historical context in which Black oppression and inequality began in America.”

## ENG 2360

### AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSICAL AND LITERARY TRADITION

“This asynchronous, online course is designed to introduce students to the artistic impact of American historical events and movements, such as slavery, Jim Crow, segregation, the Great Migration, and Black Nationalism on the joint development of African-American musical and literary traditions. Beginning with slave songs and the Negro spirituals, and moving through gospel, the Blues, Jazz and Hip Hop, students explore the ways in which these musical genres influenced African-American literary production.”

## ENG 2260

### AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE SINCE 1945

“An examination of works by major African-American writers since 1945 focuses on making connections among writers. This course satisfies the departmental global/multicultural requirement.”

## ENG 3590

### AFRICAN-AMERICAN NOVELS

“This study of novels by such writers as Baldwin, Ellison, Hurston, Walker, Wright and Morrison gives attention to gender, place, alienation and changes in forms of protest.”

## HSS 3600

### THE BLACK FAMILY

“This course will study the cultural and social dynamics of the African American family both historically and currently. The course will examine in historical context the current challenges and resources of the modern African American family. Topics will include education, spirituality, politics, health, crime and poverty and more. Students will examine a specific relevant research question of their own choosing through independent research throughout the term.”

## AAA 4999

### RESEARCH IN AFRICAN AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

“This course provides an opportunity for students to undertake in-depth study of individually chosen research topics in African and African-American Studies under the direction of a program-affiliated faculty member. Research projects may include a review of research literature, developing a research design, data collection and analysis, and a presentation or report when the study is completed. Prerequisites: A research proposal form completed in conjunction with the faculty member is required for registration. Students may register for one to four hours of credit per semester and may register for more than one semester of research for a total of eight hours of research credit towards the minor. Students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA, have completed 28 semester hours of undergraduate work, and secured approval from the faculty sponsor and AAAS program coordinator.”

For more information, visit the [Elon University Academic Catalog](#).



# BLACK IN THE THEATRE

## a preview

Elon Dance program to hold first in-person Black History Month dance concert since 2020 on Feb. 24 to 25

**Betsy Schlehuber**  
Lifestyle Editor | @betsyschlehuber

After being virtual for two years, the Black History Month Dance Concert is set to make an in-person comeback Feb. 24 and Feb. 25 filled with African drumming, multiple styles of dance and celebration of Black culture.

Elon Dance partnered with the CREDE this year to put together this Black History Month Dance Concert called Black in the Theatre, directed by Keisha Wall, professor of dance at Elon. Together, they chose the theme “Black Renaissance” to celebrate Black art. Black in the Theatre has been put on at Elon since 2012 as part of Black History Month, but in 2020 — with Wall as the new director — they held their last in-person performance right before the COVID-19 pandemic placed concerts on pause. In 2021 and 2022, the performance was filmed with dancers wearing masks.

This year, there will be three performances — two bigger groups of Elon dancers and one smaller group. The bigger groups’ choreography were taught by special guest choreographers Souleymane Solo Sana and Michelle Gibson, respectively.

Wall said she brought in the guest choreographers in order to expose the dancers to other Black artists, since all they have known is her choreographing.

“I wanted to take a step back this year and allow them to experience other people out in the world doing this amazing stuff, especially with the theme ‘Black Renaissance,’ they need to know there’s other people outside of Elon that are doing some really cool things,” Wall said.

Senior Parker MacIntyre is one of the dancers in the first group and he will be dancing to African drum rhythms, taught by Solo Sana and performed by outside drummers. MacIntyre said he loved being in the performance when he was a freshman and he’s excited to finally do it again.

“The energy of the Black History Month concert is wild; people just go nuts,” MacIntyre said. “The audience is crazy. It’s so upbeat and fun and lively.”

The first group will dance to West African music, the second group will dance in a New Orleans “street dancing” style and the third group will dance in “contemporary African.” Most of the dancers are dance or dance science majors, but all majors were open to audition. There will be 30 dancers in the production, including dancers from outside of Elon.

Black in the Theatre will open with an a cappella performance of the Black National Anthem by Elon a cappella group Melanated Melodies, followed by a dance segment by The Moment — a Black musical theater

organization.

For her first time, freshman Evelyn Ealey will be performing in Black in the Theatre as one of the dancers in the second and third group, one being guest choreographed by Gibson and the other by Wall.

Ealey said she is very excited about this performance because she feels it will be different now that audience members can connect more with the dancers.

“For Fall Dance, it wasn’t exactly that way because they were more contemporary dances so people couldn’t really get into it,” Ealey said. “They can hear the music but people are going to feel the music, feel the drums and just have a good time.”

As this is MacIntyre’s last year dancing in the program, he said he feels “very bittersweet” but that it’ll be “a good way to go out” and is grateful for Wall’s instruction.

“I am 100% going to like to have a breakdown after this is over because this is something I look forward to every year and I was never exposed to it before coming to Elon,” MacIntyre said. “She’s taught me

people together, form community and celebrate.

“Sure, maybe you’ll go to a ballet or you’ll go to a show on Broadway, but you’re never really going to see West African dance,” MacIntyre said. “It’s such a beautiful art form and it’s so fun to be a part of. I’m so thankful for it.”

Wall also said she thinks attendees of the performance will have fun, not just because everyone will be in-person again but because people will get meaning out of the experience.

“They will be really moved by the works that are going to be shared if they have any interest at all in black art, black artists or black music,” Wall said. “They are guaranteed to get all of that in this one-hour show.”

