

THE PENDULUM

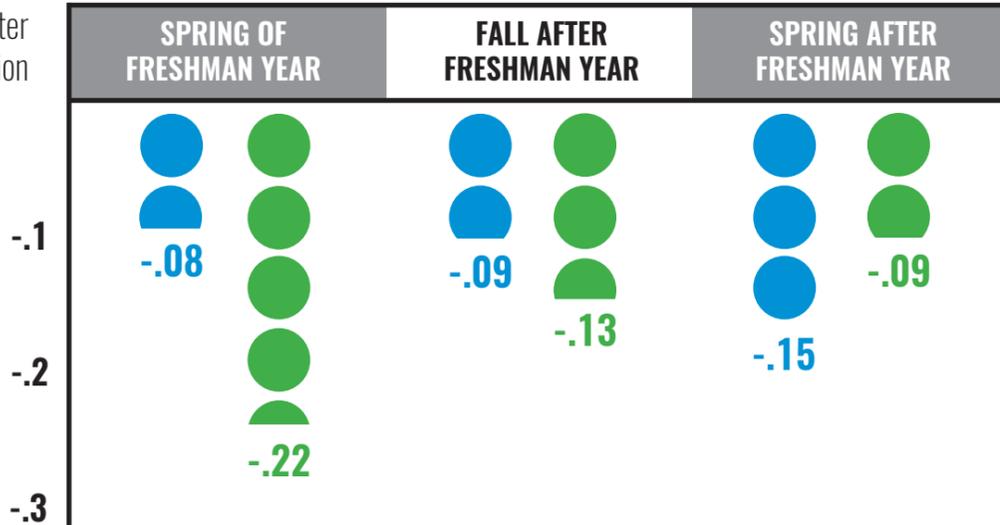
GRADING THE GREEK EFFECT

A study at Duke University showed that joining a Greek organization resulted in a drop in students' GPA, but the data at Elon University shows a more complicated picture.

Results from "The Effects of Greek Affiliation on Academic Performance," which controls for students' demographic information and difficulty of coursework

Effect on students' GPA after joining a Greek organization

KEY ● = .05 GPA points
● Sorority members
● Fraternity members



Olivia Zayas Ryan
Senior Reporter
@oliviazryan

A Duke University study shows a decline in GPA for students who join fraternities and sororities, but the study's applicability to Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) at Elon University is complicated. The study, published last month in the

Economics of Education Review, quantified and analyzed the effects of fraternity and sorority affiliation on academic performance at Duke, which has a deferred recruitment policy similar to Elon's. This study compared the GPA between freshman students first semester and their following semesters.

The study found male students showed a significant decline in GPA during their freshman spring semester — a popular time

for recruitment — but insignificant change in GPA other semesters. For female students, the results revealed the opposite. According to their research, GPAs significantly decline during females' spring semester during their sophomore year, when they are responsible

See **GREEK LIFE**
pg. 4

Multi-faith scholars spark conversation

First cohort of scholars encourage religious engagement

Diego Pineda
Contributor
@diego_pineda19

Elon University sophomore Sophie Zinn considers herself the person in her friend group that is constantly encouraging others to talk about religion, a subject she is very passionate about and believes is not talked about much. The cohort consists of six students who receive \$5,000 in their junior and senior years to develop as multi-faith leaders.

"It's not really in the public sphere of college life or America in general as something that's positive," Zinn said. "I think there are a lot of positive elements to religious dialogue and learning from other people's interest and faith traditions."

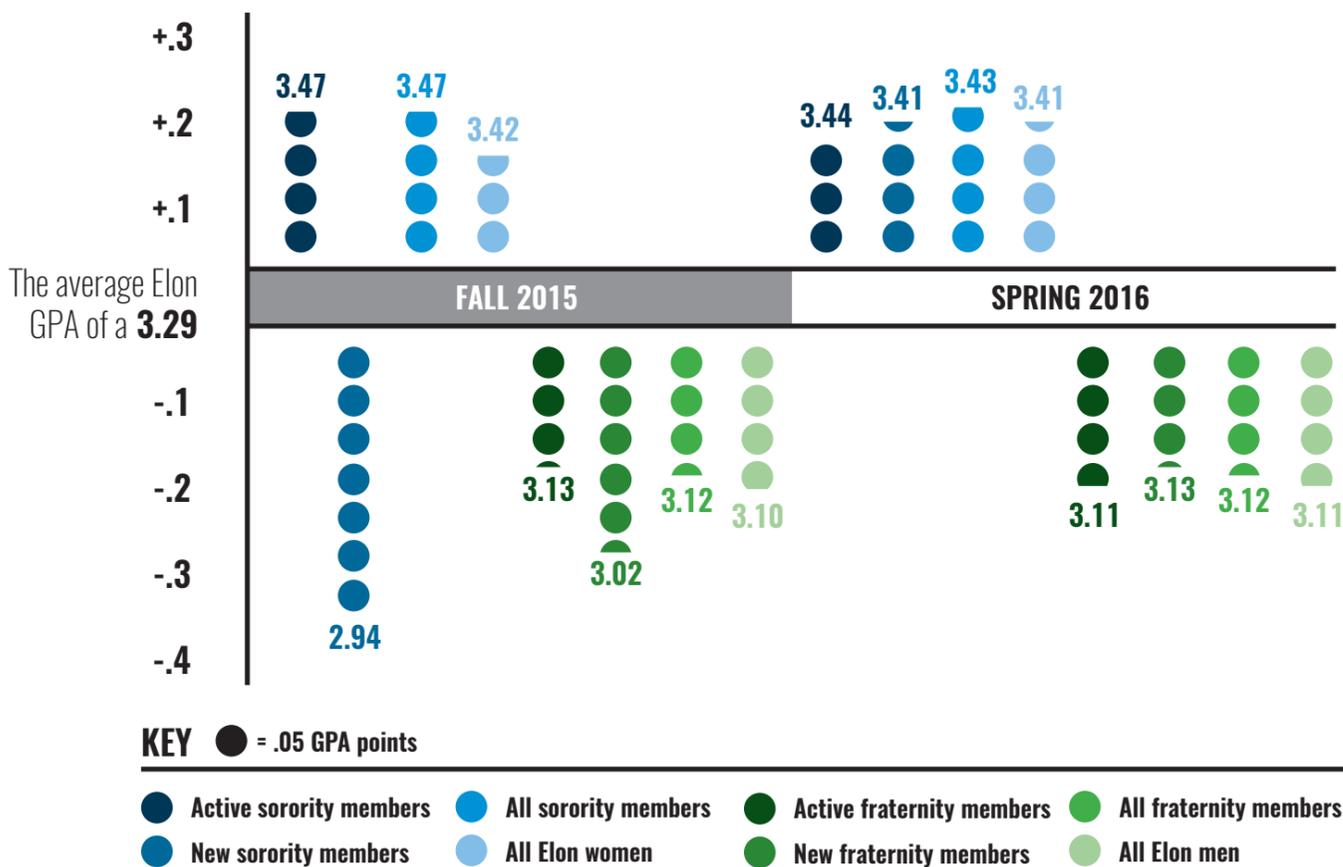
Zinn was raised Jewish and has been practicing Buddhism for four years. She does not identify with one main religion, but bases her experiences more on her religious studies experiences learning why various religious traditions matter to those who do not follow them.

Zinn, along with five other sophomores at Elon University, was recently selected to be part of Elon's first cohort of Multi-faith Scholars. The program combines academic coursework, undergraduate research and community engagement in multi-faith contexts. The students selected receive \$5,000 annually in their junior and senior years to assist them in their development as engaged multi-faith leaders.

The idea of this program sprouted from the 2015 Multi-faith Strategic Plan of the Elon Center for the Study of Religion, Culture and Society, which advocated for the development of this program. A \$100,000 grant from the Arthur Vining Davis foundation supported the establishment

See **MULTI-FAITH**
pg. 12

Results from Elon's Fraternity and Sorority Life, which only provides raw GPA data.



KEY ● = .05 GPA points

● Active sorority members ● All sorority members ● Active fraternity members ● All fraternity members
● New sorority members ● All Elon women ● New fraternity members ● All Elon men

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Former Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity President uses racial slur

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How Smitty's became an Elon favorite

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THE PENDULUM

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NETWORK

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CRIME REPORT

April 29
SPRING FOREST DRIVE
MEBANE
Robbery

At 9:21 p.m. last Saturday, Mebane police responded to the Holiday Inn Express at 149 Spring Forest Drive, which had just been robbed. According to the Burlington Times, the suspect is described as a black male with a heavy build, wearing dark jeans, a black hoodie and prescription-style glasses. After the robbery, the suspect ran to his vehicle, which is described as a Silver 2010 Chevrolet Malibu. The investigation is still ongoing. Anyone with information should contact the Mebane Police Department.