Black in the Theatre is set to perform on Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. in McCrary Theatre. At 6:30 p.m, right before the debut performance,

t h e r e

will be a showcase of Black art and artifacts in the Global Education Center. Registration is not required for the performance nor the art display.

### IF YOU GO

**Where:** McCrary Theatre  
**When:** Feb. 24 - 7:30 p.m.  
Feb. 25 - 2 p.m.

Registration is not required for the performance nor the art display on Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m.

“

WHEN I CAME HERE, I HAD NEVER DANCED WITH LIVE DRUMS, DIDN'T HAVE A LIVE BAND, AND I'D NEVER DONE AFRICAN STYLE DANCING ... I THINK IT'S JUST A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO SEE SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

**EVELYN EALEY**  
FRESHMAN DANCER

everything and opened this whole new dance form to me, and I'm so thankful for that.”

Ealey hopes that what people get out of Black in the Theatre is that there is this other style of dance and culture that she said not a ton of people get exposed to — not even herself.

“When I came here, I had never danced with live drums, didn’t have a live band, and I’d never done African style dancing,” Ealey said. “So I think it’s just a great opportunity for people to see something different.”

MacIntyre urges Elon students to attend Black in the Theatre because he said this culture needs to be shared in order to bring

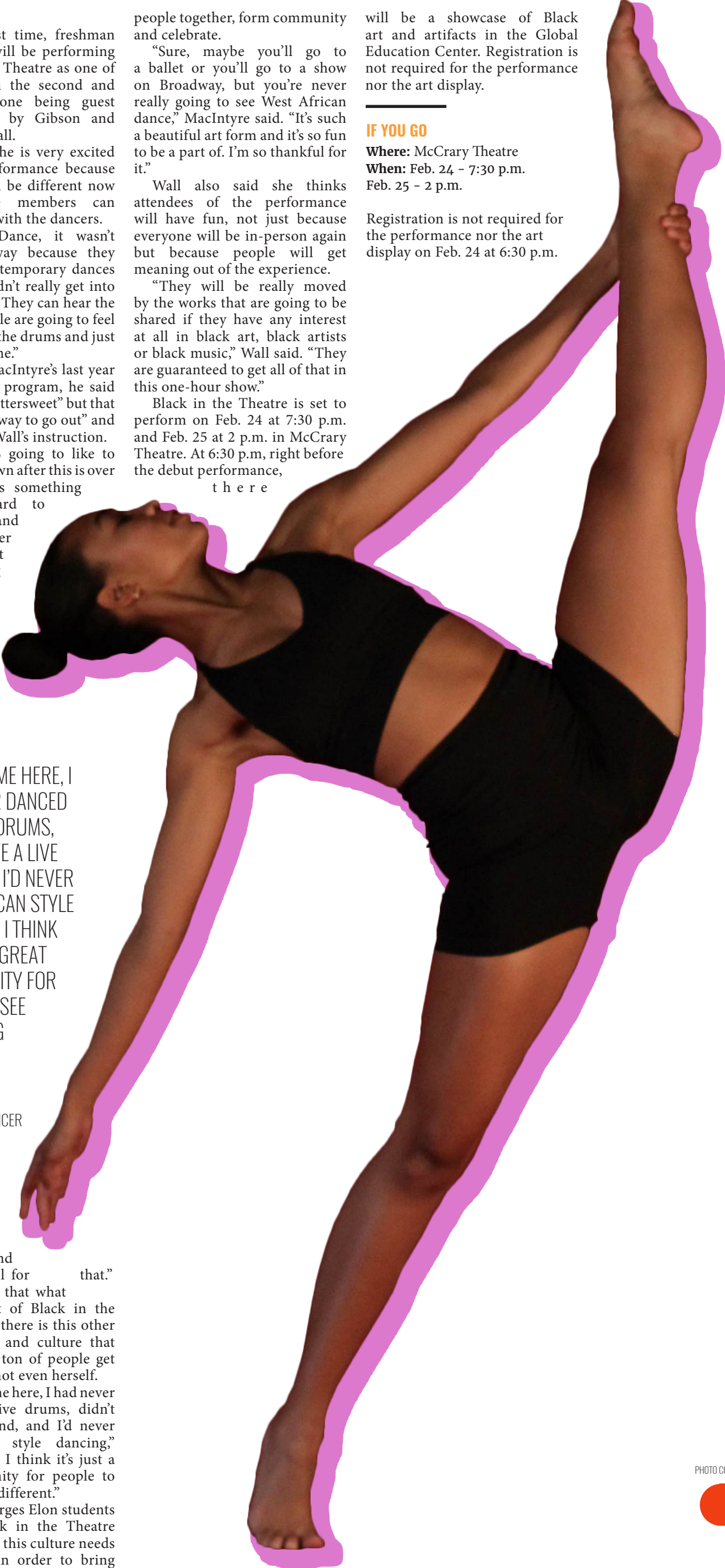


PHOTO COURTESY OF EVELYN EALEY



# AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:

## A MUCH-NEEDED POLICY

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## OPINION



**Taryn Vandiver**  
Elon News Network

The college application and admissions procedures are stressful for almost every high school upperclassman; introducing anxieties over the many different necessities that go into the decision-making process. This struggle is often amplified for students of color; whilst most students struggle with primarily school-related issues such as grades and making the most of their college essays, many students of color must account for the possible discrimination they may encounter in the process based on their names or even their socioeconomic status.