April 29
ELON
Possession of Cocaine

Last Saturday night, Elon senior David Mason Wyrick was arrested for possession of cocaine. According to the Elon Police Department, Wyrick was taken into custody at the Alamance County Jail without incident and released on a \$7,500 bond. His court date was set for May 1. Wyrick declined to comment on the charges.

April 29
STELLARS STREET
BURLINGTON
Murder and robbery

At 12:15 p.m. last Saturday, Burlington Police found an unresponsive man in his apartment, whom police say died of an apparent stab wound. The man, Daniel Lee Paul, 67, was discovered to have a puncture wound in his upper torso. According to Burlington Times, police determined that Paul had been robbed of his wallet and cash during the altercation that resulted in his stabbing. Paul was pronounced dead at the scene. Police apprehended a suspect on South Church Street, who is currently being held in Alamance County Jail without bond.

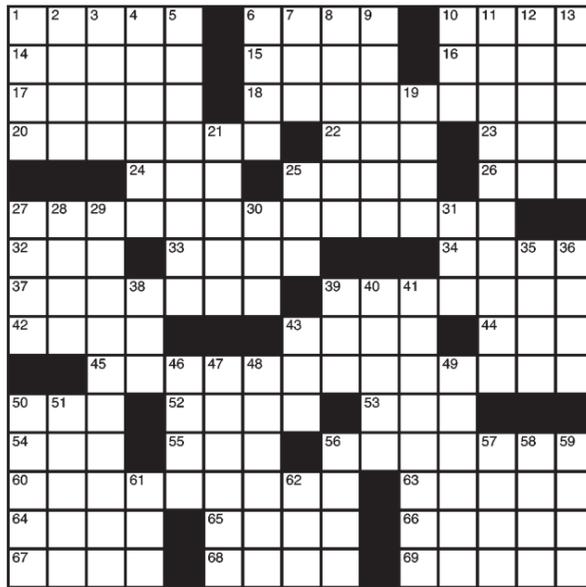
GAMES

FOR RELEASE MAY 3, 2017

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Greek played by Anthony Quinn
 - 6 Small plateau
 - 10 Slick-talking
 - 14 "That is to say ..."
 - 15 Channel showing many games
 - 16 Sommelier's prefix
 - 17 Incessantly
 - 18 "Cubicle, e.g."
 - 20 Kids' racing vehicles
 - 22 Chicken ___ king
 - 23 Prefix with pass or plus
 - 24 Cultural funding org.
 - 25 Mottled
 - 26 MGM motto word
 - 27 "Singing skill that enables good phrasing"
 - 32 Get an ___ : ace
 - 33 Casino gratuity
 - 34 Overseer
 - 37 Harbor protectors
 - 39 "Vitruvian Man" artist
 - 42 Pacific Rim continent
 - 43 Mozart's "___ fan tutte"
 - 44 Jupiter or Mars
 - 45 "Number after a circled 'c'"
 - 50 EPA pollution std.
 - 52 Wetland plant
 - 53 Capri suffix
 - 54 Bit of wordplay
 - 55 Aviation stat.
 - 56 "Flags of Our Fathers" setting
 - 60 "Unobstructed view"
 - 63 Inn postings
 - 64 Cosmopolitan rival
 - 65 Gold diggers' objectives
 - 66 First in a line of Russian princes
 - 67 River crossed by Charon
 - 68 Old or Wild follower
 - 69 Lacking, and what can go with each word in the answers to starred clues



By Thomas Takaro

5/3/17

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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5/3/17

- DOWN**
- 1 Zest
 - 2 Melville novel set on Tahiti
 - 3 Really stink
 - 4 Split fruit?
 - 5 Mario who won IndyCar races in four different decades
 - 6 Sussex stable area
 - 7 Anka's "___ Beso"
 - 8 Common sports injury
 - 9 Short sock
 - 10 Rep. group
 - 11 Tony-winning actress for "Miss Saigon"
 - 12 Run up, as debts
 - 13 Afrikaans speakers
 - 19 Iraq's ___ City
 - 21 Western border lake
 - 25 "The Purloined Letter" writer
 - 27 Westernmost Mexican state, familiarly
 - 28 Small deer
 - 29 With allure
 - 30 Bank statement listings: Abbr.
 - 31 Japanese sash
 - 35 Edinburgh native
 - 36 Agree (with)
 - 38 Eastern spiritual path
 - 39 One may be fetching
 - 40 ___ of hands
 - 41 Director De Sica
 - 43 Spanish hero
 - 46 Start to fall?
 - 47 Soccer penalty card color
 - 48 Make more time for hobbies, say
 - 49 "Here we go again" feeling
 - 50 Cathedral areas
 - 51 Blanket that's often hand-sewn
 - 56 Superlative suffix
 - 57 "Do ___ once!"
 - 58 Less, musically
 - 59 "Not a chance!"
 - 61 Bad spell
 - 62 Game console letters

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UPCOMING EVENTS: MAY 3 - 9

7:30 P.M. Elon Electric Ensemble 3	4:30 P.M. Women at Elon: Moving Philanthropy Forward 4	11 A.M. Food Truck Frenzy 5	1 P.M. Softball at James Madison 6	7:30 P.M. Elon Music Ambassadors Spring Concert 7	1 P.M. Smitty's for Mudslide Relief 8	7-9 P.M. Better Alamance Timebank Launch 9
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TOP PHOTOS



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
Senior linebacker Johnathan Jackson leaps for pass during a scrimmage at Rhodes Stadium April 29.

SEE MORE ON PAGE 11



CHRISTINA CASILLO | Contributor
Seniors Maddy Turner (left), Nikki Worthinton (center left), Susan Reynolds (center right) and Haley Longbottom (right) perform together at the Shirley Tempos Spring Concert at Whitley Auditorium April 29.



DIEGO PINEDA | Staff Photographer
Freshman Dana Harvey (middle) poses the pageant court after she won the Sigma Delta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's Miss Black and Gold Pageant April 30.



MARITZA GONZALEZ | Staff Photographer
Senior Monica Poston rehearses singing number for Elon's Department of Performing Arts' presentation of "Little Women" in Roberts Studio Theatre April 28.

GREEK LIFE
from cover

for initiation and recruiting new members.

Elon adheres to much of what was found in the study, but some numbers provided by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life go against the findings. Unlike the Duke study, Elon does not control for factors such as class difficulty, students' Scholastic Aptitude Test scores and organization social status.

The average GPA for new sorority members at Elon in the spring of 2016 was 3.41, just slightly lower than that of all active members. For new fraternity members, their 3.13 average GPA was slightly higher than all active members.

Of the 10 sororities who acquired new members last spring, four organizations had an average GPA lower than the average for Elon women. Of the 11 fraternities, six had a new member term GPA lower than that of the average Elon male student.

The dip in GPA during new member periods for fraternities is recognized as a problem by Fraternity and Sorority Life.

Dan Faill, director of FSL, said he believes this decline is likely because of the time commitment required to be in a Greek organization.

"Elon data does show that men participating in fraternity life have lower GPAs during their new member period than men not participating in fraternity life," Faill said. "While I cannot speak to the sorority executive board aspect, I would postulate that both dips in GPA would be the ability to effectively manage time and organization expectations. This is why our office staff meet with chapters to reiterate the importance of academic engagement over organization meetings."

Even with this decline during new member periods, Greek-affiliated students still have a higher average GPA than the average of all Elon students — 3.39 compared to 3.31.

Elon's Interfraternity Council (IFC) and Panhellenic Association (PA) have a GPA requirement to rush of 2.8, and National Pan-Hellenic Council's (NPHC) is 2.5. Some organizations have their minimums set higher.

Senior Jordan Lockhart, former PA president and member of the Epsilon Delta chapter of Delta Delta Delta sorority, believes the GPA requirement is necessary for ensuring that students are able to handle the commitment of Greek life while still focusing on academics.

"To rush, you want to make sure that you're already handling college well enough," Lockhart said. "If you are already below that 3.0 after your first semester, you probably have some acclimating to do. Maybe adding another level of responsibility isn't a good idea for you right now."

Lockhart emphasized that students involved with FSL should remember they are in school to learn first, but some students may not take this priority seriously. Senior Michael Goldstein, former IFC president and also a member of the Theta Omega chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity, believes GPA is an indicator of the organization's involvement.

Regardless of the numbers showing that Greek-affiliated students have a higher average GPA than the average Elon student, Goldstein said he still believes that fraternities could be doing more.

"I think the academic standards in the Interfraternity Council community are absolutely pathetic and that none of the organizations hold the other organizations accountable from an academic standpoint," Goldstein said. "There's no desire to improve or wanting to make their grades better, and I don't see anything changing anytime soon. All the tools and resources are available and waiting for them, and it's a matter of whether they're finally willing to start using them."

Lockhart believes the decline in GPA could be from students losing touch with their organization.