According to the American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity, the American government attempted to alleviate this struggle in 1961 by implementing affirmative action— a means of minimizing discrimination in the processes of admitting and employing disadvantaged groups of people. While the policy was initially enforced within the workplace, it soon expanded to the education system in the 1960s, offering minority groups a chance to enter higher education.

The debate surrounding affirmative action has been a very polarizing topic, revolving around the diversification of college campuses in an effort to reduce discrimination in the college admissions process and how intentional diversification can exist without discrimination.

Despite the noble-sounding policy, there is an ongoing debate within the Supreme Court surrounding the constitutionality of the affirmative action movement. This debate began many years ago in 2003 and reemerged in 2018 after former president Donald Trump removed affirmative action guidelines in the college admissions process. The American Civil Liberties Unions of both Massachusetts and North Carolina have offered their assistance and expertise to the Court by filing amicus briefs in order to submit evidence and research uplifting the need for affirmative action.

When calling into question the constitutionality of affirmative action, I was quick to look into what parts

of the issue are being debated. What I found was that the policy has been viewed as seemingly discriminatory to white people, a concept that I found confusing considering the actions of the American government in the past.

I have found that affirmative action is a complicated policy for many situations because of the prejudices on which America has been built as well as the effects it has on students of color in the college application process. Due to foundational racism and discriminatory laws targeting people of color in the past, many minority families are only recently being given the chance to send their kids to college. Affirmative action has offered these families a higher chance of being able to send their loved ones off to get the education they were deprived of.

This debate brings me back to my college application process, which was just last year. I remember having to fill in my ethnic background for every application and wondering why it mattered so much.

In my debate club, we had our own debate about the ethics of affirmative action, and whether or not we found it discriminatory to bring race into account so heavily in the college admissions process.

In the end, the conclusion reached by my debate club was almost unanimous in that many of the students of color believed that affirmative action neither helped nor hindered their college acceptances, while many of the white students claimed it was unfair in practice and should not be used.

When my class held this debate, I had just received my acceptance to Elon University, which slightly affected my stance on this matter. When I was researching to better defend my position, I looked into the school I was planning to attend and found that one of the most advertised efforts was to diversify the campus. The low, but rising, percentage of the student body that was ethnically diverse helped me build my argument for affirmative action.

According to a study by the Pew

Research Center, the findings of my class were conclusive with the majority opinion in America, with 78% of white Americans, 62% of black Americans and 58% to 64% of other minority groups stating that they believed race should not be a factor in the college admissions process.

Thinking that I may have been accepted to Elon primarily because of my race was a difficult thing to come to terms with. However, after looking back on my academic career and my application, I was reassured by both myself and my teachers that this was not the case.

I wondered if my background was more influential in the decision to accept me than my achievements in high school. For a while, I was angry about it, thinking that all I had done in my high school career was diminished to just my race. However, I got to thinking about how many people in my life were unable to go to college because of generational racism and the disadvantages bestowed on minority groups. This experience kickstarted my interest in the affirmative action debate.

I used this experience as a piece of my argument, asserting that the stress the experience placed on my shoulders was a demonstration of both sides of the argument. While I initially worried that my ethnic background was all that played into Elon's decision to accept me. I later realized after looking at other students of color who applied to this school and did not get in that my race did not seem to play too big a role in the actual admission decision.

I wanted to believe that affirmative action should not be necessary and that my academic and extracurricular talents should be enough. However, it is still a well-known phenomenon that racism and discrimination have been two of the most driving factors in America since its establishment as an independent country in 1776. From slavery and Jim Crow laws, to the reluctant following of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, racism has played a major role in American history and culture.

The generational racism that

has been implemented in the education system as a whole is a large justification for the affirmative action policy, with college first being integrated in the 1960s. Acknowledging that the only reason minorities are allowed a higher education is an act passed less than sixty years ago serves as a reminder of the education and experiences that many minority families were deprived of and allows many minorities to attend college and get the higher education many of our ancestors were denied.

While many white students and voters believe that affirmative action puts them at a disadvantage, there are many studies, including one by the Hechinger Report, that show that after former President Barack Obama's implementation of affirmative action guidelines and policy, enrollment at the 500 top colleges in the United States was 75% white, while the 3,250 lowest funded colleges and four-year universities were 37% non-white.

From the above source, it can be gathered that despite some of the negative connotations, affirmative action has helped generations of underrepresented groups attend college. But many people of color elect to not go to colleges due to discrimination in the admissions process. Because of the increasing ratio of students of color to white students, many individuals who may have had a tougher time confidently applying to and enrolling in colleges have been able to attend.

Though many students of color say they do not see much of a difference through affirmative action, without it they may have had a lesser chance of entering college in the first place. I have learned that though things are much better, affirmative action helps to continue to advocate for minorities in the college admissions process. I believe it will allow for a greater concentration of minorities and students of color, allowing for a more diverse and inclusive college experience. There will always be a need for diversity, and through affirmative action, I believe we can one day achieve that goal.



# FIGHTING RACISM ON AND OFF THE COURT

Elon women's basketball celebrates Black History Month

Sydney Spencer  
Sports Editor | @sydneyaspencer

Facing opponents on the basketball court has never been a challenge for Elon women's basketball head coach Charlotte Smith. Her main obstacle, however, has been overcoming years of hatred and racism she faced while growing up as an African American woman.

Smith has been coaching the Phoenix for 11 seasons. The team will be spending February remembering, honoring and celebrating Black History Month. Smith said it's important that the women on her team are educated and informed about influential African Americans throughout history.

"It's important to celebrate because when I think back to my time in high school ... when you learned about American history, most of everything that you learned about Black history was slavery," Smith said. "But our identity extends far beyond slavery, and the contributions that we have made to this country extend far beyond slavery."

Smith, the winningest head women's basketball coach in program history, has also had a stellar professional playing career. Playing for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Smith became one of the most decorated athletes in its program history, having her jersey number — 23 — retired. She was also selected as the 33rd overall pick

“UNFORTUNATELY RACISM DOES EXIST IN OUR COUNTRY, AND IT EXISTS BOTH WAYS HONESTLY. FOR MYSELF, THE FIRST TIME I EXPERIENCED RACISM WAS WHEN I WAS CALLED THE N-WORD.”

CHARLOTTE SMITH  
ELON WOMEN'S HEAD COACH

in the 1999 WNBA draft, playing professionally until 2006.

But Smith's career has not always come easy. Throughout her professional and personal life, she has experienced forms of racism and hatred from those around her.

"Unfortunately racism does exist in our country, and it exists both ways honestly. For myself, the first time I experienced racism was when

I was called the N-word," Smith said. "You have to be strong in your identity and know that who you are is not what people call you but is what you answer to."

Smith said that overcoming hatred, although a difficult feat, is extremely important to living a successful and positive life.

"The fortunate part for me is that I was raised in a family where everybody was a human being at the end of the day," Smith said. "So I was taught just to embrace and love everybody. From an ugly moment, you have to turn it into something beautiful so you continue to be a light in the earth."

Senior forward Maya Johnson said she has experienced similar struggles throughout her life. Like Smith, she spends every day trying to overcome them.

"I really do have a hard time because my brothers are Black, so every day I'm just worried about them," Johnson said. "That's not really something you want to be worried about as a sister, but it's real life."

The Phoenix will be celebrating and honoring about different African Americans and their integral role in history throughout the month.

"We have them do research on people that they feel like have been influential in terms of Black history. We study those people, and we share about those people amongst each other," Smith said. "It's important to realize that Black history is American history and for them to learn about the contributions that we have made to this country to make it the great country that it is."

Johnson said she is looking forward to learning about different people and their impacts with her teammates.

"In Black History Month we learn a lot, we learn about things we don't know," Johnson said. "We try to share a fact pretty much every day in practice during February."

Smith said she is grateful to the university and the program for allowing her to overcome her past obstacles. When she first came to the university, Smith said she had shared her experiences with racism with former university President Emeritus L e o

“I REALLY DO HAVE A HARD TIME BECAUSE MY BROTHERS ARE BLACK, SO EVERY DAY I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT THEM... THAT'S NOT REALLY SOMETHING YOU WANT TO BE WORRIED ABOUT AS A SISTER, BUT IT'S REAL LIFE.”

MAYA JOHNSON  
SENIOR FORWARD

Lambert, who immediately wanted to help her.

"I love the bond that we have here at Elon. It's a family, and we care about each other's well being," Smith said. "So that's how I got through that is through my Elon family, through people who don't look like me."

Johnson said the most important message of

Black History Month is the unification of all people, but everyone needs to remember who came before them and how they accomplished it.

"It just reminds us that, yes, we are unified now, but we can't forget what we went through and who sacrificed to get us where we are today," Johnson said.

PHOTOS BY ERIN MARTIN,  
KATHERINE MARTIN,  
JOSEPH NAVIN  
AND JACOB  
KISAMORE





# NEWS

## Think tank class exposes students to public policy

Students can take the two credit class to learn the basics of policy analysis

Michael Leung  
Elon News Network

During Senior Amaya Gaines’ research at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and the University of Chicago, she discovered they were a part of a network of “think tanks” throughout the country. As Gaines prepares to graduate in the spring, she said she’s thinking about the legacy she will be leaving behind and thought that Elon could benefit from a similar program.

“As a graduating senior, it was really important for me to leave something like a healthy organization,” Gaines said. “To see that department become more robust and have more opportunities for students to share numerous interests ... to not only gain experiential opportunity but even learn something new about themselves in terms of policy interests.

After winning the Lumen Prize, Gaines created PST 3700: A Public Policy Think Tank as a two-credit course that began in the fall under the mentorship of Dillian Bono-Lunn, professor of political science and policy studies.

As faculty adviser, Bono-Lunn will facilitate conversations that will further the think tank’s progress and encourage students to take charge to decide which areas of public policy to discuss.



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Elon University senior Amaya Gaines sits with Dillian Bono-Lunn, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Policy Studies, in Gray Pavillion on March 29 before their advising meeting ahead of registration. Gaines and Bono-Lunn worked together to develop a public policy think tank class that will be offered this upcoming fall where students can publish their own, and review others' policy research.**

“They completely decide what to focus on,” Bono-Lunn said. “Students produce infographics and blog posts and ultimately a policy memo that is done as a team, but those topics are completely driven by their own self interest.”

Students will combine coursework with research to teach others about the basics of policy analysis, but the class will

also bridge the gap between academic and professional work.

The think tank will help students develop skills that can translate for a political career, including how to publish policy analyses, policy memos and other shorter form outputs centered around local, state, federal or international policy issues.

Gaines and Bono-Lunn found that students brought their interests and passion to the class, exploring how to add different areas of public policy to their assignments. For example, students who showed interest in economic policy also dabbled in environmental and foreign policy. The cumulation of their work was displayed at their experiential learning showcase at the end of the semester.