"It becomes more about you and what you need out of it, rather than what you can give to it, and I definitely think that's where a lot of the problems come from," Lockhart said. "I think a lot of the problem comes from people taking; they stop giving to their organization, and so maybe that means they stop going to study hours and their GPA goes down, or maybe it means they are skipping chapter and then they lose touch. Then that accountability falls away."

A large part of the reason why Greek affiliation can negatively impact academic performance is the time commitment expected from being in a fraternity or sorority. Obligations vary based on position in the organization and the time of year.

Policies put into place by both FSL and individual chapters hold students accountable for their academic achievement.

Faill said Jordan King, FSL assistant director of chapter development, works closely with each organization during their intake process to highlight Elon's expectations regarding academic performance while students go through this process.

"This is done to reiterate that academics should be a priority throughout their membership, and activities should not detract or affect their academic endeavors," Faill said. "While mandatory activities may cut into student's studying or homework time, affiliated students said they still see a positive impact."

For junior Janae Williams, president of the Xi Omicron chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and vice president of Elon's NPHC, having "scholarship" as one of her sorority's primary principles motivates her to be a better student.

"For me personally, joining my organization, while, yes, it is a service organization, but one of our main principles is scholarship," Williams said. "So for me, it drove me to be the best academic version of myself and helped me boost my GPA, just because I didn't want to be the one sister who brought the entire chapter GPA down."

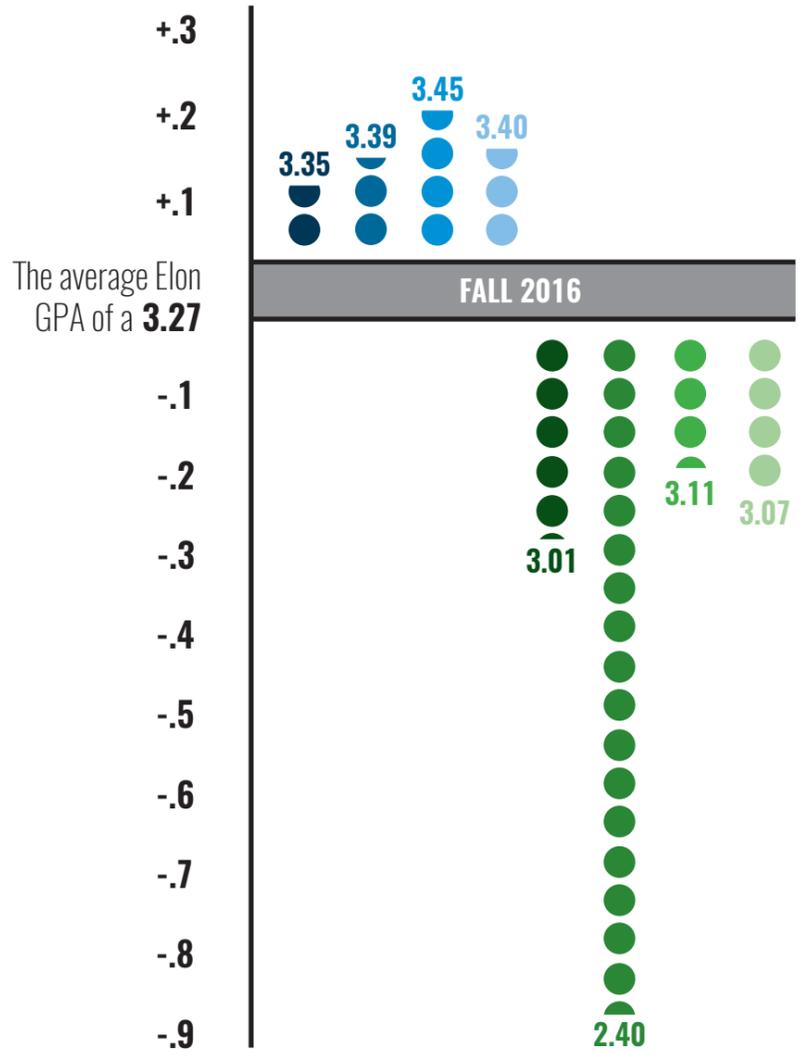
This motivation has helped Williams maintain a steady increase in her GPA since joining her sorority. This is the same for other students as well.

"Even though I have that one test I didn't do so great on, my sister was there to tell me, 'You're smart, you know you know this, you know you just didn't have enough time more or less to study for it,'" Williams said. "So that's why I see both aspects, the pros and the cons of coming from a small chapter or even being in a Greek organization, because you do feel like you're torn in a thousand different directions to make sure that everything gets done, but at the end of the day, the people that are going to be there for you are your sisters."

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JANAE WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT OF THE XI OMICRON CHAPTER
OF ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY

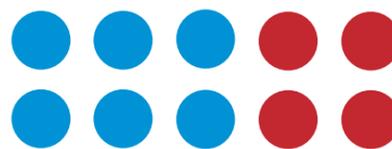
Results from Elon's Fraternity and Sorority Life for Fall 2016, which only provides raw GPA data.



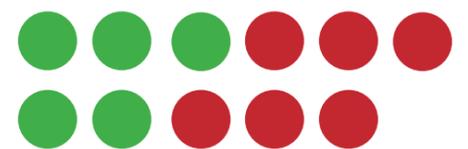
The average Elon GPA of a **3.27**

KEY ● = .05 GPA points

- Active sorority members
- New sorority members
- All sorority members
- All Elon women
- Active fraternity members
- New fraternity members
- All fraternity members
- All Elon men



FOUR OF TEN SORORITIES HAD AN AVERAGE GPA LOWER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR ELON WOMEN.



SIX OF ELEVEN FRATERNITIES HAD AN AVERAGE GPA LOWER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR ELON MAN.

GPA REQUIREMENT TO RUSH

2.5
INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

2.8
PANHellenic ASSOCIATION

2.8
NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL

Seminar ditches cash for time-based currency

Honors course project provides services through time-based currency

Christina Elias
Assistant Design Chief
@eliaschristina4

When students return to Elon University in the fall, there will be a new way to find a ride to Harris Teeter. The Better Alamance Timebank — a way for students and community members alike to acquire hours that act as currency through service — will officially launch May 9.

The timebank is the product of a long-term project by the Honors seminar called “Building Better Communities with Civic Technologies.”

An hour is always an hour — regardless of the service offered. You can use the credits in turn to receive services — or you can donate them to others.

“The timebank is an alternative form of currency that uses time exchange instead of money,” said sophomore Lindsey Jordan, director of the project’s community outreach team. “It doesn’t matter what the scale is — somebody’s hours spent teaching a yoga class is equivalent to somebody’s hour babysitting or somebody’s hour driving or anything like that. It places more value on any work that people do.”

The concept of timebanking has been around for decades, according to Derek Lackaff, associate professor of communications. Lackaff, who proposed the class as a sophomore spring seminar for the Honors Fellows cohort, said the creation of digital platforms for managing timebanks has “changed the game.”

“Before digital, you basically had a club of people that already knew each other,” he said. “And with these digital platforms, you can actually find people that you might not already know, so



they allow for these more diverse types of interaction.”

Lackaff said that timebanks are a perfect way to participate in the growing “sharing economy” in the United States, which includes things such as Uber and Airbnb.

“A timebank is actually a real sharing economy because it’s not a company that’s extracting profits out of all these interactions, it’s a group of people that come together and are volunteering their time and volunteering their efforts to help each other out,” he said.

Lackaff said a project was built into the class curriculum, but the students ultimately decided they wanted to work together on a larger initiative such as the timebank. The class formed three teams — community outreach, strategic planning and technology — to divide responsibilities.

“Over the course of several weeks, we looked at several different types of platforms and types of projects that we thought might be feasible for this type of project,” he said. “The timebank was

kind of what emerged as the most likely candidate. It’s been a focus of the class since about Spring Break, more or less.”

The class decided on a platform called hourworld.org, which allows community members to sign up online, where they can log hours, request services and offer their own skills to the other members.

“We’ve been starting to do exchanges on the timebank just within our class to get it up and running, and now we actually have some community members that have signed up and made accounts as well,” said sophomore Hope Koene, the class’s project manager. “I think we have 19 or 18 members, which is really cool for us to see that it’s actually spreading to the community already.”

Despite the official launch not being until right before finals, the class isn’t concerned about its long-term prospects. According to Jordan, conversations about sustainability have been a part of the process. They have discussed several options, including Lackaff’s continued management,

TIMEBANK LAUNCH

What: Official launch of the Better Alamance Timebank

When: May 9 | 7-9 p.m.

Where: Elon Community Church

monthly member meetings over the summer or passing the timebank off to another organization.

The class hopes to work with Elon organizations that may already have connections throughout the community to spread the word about the Better Alamance Timebank.