“I think that we saw that this can work and we see further opportunities to expand in some of those areas around policy analysis and sharing research,” Bono-Lunn said.

All students’ works are published on the Phoenix Policy Institute website to be read by anyone interested in public policy.

“I think that we saw that this can work and we see further opportunities to expand in some of those areas around policy analysis and sharing research,” Bono-Lunn said.

Gaines said she hopes the think tank will grow into something that will give students more opportunities to explore their political interests even after she graduates so that students not only gain experiential opportunity, but also learn something about themselves in terms of policy interests.

The public policy think tank is open to students of all majors. It does not have any prerequisites, and is available spring semester. If interested, reach out to Bono-Lunn at [dbonolunn@elon.edu](mailto:dbonolunn@elon.edu) or Amaya Gaines at [againes10@elon.edu](mailto:againes10@elon.edu).

## Vice President addresses importance of small businesses, community lenders in NC panel

Kamala Harris participated in the panel discussion on small businesses in downtown Raleigh on Jan. 30

Kyra O’Connor  
Executive Director | @ko\_reports

Community lending initiatives are grassroots movements to connect communities to economic opportunities, according to Senior Vice President of the Latino Community Credit Union Vicky Garcia — but for places like Alamance County, they are few and far between.

The LCCU is a community development financial institution with a primary mission to provide local communities with ethical financial products and education to “empower and ensure” economic opportunity for all, according to its mission statement. The first branch opened in 2000 and in 2020 exceeded \$594 million in assets.

“The Latino credit union was founded for Latinos, by Latinos,” Garcia said. “We’re not only creating value through initial knowledge, the focus as well, but we are also helping them to stay, create roots, and participate and contribute to the community in general.”

Garcia participated in a panel discussion with Vice President Kamala Harris and Isabella Casillas Guzman, administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, at

the A.J. Fletcher Opera Theater in downtown Raleigh on Jan. 30. The discussion, moderated by Jorge Buzo, local Univision affiliates’ news and community coordinator and a former Telemundo anchor in Atlanta, discussed the importance of small businesses and the work of community lending initiatives, such as the LCCU.

“When I think of small businesses, I think of it in two ways,” Harris said. “What we do to support small businesses, and what we must do to support small business owners.”

Harris and panelists discussed some of the obstacles facing business owners, including language barriers, lack of financial literacy and access to capital.

“Things that have nothing to do with the capacity of the individual and nothing to do with their spirit of innovation and ambition,” Harris said.

Credit unions such as LCCU are able to help address the barriers prospective business owners may face by hiring employees who are members of the community they serve. According to the U.S. Census data from 2021, 10.2% of the state population identifies as Hispanic or Latino. In Alamance County, 13.7% of the population identifies as Hispanic or Latino.

“They understand the capacity of the community, they understand the culture of the community, the worries of the community, what the community wants for itself,” Harris said. “They look at the

whole human being in terms of that small business owner, and they can see them.

Former District 63 Representative Ricky Hurtado, who attended the panel, said bringing community lenders like LCCU to Alamance County was one of the initiatives he wanted to do while he was in office, and is now pursuing out of office, as well.

“Individual business owners do have a relationship if they need it, it’s not too far away, the closest branch is in Carrboro,” Hurtado said. “But I think it’d be a real benefit if we actually saw greater physical presence in our community, so that’s something I

am really interested in pursuing.”

There are 15 physical LCCU locations across the state. LCCU is a credit union, which differs from a bank because unlike most banks, LCCU and most credit unions are not for profit.

“The Latino Credit Union was founded by Latinos for years and is actually administered by them,” Garcia said. “It is an example of how the grassroots movements in North Carolina have created something that can put the economic opportunity there for Latinos.”

Garcia said the LCCU is “the best kept secret” and encourages everyone, especially Latinx and Hispanic citizens, to consider

LCCU.

“This is a moment right now ... in Alamance County that our focus is shifting from big industrial businesses to small businesses because they understand that’s the heart of our downtowns and our economy,” Hurtado said.

### INTERACTIVE MAP

Visit [Elon News Network to view Interactive Map of Latino Community Credit Unions across North Carolina.](#)

There are 15 physical locations across the state.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Vice President Kamala Harris talks about the Biden-Harris Administration’s investments in America’s small businesses at the Duke Energy Center for Performing Arts in Raleigh, North Carolina on Monday Jan. 30.**



# LIFESTYLE

## Elon University Surtal creates community on campus

Started on campus in fall 2021, the Bollywood fusion dance club promotes Indian cultures

**Ruth Cruz**

Elon News Network

When Elon University junior Shriya Baru joined Surtal she hoped to meet new people and explore her Indian culture. This organization helped Shriya establish connections with others who share similar beliefs.

Surtal is Elon's first Bollywood-fusion dance club that began in the fall of 2021. The club gives members the opportunity to learn about various Indian dance festivals. Members have performed at the Festival of Lights and Luminaries, the Festival of Colors and World Dance Day.

"I think Surtal gave me something which is very important such as confidence and belief," Baru said. "I had zero confidence that I was going to be able to pull this off because that is something I never did in my life. Being on the executive board this year also helped my communication skills as well. The best part is it gave me a lot of confidence, kind of a lot of belief, and it helped me in a lot of different ways."

Baru said she was shy, reserved and curious and felt like she needed a push out of her comfort zone. For Baru, Surtal was an opportunity to express her individuality and discover new friendships through dance. She worked with other members to learn unique and beautiful dances that would bring diversity to Elon.