“Our hope is [the timebank] really is open to everybody in Alamance, both Elon students and community members,” Jordan said.

The launch event will take place 7-9 p.m. May 9 at the Elon Community Church. You can join by going to hourworld.org and selecting “NC-Elon: Better Alamance Timebank” from the list of communities.

DEIRDRE KRONSCHNABEL | Contributor
Sophomores Ricky Moody, Anna Cosentino, Kimberly Wilson and Lindsey Jordan meet with their team to discuss their civic technology project Better Alamance Timebank.

Local students perform at NPHC Yard Show

Perla Salazar-Rangel
Contributor
@PSalazarRangel

Elon University’s National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) is hosting its annual Yard Show, in which the historically African-American fraternities and sororities partake in stepping. This year is different from years prior, as the invitation to step in the show has been extended to Elon Elementary’s Step Club.

Elon Elementary’s Step Club has previously performed at basketball games and has been cheered on by the student section. This time, they are showing their stepping skills at 5 p.m. May 6 in Iconic Plaza.

The guest appearance was coordinated by junior Janae Williams, NPHC vice president, who is also a member of the Xi Omnicron chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

Williams has been working directly with the children in the Step Club. She volunteers at the elementary school every Friday, and was the one who asked them to be part of the event.

“The kids have been practicing for the past month,” Williams said.

STEPPING IS VERY IMPORTANT TO MY ORGANIZATION AND TO THE DIVINE NINE ORGANIZATIONS IN GENERAL BECAUSE IT PROVIDES AN EXPRESSIVE OUTLET TO SHOW DEDICATION AND EVEN DEFERENCE TO OUR ANCESTRY. MODERN DAY STEPPING CAN BE TRACED BACK TO AFRICAN DANCE.

ERIC CUNNINGHAM
ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY INC.

“They have performed before, but I think they are a little bit more nervous considering this performance is outdoors and they will have to be as loud as possible. They are nervous, but also very excited to perform.”

Those who were in attendance still remember the basketball game performance by Elon Elementary’s Step Club. Freshman Megan Hernandez-Greene recalls seeing the children perform.

“I was caught off guard at how good they were,” Hernandez-Greene said. “There were some kids in particular that caught my attention because of how passionate they were. Their energy and confidence made me enjoy the performance and I

cannot wait to see them again.”

One of the many components of the NPHC organizations is the stepping they perform at probates or events such as the Yard Show. Eight of the nine total fraternities and sororities in NPHC have been chartered at Elon. The nine organizations are popularly known as the “Divine Nine.” Currently, there are only six active chapters.

Those performing at the Yard Show include: the Sigma Delta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the Omnicron Epsilon chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Sigma Mu chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the Omnicron Iota chapter of Delta

Sigma Theta Sorority, the Alpha Beta Beta chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, and the Xi Omnicron chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

Sophomore Eric Cunningham is in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and has been stepping with his brothers since his freshman year.

“Stepping is very important to my organization and to the “Divine Nine” organizations in general because it provides an expressive outlet to show dedication and even deference to our ancestry,” Cunningham said. “Modern day stepping can be traced back to African dance.”

Several of the NPHC organizations have visited the

NPHC YARD SHOW

What: Historically African American fraternities and sororities partake in stepping.

When: May 6 | 5 p.m.

Where: Iconic Plaza

members of the Elon Elementary Step Club in the past. The children know about the importance of stepping and what to expect at the event.

“The children have been taught the history of stepping,” Williams said. “The audience knows them, so I am confident they will support them.”

Williams hopes that everyone in attendance will cheer on the Step Club and appreciate what they bring to the table.

“The kids are going to be amazing,” Williams said. “I love the kids and I hope everyone else that goes to the Yard Show does as well.”

MORE ONLINE

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elonnewsnetwork.
com to see more

Racism prompts professor to return to Canada

For her family, Professor makes plans to leave Elon University, Burlington area

Oliver Fischer

Contributor
@fischerwithc

Robin Attas, assistant professor of music, will be leaving Elon University and moving back to Canada with her husband, Nicolás Narváez Soza, and their two children. Narváez Soza said he has endured acts of racism since the couple moved to North Carolina in 2013.

"I noticed that I was treated differently like at the post office or the pharmacy or even the grocery store," Narváez Soza said. "I was lining up at the post office [...] when it was my turn, the attitude changed completely. They became less respectful."

Attas met Narváez Soza in Nicaragua, when she was traveling there between her masters and Ph.D. Narváez Soza followed her to Canada in 2008 and gained dual-citizenship status in 2013, just before they left for the United States.

"Elon seemed like a good fit in terms of what I was looking for professionally," Attas said.

When the couple bought a home in Burlington at the end of their first year, the racist attitudes were not instantly apparent.

"In the beginning, I was in denial," Narváez Soza said. "I wasn't sure what was going on. I thought maybe they were just having a bad day. I started realizing it must be something else."

The fact that Narváez Soza wasn't being treated with respect became clear to him during a shopping trip to his favorite store in mid-2015, Lowes Home Improvement. He could not remember the name of a random item and asked another shopper for help.

"I asked somebody, I tried to describe it," Narváez Soza said. "He told me I need to learn English if I want to find stuff. That was hard because that was my favorite store, and all of a sudden, I was uncomfortable going there, and then I just felt embarrassed."

Attas said these behaviors have become regular occurrences.

"Those little things have been happening since we moved here," Attas said.

Small incidents such as these are easy to dismiss. At the beginning, the family wasn't entirely sure what was going on. But when these small events turned into acts of physical aggression, Attas no longer doubted these were acts of racism.

"He told me how he was standing on the front lawn with our two children and a pick-up truck drove by, and somebody threw a bottle out of the window and yelled 'F**ing Mexican go home' and then tore off," Attas said.

A week later, the same situation happened at a playground. Narváez Soza believes that the last presidential election played a significant role in the attitudes of people.

The turning point came when Narváez Soza was pulled over for the third time by a police officer in Greensboro. The officer claimed he had not been wearing his seat belt, even though he was. When he reached for his documents in the back seat, Narváez Soza said the officer became tense and grabbed toward his gun.

"I thought, 'Oh my God, I've seen stuff happening on TV like policemen not being patient or just shooting people,'" Narváez Soza said. "I felt very scared."

Following this incident, the family decided to put Burlington and the United States behind them.

"It's life or death at this point," Attas said. "It's clear that it's not just a mental health issue or my husband feeling uncomfortable living here or a cultural difference."

The family has decided to move to Winnipeg, Canada, so Attas can be close to her parents and her husband can feel safe again.

"For me at least, at that point, I was pretty much done with North Carolina and I think



OLIVER FISCHER | Contributor
Robin Attas, assistant professor of music, poses with her family.

honestly the United States," Attas said. "It's so sad in a way, because I know that the entire country is not like here, and I know so many wonderful Americans, but this experience tainted everything."

Attas may be leaving behind Elon and her music career, but she believes that Elon can still help fight these hateful attitudes in the surrounding community and on its own campus. She referred to the incident a few days after the election when a student wrote "Bye, Bye Latinos, Hasta Lavista," in a classroom and said the university acted swiftly to handle the situation properly.

But she said the surrounding area of Burlington may not have the same mindset.

"That's great, but that's Elon," Attas said. "And then all around it, the same attitudes are existing."

Though Attas said that Elon only has limited control over the outside communities, she thinks that students may not know the atmosphere outside of campus.

"I've had experiences where Elon staff have told me in my teaching that I should not take students to particular areas because they were not safe," Attas said. "There is certainly a level of protection of students that happens at Elon, and sometimes I wonder if that protection is going too far and if it's leaning more toward fear."

According to Attas, more interaction between the campus and the surrounding community would go a long way in creating a more inclusive environment.

She noted that many of the school's students come from affluent backgrounds. In January, the New York Times supported this when it found that the median Elon family income is more than \$200,000. Because of this, she said it may be hard for the majority of the student population to change their mindset.

"It is still a white rich campus at the heart of it and that impacts faculty who are not white and rich," Attas said. "It impacts students who are not white and rich, and you see the university struggling with that."

"Changing the campus culture, changing the kind of student that comes to Elon, is a really hard nut to crack."

As Attas prepares to leave Elon and start a new life with her family in Canada, she leaves behind a hopeful message for Elon students.

"It's fear that holds everybody back from doing things," Attas said. "The people who yelled at my husband are afraid, and it's stupid. We're all human beings."

"Don't be afraid and challenge yourself and don't give in to the hate."

IT'S LIFE OR DEATH AT THIS POINT. IT'S CLEAR THAT IT'S NOT JUST A MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE OR MY HUSBAND FEELING UNCOMFORTABLE LIVING HERE OR A CULTURAL DIFFERENCE.

ROBIN ATTAS
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

COMPASS



SHANE MALLOY

Licensed Real Estate
Salesperson

m 914 552 3847
shane.malloy@compass.com
90 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10011

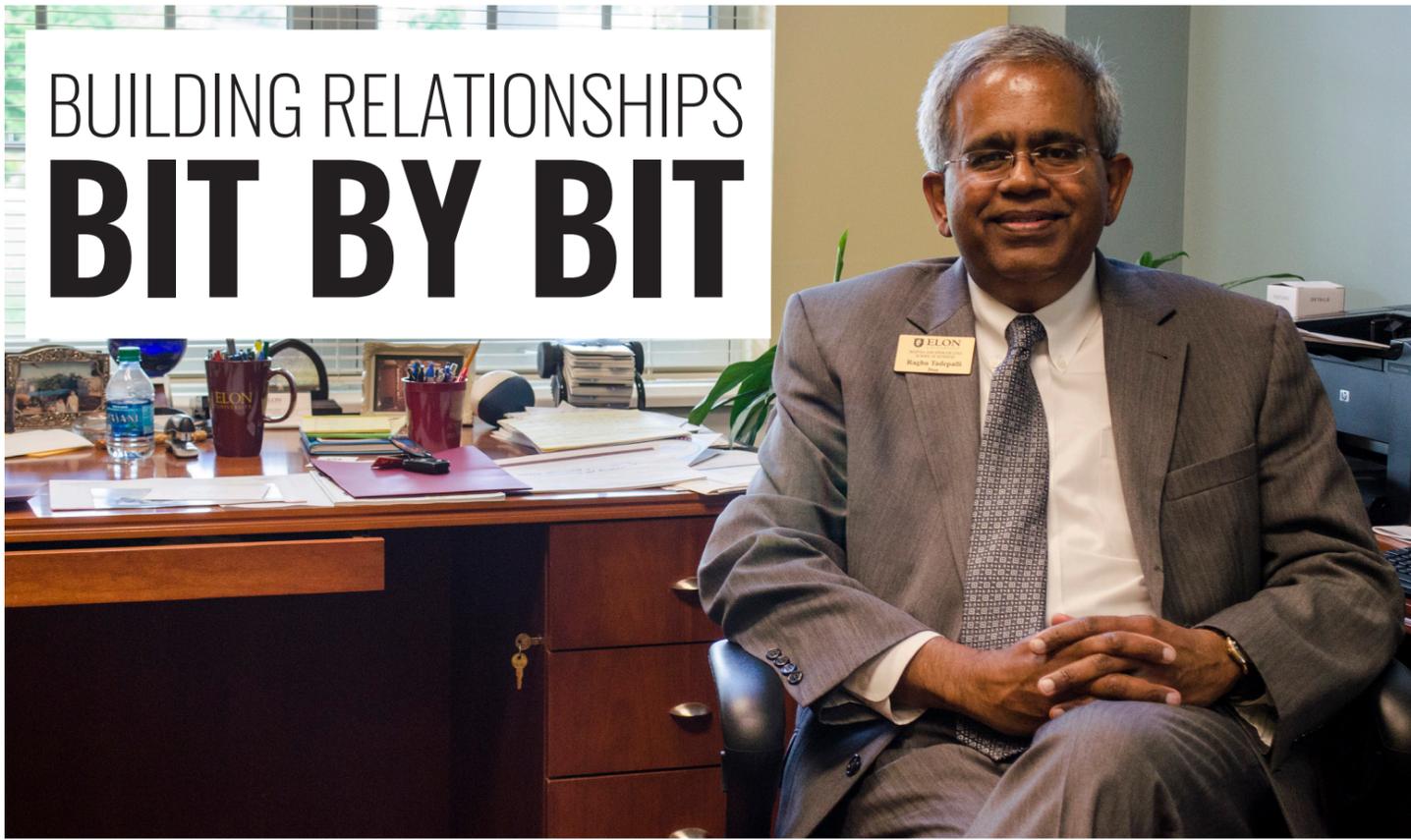
Shane Malloy '16 works for Compass Realty in NYC. He encourages any graduating or interning student looking to move to NYC to reach out. Compass has offices in several regions across the country including L.A., D.C., Miami, Aspen, San Francisco and Boston, in which case he can refer anyone looking in those regions to an agent. He is on the Impact Living Team.

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CONTINUING COVERAGE OF
INTERNATIONAL FACULTY AT ELON

Dean of business school ties gap between students and faculty

Olivia Zayas Ryan
Senior Reporter
@oliviaryan

Each month, Raghu Tadepalli — in addition to his many responsibilities as dean of the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business — has lunch with senior business students to discuss their praises and critiques of the business school.

Tadepalli does not simply hear complaints from students — he listens to them.

At one of these monthly lunches last year, students voiced their frustrations about the reporting portions of the business school's internship requirement. They felt the essays and reflections required in addition to the internship were onerous and redundant.

So Tadepalli made changes. He worked with his colleagues to modify the internship requirements and alleviate some of the work. This past summer, he supervised around 20 interns because he wanted to see first-hand the work students were completing to receive internship credit. Seeing that there were still redundancies in the work, Tadepalli helped revise the program further.

Meeting with and listening to students is not only what Tadepalli sees as the most important part of his job, but is also his favorite part.

"I think a large number of students know my door is open, so people drop in," Tadepalli said. "I think [the students are] really respectful and know that there are also very busy. I'd say that they're quite a few students who feel comfortable dropping in to chat."

Kristin Barrier, director of operations and accreditation in the Love School of Business, sits in an office directly across from Tadepalli and witnesses these student interactions daily.

"Dean Tadepalli has a true open-door policy, and he often meets with students who are looking for help or advice," Barrier said.

Tadepalli's move to Elon

Tadepalli began his position as dean of the Love School of Business in July 2012. He from Babson College, where he previously served as the Murata Dean and professor of marketing in the F. W. Olin Graduate School of Business.

Tadepalli received a bachelor's and master's degree in commerce with a major in accounting from Andhra University in India. He then went on to complete his master of business administration degree with a concentration in marketing from Arizona State University and earned his doctorate from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

After earning his doctorate,

I THINK A LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS KNOW MY DOOR IS OPEN, SO PEOPLE DROP IN . . . I'D SAY THAT THEY'RE QUITE A FEW STUDENTS WHO FEEL COMFORTABLE DROPPING IN TO CHAT.

RAGHU TADEPALLI

DEAN OF THE MARTHA AND SPENCER LOVE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Tadepalli had several job offers to complete marketing research, but he turned down the offers because he "didn't see much fun in it." Tadepalli wanted to continue doing research, but was more excited by the idea of teaching and interacting with students. This led him to begin working in higher education.

Tadepalli held faculty and staff positions at a few other universities before arriving at Elon almost five years ago. While it has been a long time since he last taught in a classroom, he is still able to conduct research, and will have a new study published in a few months.

No matter what position he held, Tadepalli has always made students his biggest priority. His dedication to students is part of the reason he enjoys — working at Elon; because the university as a whole mirrors that same commitment.

"It's nice to be at a university campus where there is such an undivided attention on making sure that students learn," Tadepalli said. "I think it's a value that permeates everything that we as, faculty or

staff ... that we do. Students are really at the center of what we do. Here, there is no mistake about it: We are about students. We are about what students are learning and how they're learning and how we are helping them develop into leaders for tomorrow."

Exemplifying leadership

His commitment to listening to students is also reflected in his leadership style. For him, listening to those he is leading is the most important aspect of leadership.

"I think listening is very important," Tadepalli said. "When someone walks into my office, the conversation is about them. It's not about me. So you have to pay attention to

what they're saying."

Barrier has seen this through her interactions with him. Barrier is responsible for general, behind-the-scenes work and ensuring that the Love School of Business is meeting all of the requirements for the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accrediting body. They work together to meet the requirements and complete other projects in the school.

"[His leadership is] very laid-back and supportive — he trusts people to do their jobs, and he makes sure they have the resources needed to accomplish what is expected in their job," Barrier said. "He is incredibly easy to work with, values my opinions and, in my view, a great leader for the business school."

Junior Franki Filandro had the opportunity to witness this leadership and work closely with Tadepalli when she brought the business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi to campus.

Filandro said Tadepalli "succeeds in making himself available

to students," explaining that he is always around to meet with students or reach out to them if he hasn't seen them in a while. Listening and staying connected to students is a part of Tadepalli's leadership style.

"His style is certainly very open and almost a backseat kind," Filandro said. "He gives you a chance to figure it out for yourself and then guides you in the slightest of ways. I believe that the whole time he knows where you should be going, but he lets you find it on your own."

Diversity as a priority

Though many members of the Elon community believe that increasing diversity on campus needs to be a greater priority, Tadepalli recognizes this need and works to bring diverse voices into the business school. He believes that understanding how to manage diverse groups is important to excelling in business and that diversity is one of the business school's core values.