"I personally connected with many interesting people who have graduated recently," Baru said. "Elon doesn't have a lot of Indian students or a lot of Indian community. That never really affected me ... but finding a few people who do have similar values and similar beliefs or opinions like me felt really good. And the best part is all of them were extremely nice and we became really good friends in a short period of time."



PHOTO COURTESY OF RECE RAJU

Surtal is Elon University's first Bollywood-fusion dance club and began in the fall of 2021. The club gives members the opportunity to learn about various Indian dance festivals. Members have performed at the Festival of Lights and Luminaries, the Festival of Colors and World Dance Day.

The best memories made in Surtal, Baru said, involved the extraordinary and traditional Diwali celebration.

This festival celebrated Indian culture and brought diversity to Elon. Baru indulged herself fully into the Diwali spirit by performing a dance with Surtal at the festival. This celebration symbolizes light over darkness and humans' ability to overcome any obstacles.

Baru said the club's Diwali 2021 performance was her most memorable moment.

"The most memorable moment was last year's Diwali in 2021," Baru said. "That was my first ever dance performance in my life. ... We practiced a lot and all of us did well. It was during COVID-19 with a mass panic,

but still we were able to pull off an amazing performance with confidence. That was the best moment for me."

Baru said the former president of Surtal, sophomore Alena Jain, wanted to bring diversity to Elon through Indian culture. Sophomore Rece Raju will be the president this spring semester and hopes to continue the tradition with new members.

Raju said she believes the club can bring an international connection to the Indian students at Elon to remind these students that Elon accepts their beautiful culture. She said she wants to recruit new members who are willing to learn about their culture and create new connections like Shriya.

"I think it brings diversity," Raju said. "It's something that you don't really have

here. To experience an international version of dance it's amazing. We also collaborate with other groups in the spring show. We did a Bollywood Fusion piece which mixed aspects of western and Bollywood culture.

Raju, who grew up in Mississippi and is half Indian and half white, said Surtal has transformed her values and beliefs about Indian culture. She said she got the chance to connect with her roots and explore another world, which left a significant impact on her future as an Indian student at Elon.

"There isn't that much diversity and then not many Indians there and so getting to Elon and joining Surtal helped me connect with a part of my culture I didn't even realize I could connect," Raju said.

## Elon University not to follow schools in TikTok ban

University of Texas at Austin, Auburn University banned the app in December due to cybersecurity risks

**Anjolina Fantaroni**

Social Media Director | @anjolinaclaire

As schools such as University of Texas at Austin and Auburn University ban TikTok on campus wifi and devices, Elon University currently has no plans to ban the

app, according to university spokesperson Owen Covington.

Last December, Auburn University banned TikTok to protect student's personal information from potentially being taken by the Chinese Communist Party, according to an article from Campus Reform. Auburn University and The University of Texas at Austin are two of several universities concerned that students may be surveilled by the Chinese government and pose a national security risk.

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I DO USE IT ONCE IN A WHILE TO SCROLL THROUGH AND FIND ENTERTAINMENT. I FEEL LIKE IT DEFINITELY HAS ITS PLACE TO BE USED AND OVERUSED, BUT OBVIOUSLY I FEEL THAT IT'S ANYBODY'S RIGHT TO BE ABLE TO CHOOSE WHAT'S ON THEIR PHONE.

**BEN OHLMEYER**  
SOPHOMORE

Research from the Washington Post shows TikTok takes information from over 1 billion users, such as which brand and device is being used, the IP address of the user, what content is being viewed and what app was used before TikTok.

Covington said that while the university has no current plans to ban the app on school wifi, students should take precautions protecting their information.

"With TikTok, as with any app, users should actively educate themselves about potential privacy and digital security risks and take appropriate steps to protect themselves and their information," Covington wrote in an email to Elon News Network.

Covington said he believes that anti-malware and privacy organizations are among those databases that will keep the campus wifi secure. Elon's campus uses a multi-factor authentication, Duo Mobile, that prevents unauthorized data access from email as well as student's personal work. To prevent harmful websites from hacking information on campus, Elon secures the wifi with Cisco Umbrella to avert data loss and malicious information.

Freshman Katie Lysaght said she hopes TikTok will not be banned on Elon's campus.

"TikTok is a platform where we're able to see news and things that are happening outside of our campus," Lysaght said. "I don't think it's right for our college to restrict our access to the internet like that. I'd be very annoyed."

Sophomore Ben Ohlmeyer also said he thinks students would be annoyed, even though he is not an avid user of the app.

"I do use it once in a while to scroll through and find entertainment," Ohlmeyer said. "I feel like it definitely has its place to be used and overused, but obviously I feel that it's anybody's right to be able to choose what's on their phone."



ERIN HRONCICH | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Elon freshman Sara Sussman opens TikTok on her phone.





Senior setter Haylie Clark celebrates with teammates after winning a point against Stony Brook University on Nov. 11.

JACOB KISAMORE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# ELON VOLLEYBALL ALUMNA TAKES HER TALENTS OFF THE COURT AND INTO COACHING

Newest Bucknell Bisons' assistant coach got her start at Elon

**Sydney Spencer**  
Sports Editor | @sydneyaspencer

Elon volleyball alumna Haylie Clark is the newest addition to the Bucknell University volleyball staff after recently accepting the position of assistant coach from the university. The setter from Saint Cloud, Florida, played for five seasons at Elon, graduating with a major in sport management.

After completing her final season playing for Elon in 2022, Clark began job applications to find a coaching position. It happened that the first school she applied to hired her and she fell in love with its campus. Clark said coaching volleyball has been her dream since she came to college.