He has worked to uphold that value by implementing diversity education initiatives into various class curriculums and recruiting diverse faculty and staff members. Currently, he said the business school has about 60 faculty members representing 16 different countries.

On a personal level, of the six deans at the university, Tadepalli is the only dean of color; so he sees the need for diversity first-hand. It is not uncommon for him to be the only person of color in a room.

"Yesterday morning I was in a meeting, there must have been ten people there, and I was the only nonwhite in that room," Tadepalli said. "Sometimes, you know I kind of have an out of body experience and I'm thinking, 'Wow if I were looking down upon me, if there was a picture that was taken, how would this look?' And I think, in that respect, I came here from Babson College in Massachusetts, which is very diverse. And so, I'd say, at Elon I think the values are there and the respect for diversity is there, but we need more demonstrable programs in that regard."

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Former Sigma Phi Epsilon president used racial slur

Alex Hager
Web Producer
@awhager

Elon University junior Owen Gaffney, former president of the NC Mu Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon, used a racial slur toward a black Elon senior, according to multiple sources close to the situation.

According to junior William Ellick, current president of Sigma Phi Epsilon, Gaffney and senior Austin Meekins, who is black, had a disagreement at an off-campus fraternity party over academic standards with Gaffney, who is white. While Meekins was outside the party, which took place the weekend of April 13, Gaffney indirectly called Meekins the N-word after he had left Gaffney's vicinity.

The fraternity held an emergency chapter meeting about the incident. Since the meeting, junior Jordon McRae, who is black, left the organization and Gaffney stepped down, both on April 24.

"Three weeks ago, I made a mistake that deeply hurt members of the Elon community and those close to me," Gaffney said in a statement. "Afterward, the only thing I knew to do was to own up to my mistake. Shortly after the event, I personally contacted Austin and apologized to him. I have since resigned as chapter president. I am sorry for hurting my fellow students and my SigEp brothers, and I am committed to better representing my university and my fraternity — which both value a diverse and inclusive campus. To those whom I have offended with my words and actions, I deeply apologize and ask for your forgiveness."

In a statement, Ellick said that "in a moment of anger, Owen chose the most hurtful word he could find, and he unfortunately succeeded in causing deep pain." Ellick said that he and the the organization believed Gaffney was remorseful. He also said this incident is not representative of Sigma Phi Epsilon as a whole.

"This incident does not represent who we are as a student organization and member of the Elon community. We're committed to earning back the trust of our peers, faculty and staff," Ellick said in the statement.

Elon's Black Student Union issued a response to the issue in a letter to ENN, saying that the incident threatened the very existence and agency of their community, emphasizing an "unyielding commitment to unity and a perpetuation of resilience." In the letter, which they called a "statement of solidarity," the BSU encouraged students who feel unsafe to speak out.

Dan Faill, director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, said in an email statement that according to his knowledge, "the matter has been referred through the appropriate University channels." Faill said that the incident would fall under the purview of the Office of Student Conduct.

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CHEAT SHEET: RALEIGH'S NATIONAL RANK

Want a complicated news story explained? Email enn@elon.edu and find it in next week's Cheat Sheet.



NEWS BRIEFS

Music Theatre program climbs national ranks

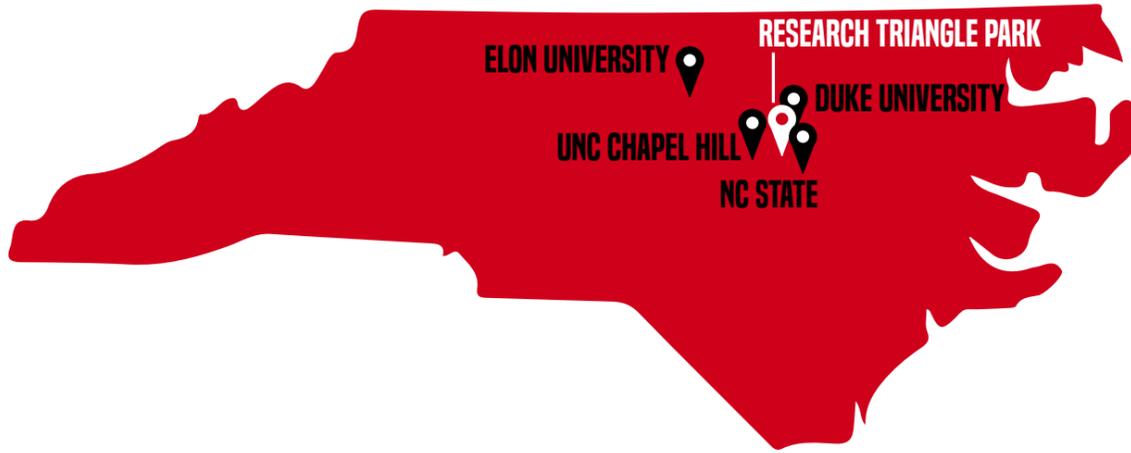
Elon University's highly competitive Musical Theatre program has reached record ranking numbers in the most recent lists released by various websites and publications. Broadway Artists Alliance ranked Elon in its "Top 15 Musical Theatre Schools," and College Magazine ranked Elon the No. 4 program for musical theater in the country — just to name a few. Ethan Andersen '14, music theatre music director and conductor, said, "I often say, 'If I were to audition now, I don't know if I would get it.' The amount of talent that the program has now is greater than when I was around, which is exciting." Andersen said when he and the other faculty review applicants, they look for not only talent, but also individuality. Sixteen to 20 new students are admitted to the program each year, and in 2017, 802 applications were submitted. Of those applications, 387 were invited to audition on campus.

247-year-old Bible donated to Elon University

On May 2, Burlington resident Steve Lynch donated a copy of the New Testament that was printed in 1770 and used by the Rev. James O'Kelly, the founder of the Christian Church, to Elon University. The Christian Church was responsible for founding the university in 1889. Lynch, a retired captain and investigator with the Burlington Police Department, is a descendent of O'Kelly. The New Testament will be added to the University Archives' collection of O'Kelly and Christian Church archives, which include items such as an 1816 Bible used by O'Kelly and the saddlebags O'Kelly used as a circuit minister in North Carolina and Virginia.

Students, faculty honored at Black Excellence Awards

The Phillips-Perry Black Excellence Awards, presented annually by Elon University's Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education (CREDE), recognized students, faculty and staff members at a ceremony April 29. This year's event included a keynote address by alumnus Brandon Helton '10, assistant vice president and relationship manager for Wells Fargo Executive Benefits, and a speech from President Leo Lambert. "We are proud of you, and we hold you up as great examples of what it means to be global citizens of Elon University," Lambert said to the students assembled.



CHRISTINA ELIAS | Assistant Design Chief

DK Eyewitness Travel just released its list of "The 20 Best U.S. Cities for Making a Fresh Start," which ranks Raleigh third.

According to the article, Raleigh is best for new opportunities and has "one of the most vibrant job markets in the nation," largely because of its proximity to the Research Triangle Park.

Research Triangle Park (RTP), located between Raleigh and Durham, contains more than 260 businesses. According to RTP's website, 45 percent of those businesses are biotech or life-services related, 17 percent deal with information technology and 11 percent fall within the category of business and professional services. Other categories include education and green technology.

U.S. News and World

Report ranked Raleigh the seventh best place to live in the United States in its annual "Best Places to Live" released in early February.

"The annual average income for a resident in Raleigh and Durham is higher than the national average, due in large part to the high number of research, education, health

care and information technology opportunities," the U.S. News and World Report article said, also citing RTP's influence.

Amber McCraw, assistant director of Career Services, helps students search for employment across the country. She said the proximity of so many businesses in such a variety of fields is beneficial

to Elon students seeking internships and employment.

"We have a large number of companies [in the Raleigh area] that we can work with, obviously more than the Elon area. It provides more opportunities for students just interning during the academic year to commute there," McCraw said.

According to McCraw, the Career Services office currently has 2,930 connections to the Raleigh-Durham area businesses through LinkedIn.

Fort-Worth, Texas was ranked No. 1 for "that big-city feel," and Anchorage, Alaska placed second for the opportunities it provides to escape the "rat-race."

Service animals provide support to students

Anton L. Delgado
Assistant News Editor
[@jadelgadonews](https://twitter.com/jadelgadonews)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) directly addresses the use of service dogs under Title III, labeled Public Accommodations.

Title III of the ADA has left a profound effect on not only hundreds of Americans across the country, but also several members of Elon University's community.

Senior Allie Fishman is diagnosed with Insulin Dependent Diabetes and is a handler of a service dog named Colby.

According to the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of

According to the Foundation for Service Dog Support, the average cost of a service dog is \$20,000 for temperament testing, veterinary care, food and other expenses associated with assistant for dog training.

"On a daily basis, Colby can smell whether I have high or low blood sugar and warn me by licking or pawing me," Fishman said. "These are services that he can do around campus, because legally he can follow me almost anywhere."

While service dogs are protected by the ADA, emotional support animals (ESAs) are not. The difference between the two is something Fishman believes some members of the Elon community do not understand.

"I don't think that Elon students understand the difference between

service dogs and ESAs," Fishman said. "They provide completely different services, and the screening they go through are not the same."

According to the ADA requirements, "dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort and emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA."

While ESAs are not protected by the ADA, Elon's Disabilities Service Office works with students that need these animals on campus.

According to Susan Wise, the disabilities services director, there are about 50-60 registered ESAs on campus.

"Emotional support animals generally are approved to support students who have mental health issues," Wise said. "Anxiety and depression are probably the main ones that we see here, but it is not unusual for someone to have several different diagnoses."

While service dogs do not need to be registered with the Disabilities Services Office, ESAs do.

"There is a process; it is not something that automatically gets approved," Wise said. "There is documentation that is required, and there needs to be a mental health care professional that is involved."

Many students have gone through the proper documentation process required to register for an ESA, but Wise does agree that there is a misconception about the purpose of an ESA.

"ESAs are not the same as a service animal; there is sometimes a mix up with that," Wise said. "Sometimes students get the idea it would be really great to have their pet on campus, as opposed to hav-



Senior Allie Fishman's service dog, Colby, poses on the stairs. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ALLIE FISHMAN

ing a diagnosis that sort of fits with and makes an emotional support animal necessary."

This misconception between an ESA and a service animal is not the only problem that Fishman has experienced.

According to Fishman, she has encountered what she believes are fake ESAs on Elon's campus.

During her walks with Colby, Fishman said that she has met students that do not medically need an ESA, but simply wanted one and successfully had it registered. This is something Fishman believes personally affects her and Colby.

"Having but not needing an ESA hurts real service dogs," Fishman said. "In the past, poorly trained ESAs have distracted Colby which kept him from doing his job."

While this is frustrating for Fish-

man, the benefits of having Colby around greatly outweigh the negatives.

"During my freshman and sophomore year, I had two medical withdrawals. I missed a lot of class for both diabetes and allergy-related reasons. I was in the hospital a lot. It was a lot more dangerous for me to live life," Fishman said. "That all changed with Colby though. I went from having Cs and being out of class to having As, all because of Colby."

With the end of the year coming up, students hoping to get a service dog or an ESA should plan ahead.

In regards to students who do not know the details of the process, Wise said she "would encourage students to at least ask some questions."

Fishman encourages students who need a service dog or an ESA to begin the process sooner rather than later.

"Having a service dog completely changed my experience here at Elon," Fishman said. "Colby has saved my life, and I encourage people who really need service dogs to start looking into programs that suit their needs as soon as possible."

I DON'T THINK THAT ELON STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SERVICE DOGS AND ESAs. THEY PROVIDE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SERVICES.

ALLIE FISHMAN
SENIOR

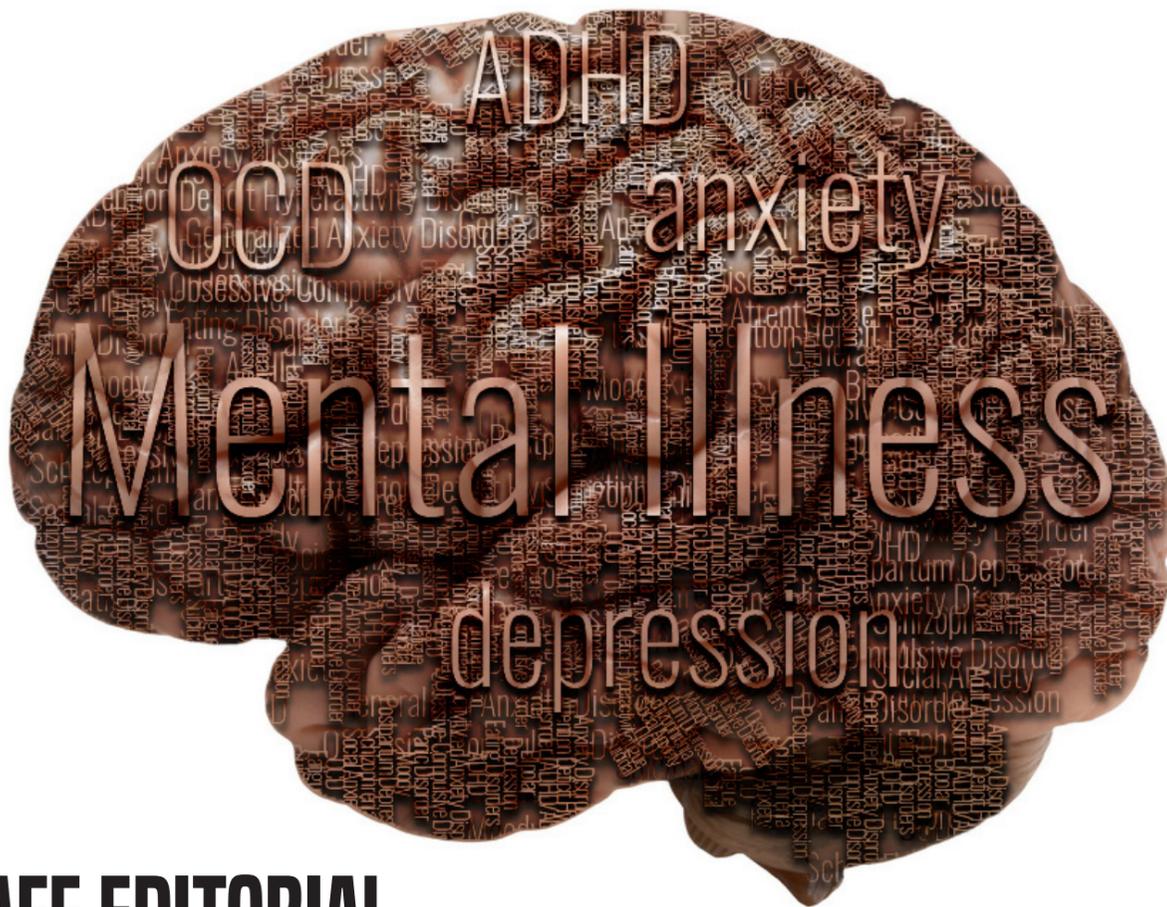
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OPINIONS



STAFF EDITORIAL

ELENA HERNANDEZ | Designer

Mental illness terminology should not be used casually

HOW WE SEE IT

Elon University students should be more conscious of their word choice in order to combat negative stigmas of mental illness.

Too often, Elon University students use mental illness terminology flippantly in casual conversations; speaking phrases such as “Sorry, I’m so OCD” or “Oh, I’m so depressed.”

Mental illness is an issue that affects many students on Elon’s campus. While not everyone suffers from such an illness, mental health affects us all. It deserves to be taken seriously and respected as a real problem students are consistently facing.

For students who actually suffer from these mental illnesses, using this terminology is acceptable. But, if they do not suffer from these illnesses, using these words trivializes the

issue of mental health and normalizes it in a way that could be harmful to those who actually suffer from mental illnesses.

When students use these illnesses as adjectives to describe everyday feelings or situations, they lessen the severity of these words and minimize the seriousness of these illnesses. This contributes to the general culture of not taking mental illnesses seriously.

Procrastinating on an assignment is not the same thing as suffering from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Having a bad day is not the same thing as having depression.

These illnesses can seriously impact

a student’s life. Someone suffering from depression may not feel the motivation to go to class. A student with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder may find it difficult to live with a roommate or even go about their daily life.

Using terms such as these could also trigger harmful memories for other students. For example, saying something “makes me want to kill myself” can bring up suicidal thoughts or feelings to those who hear it. It is disrespectful to those dealing with suicidal thoughts or those with friends or family members who have committed suicide to use that word as if it means nothing.

We all need to be conscious of the power behind our word choices. What may seem like an innocent sentence can actually contribute to the larger stigmatization of mental illness. Using these terms as adjectives contributes

to the concept that mental illnesses are just in a person’s head or not something to be taken seriously.

To combat the negative stigma of mental illness and make the voices of students with mental illnesses heard on Elon’s campus, all students should put more thought into what they say and how they say it. Something as simple as a change in word choice can be vital in changing this negative outlook on this issue.

Instead of using these words to describe yourselves, educate yourself on mental illness. Learn about the warning signs of suicide and the symptoms of depression or anxiety. Attend events and join organizations that work to educate students on the seriousness of mental illness. Be an ally to those who are suffering — this is a step toward dismantling negative stigmas.

Digital should not take priority over live interactions



Hannah Benson
Columnist
@ElonNewsNetwork

It likely comes as a surprise to absolutely no one that we live in a digital age.