"I didn't want to go on the path of playing professionally, just because my body can't take it anymore, but I knew I wanted to stick around volleyball and make an impact any way that I could," Clark said.

Head coach Mary Tendler said she wasn't surprised that Clark wanted to pursue coaching as she

had seen the dedication she has to the sport. Tendler said she was thrilled to hear Clark had gotten a position at Bucknell.

"I knew she could get a job because she has a lot going for her, but I was more excited for the fact that she is getting this opportunity at such a good institution," Tendler said.

Clark has played volleyball since she was 12 years old and said she has always been extremely passionate about the sport, but she didn't always want to pursue coaching. It wasn't until she began coaching with the children's Elon volleyball summer camps where her passion began.

Tendler said she was glad that the program at Elon had such an impact on Clark's life.

"She's been working camps every summer for us and does such a great job," Tendler said. "It's been neat to see her grow throughout the summers and get more and more confident to the point where she is doing things on her own and taking over the court."

Most recently, Clark coached at Piedmont Volleyball Club and the Volleyballer Training Academy, preparing her for her new career.

"I really loved coaching and I loved sharing my passion for the sport with youth athletes and student athletes as well," Clark said.

Clark not only grew as a coach at Elon, but as a player herself. Over the course of five seasons, Clark excelled on the court. Clark was named to the 2021 and 2022 all Colonial Athletic Association second teams, the 2022 CAA all preseason first team, and was the 2021 CAA setter of the year.

"Having a successful career was really important," Clark said. "When you're playing you learn so much more about the game."

In 2022 alone, she started 26 out of 27 matches for the Phoenix and played in all 109 sets. She racked up 37 double-doubles in her career. Clark also has 2,667 career assists, the fifth all-time at Elon. Clark said she was proud of her accomplishments but is excited to transition into coaching.

"It's going to hurt a little bit because I'm not out there playing, but I think that's going to be something I will have to adjust to," Clark said.

Tendler said she thinks the transition between playing and coaching will go smoothly for Clark.

"She loves to practice, loves to play, and you can see it when you watch her," Tendler said. "That competitiveness has benefited our team for the last five seasons and you see the same thing when she coaches. She's not out there during

camp with a group, she's out there and she really wants them to get better. I see the same passion in her playing in her coaching, so I know this is the right move for her and I know she's going to have a lot of success."

Clark said she has been inspired by Tendler throughout her time at Elon and not only learned a lot from the program, but learned a lot from her.

"Overall the experience I received as a player under Mary

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SHE HAS A LOT THAT SHE CAN OFFER AND SHE WILL LEARN THAT AS SHE GOES, WHAT THE EXPECTATIONS ARE OF THE HEAD COACH AND SHE'S JUST GOING TO GROW IN THAT PROGRAM JUST LIKE SHE HAS HERE AT ELON.

**MARY TENDLER**  
ELON VOLLEYBALL HEAD COACH

Tendler has taught me so much," Clark said. "She was such a decorated athlete herself and learning from her and her coaching style is something that is going to help me in the future."

Tendler said she was pleased to know that she had imparted wisdom onto Clark and is looking forward to watching her in the future.

"That makes me happy to know that I had a small impact on what she's doing and that she enjoyed her time here and that I was a good fit for her as a coach," Tendler said.

Clark hopes to take many of the coaching styles that Tendler has and translate it into her relationships with her future athletes.

"I definitely loved how coach Tendler made everyone feel so included," Clark said. "It felt like a big family. I think the way that she treated her athletes is what I'm going to take away."

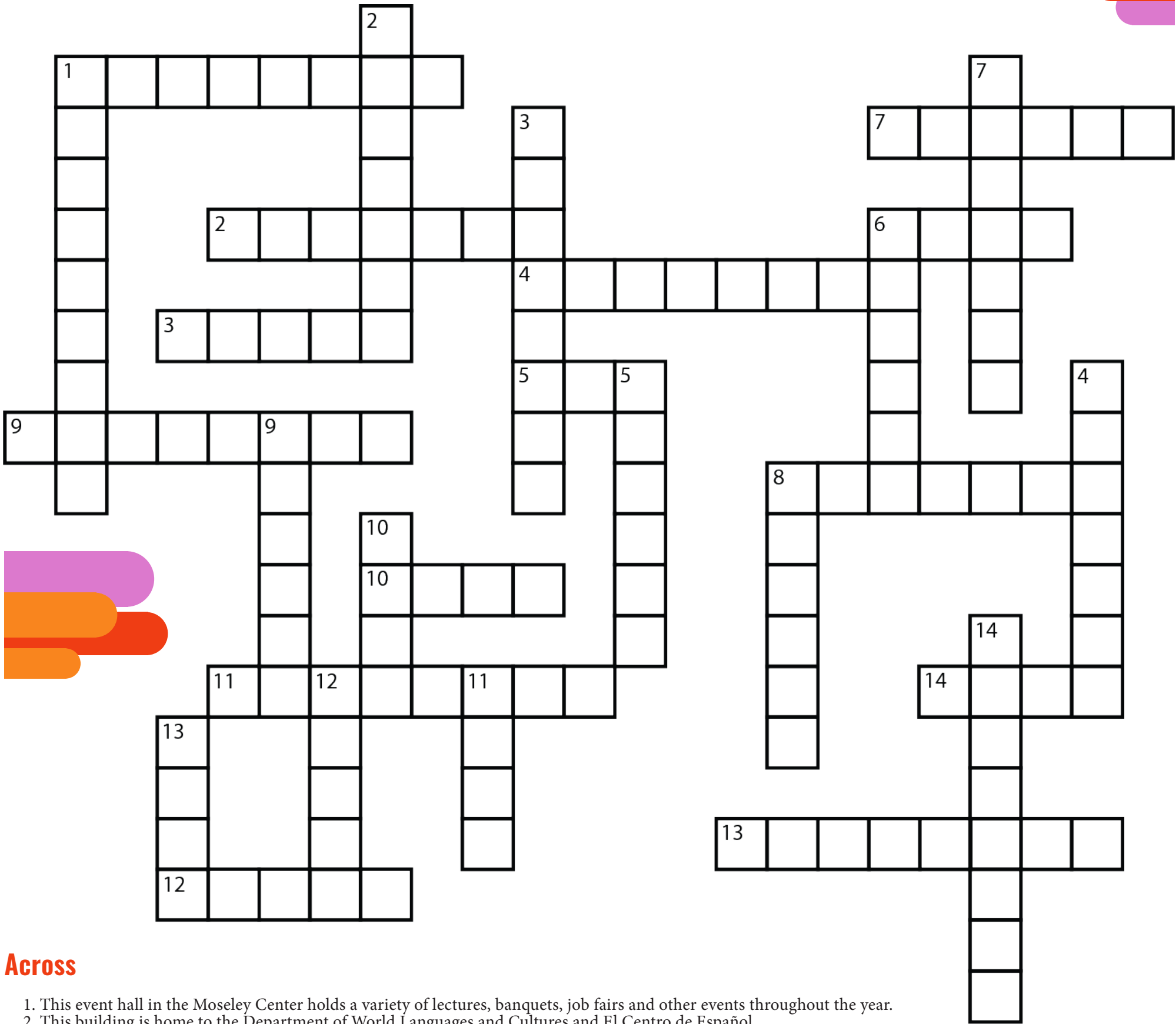
Clark will begin her position next week and start recruiting athletes in February. Upon giving her final advice, Tendler said for Clark to enjoy her journey.

"Bucknell hired her for a reason," Tendler said. "She has a lot that she can offer and she will learn that as she goes, what the expectations are of the head coach and she's just going to grow in that program just like she has here at Elon."



# CAMPUS CROSSWORD

CAMPUS AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH INSPIRED CROSSWORD PUZZLE



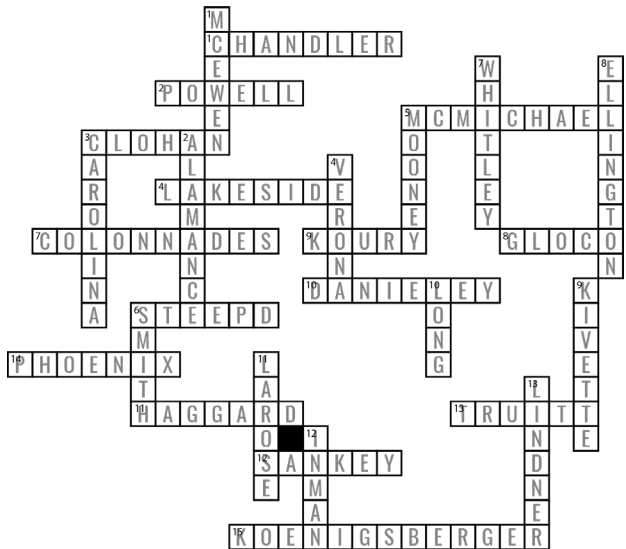
## Across

1. This event hall in the Moseley Center holds a variety of lectures, banquets, job fairs and other events throughout the year.
2. This building is home to the Department of World Languages and Cultures and El Centro de Español.
3. This fountain stands at a side entrance of the Moseley Center.
4. This residence hall in Historic Neighborhood shares a name with a neighboring state.
5. This farm hosts different environmental studies classes and other university projects.
6. This historic chapel was acquired by Elon University in 2003.
7. This neighborhood is home to the African Diaspora Living Learning Community.
8. This building is part of Academic Village and opened in 2009.
9. This market on the first floor of Clohan is home to Boar's Head Deli.
10. This neighborhood's theme is civic engagement and social innovation.
11. This neighborhood includes Elon's single-sex residence halls.
12. This business center is often referred to by the acronym KOBC.
13. The African & African American Studies at Elon office is on the third floor of this building.
14. This pavilion is part of the Academic Village and houses the political science department.

## Down

1. This plaza was renamed in 2021 and was originally called Iconic Plaza.
2. This building features portraits of the first full-time Black student at Elon College, Glenda Phillips Hightower, and the first Black person to graduate from Elon College, Eugene Perry.
3. This fountain is in front of Alamance and was constructed in 1982.
4. This golf training center opened in 2009.
5. This recital hall in Center for the Arts seats 125 people.
6. This dining hall closed in 2012.
7. This house was moved across campus in 2009, is home to the Catholic Newman Center and has residential rooms for students.
8. This is the home of Phoenix Baseball.
9. This gym was intended to honor Elon students and alumni who fought in World War I and World War II.
10. The first Black student to live on campus, Gail Fonville, lived in this residence hall.
11. Men's and women's soccer games can be found on this field.
12. This building is connected to McEwen through Snow Atrium.
13. This library is home to Media Services and University Archives.
14. This is one of the three segments that make up the HBB Residence Hall.

SARAH T. MOORE | DESIGNER



Jan. 11 answer key