We take photos of everything that moves — we wouldn’t dare miss a chance to post something fun or interesting on our Snapchat stories. We even turn on our locations to track our friends by their phones because we would be out of our minds to go somewhere without them.

Millennials were born and raised on the crutch of technology. While in most cases, this allows us to communicate with one another with more ease, there are

cases in which technology very openly obstructs communication with those around us.

We all have a friend — or, to some of our misfortune, many friends — who, regardless of the situation will answer a FaceTime call during a private dinner between the two of you. They’ll send a text while you’re in the thick of a conversation or even shush you so that they can hear the phone call they’re making when you’re alone together.

This is disrespectful in every sense of the word.

When you make plans with someone, the general understanding is that they are choosing to take time out of their lives to spend with you, so the two of you can indulge in something old and archaic that our ancestors called conversation, wherein you can

REGARDLESS OF WHICH VERSION OF THE IPHONE YOU NOW HAVE OR JUST HOW STRONG THE WI-FI CONNECTION IS, THE PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF ANOTHER SHOULD ALWAYS TRUMP THE ABSTRACT EXISTENCE OF THAT PERSON WITH THE INCOMING CALL OR TEXT.

delight in the company of one another. Regardless of which version of the iPhone you now have or just how strong the Wi-Fi connection is, the physical presence of another should always trump the abstract existence of that person with the incoming call or text.

To make or take a phone call while you’re in the presence of someone you made plans with first is openly saying to the original friend, “You matter less to me than whatever this other person has to say.” You are openly choosing one person over another, and the second person doesn’t even have the energy or ability to come find you in person themselves, which is another punch in the face at the original companion.

According to a recent study by CNN, the average American spends more than 10 hours a day

looking at a screen. You spend so much time looking at screens each day — why choose to do that while you are in the presence of someone you truly care about, doing something that the two of you do for fun?

Partaking in this digital communication with an outside source while in the presence of someone tangible is not only disrespectful and illogical, but it is plainly rude. If you want so badly to hear that outside person’s weird dream or painful recount of their day, go to them and get that account firsthand. Anything else is just discourteous.

And hey, if you choose to ignore the warnings, you might just lose the friends you had in the first place. Who would you call then?

BSU's fashion show sets precedent for student activism



Emmanuel Morgan
Columnist
@EMorgan704

As polarizing a figure as NBA superstar LeBron James is in the realm of barbershop conversations and Twitter debates, President Donald Trump incomparably proved this past fall that he is the current “king” of divisiveness.

Even James agreed, only adding fuel to the fire of controversy.

Instead of mimicking Michael Jordan's numerous Sports Illustrated covers of either an action shot on the hard wood or posing with the Larry O'Brien trophy, LeBron took a different approach when the illustrious magazine crowned him the 2016 Sports person of the Year in December. Donned in a cream suit, James wore a safety pin over his lapel, an accessory that symbolizes safety and protection against minorities and women — groups Trump had offended during the gritty campaign season.

James has been outspoken of his disdain for Trump. He stood with Hillary Clinton at rallies and even suggested he may not visit the White House should the Cleveland Cavaliers win another championship. With his subtle statement on the cover of one of the United State's most renowned magazines, he emphasized that strategically wearing clothing could send a powerful message.



Student models pose during the Black Student Union's fashion show on April 22.

PHOTO BY SUBMITTED BY CAMERON JACKSON

Two weekends ago, Elon University's Black Student Union did the same thing — and did it masterfully.

Their annual fashion show — themed “A Different World” — frequently emphasized the role of African-Americans in today's political climate, addressing the many negative stereotypes and offering encouragement moving forward.

The event was planned by sophomore Kenneth Brown Jr., the special event coordinator for BSU, who said he wanted people to leave the show feeling empowered and energized. Dashikis, “My Black is Solid,” T-shirts and a specific call to action in the five selective scenes: “For Change,” “Voices of the Culture,” “For the Culture” and “An Array of Excellence,” intuitively hammered home messages of resilience and poise in the face of adversity. The show also included multimedia

elements. On a video wall adjacent to the runway, videos of President Barack Obama's, “I, too, am America” speech and a #Black-BoyJoy monologue played during the breaks between scenes. One of the more powerful moments occurred when models resisted the urge to raise their fists when “Hands Up” by Vince Splice played.

The effects were well received by the audience. Brown, who changed his major from communications to human services this year, said he wanted to do everything possible to tell a great story.

The show did exactly that.

As someone who's written frequently on this topic, I've seen a repetitive rut in how situations revolving around race relations can be handled. People don't want to talk about it. But when people do want to talk about it, their message is that we need to talk about it

more. It's a never-ending cycle. No action is really taken. This fashion show was a breath of fresh air because it put a creative spin on how to handle this issue. An unorthodox showcase with underlying messages added to the overall effect and made it enjoyable. I never saw myself going to a fashion show. I never saw myself writing about one.

But this was different.

College students normally want to take to social media to exhaust their problems or frustration. But BSU's systematic approach to a problem that can be fiercely debated was impeccable. In the recent past, students from across the nation have chosen alternative methods — some that only increase the divide between the problem. Blaming others, quickly making assumptions and then acting impulsively are common.

This wasn't.

“As a younger generation, we have taken these concepts and made them our own,” Brown wrote in the fashion show program. “We have an obligation to take the world by storm and, despite the challenges we face, we make the most out of every situation.”

As an African-American male, I proved the show made me feel hopeful. It seemed that sending messages can be as elaborate or as simple as you want — but it can be done creatively if someone puts their mind to it.

Now, BSU has set a precedent for other students and organizations in the future.

And like LeBron, BSU did it with a little more than a few accessories.

Jokes about disabilities are never OK



Alexandra Schonfeld
Columnist
@aschonfeld096

A few weeks ago, I visited my boyfriend at University of Illinois for a long weekend. Months ago, he told me he got tickets for us to go see Daniel Tosh on his college tour. I didn't know much about him, especially what he was up to nowadays — neither did my boyfriend — but we both remembered his popular show that was comedy gold for adolescent boys. What could go wrong?

We walked into the State Farm Arena and I looked around and was immediately struck by the lack of diversity — not much different from Elon University — but still of note. The audience was filled with both students and locals.

The show began with Tosh himself, and I'll admit he was funny at first. He definitely made some off-color jokes that I have grown up knowing were not okay, but it quickly became evident to me that not everyone has had the same upbringing.

Throughout the show he welcomed up a few guests who were mostly writers from his show.

After a succession of pretty funny acts, Tosh introduced another comedian who in so many words, he said “would cross the line.”

And cross the line he did.

“Why does everyone with Down Syndrome have the same haircut?” he said.

I looked at my boyfriend and began

to cry.

I cried because I immediately thought of my five-year-old brother, Carter, who happens to have Down Syndrome, sitting at home watching “Moana.”

That was the beginning to a bit that lasted for what felt like hours, but in actuality, lasted about three minutes. The comedian continued by saying:

“Thank you — all of you who laughed — for keeping it real. Everyone who didn't, you're going to hell because you're kidding yourselves.”

I won't repeat the entirety of his bit, because he doesn't deserve it and neither do I, but as it concluded I turned my body back to face the stage. Tosh returned and supported the comedian's decision to tell that particular joke because he had apparently been hesitant to do so in past shows.

In that moment, I didn't know what to do. Should I stand up and scream? Should I walk out? I regrettably did neither, but in an attempt to make up for that, I decided to write about it.

People need to stop using physical characteristics or, in this case, someone's diagnosis as the butt of their jokes.

Why, in 2017, is it still acceptable to make fun of people who are different? Why did this man and everyone in the audience who laughed think this was funny?

It's not funny.

Just like it's not funny to call someone “retarded.” Using that word is not only outdated, but it's also offensive to anyone who has any sort of cognitive disability or delay. It discredits the efforts of so many men and women who are working every day to prove

themselves in a world that has continually ignored or discouraged them.

Carter is one funny little guy, but it sure has nothing to do with his Down Syndrome.

A question I have been asking myself over the past few weeks is: Why was this comedian hesitant to do this bit before? Why did he choose this night to tell it?

It has seemingly become the norm to pick on “the underdog” or the voiceless. Whether it be our new president mocking a reporter with a physical disability on television, or this comedian making a joke at the expense of my brother and all those like him.

His joke, and the laughter that followed, was evidence of a deeply rooted problem in our society where it has been deemed OK to view people with disabilities as the “other” or those worthy of being mocked.

Especially under our current administration, the culture of bullying and name-calling has become overwhelmingly prevalent. This is a problem that needs to be addressed head on.

I am certain this comedian wouldn't say that joke to the face of someone with Down Syndrome, but he makes the joke because he sees those men and women as a group that is weaker than he is. A group outside of “the norm.”

I am in no way speaking for everyone with Down Syndrome — as they can certainly speak for themselves — but I am speaking in defense of my little brother and the people like him. And I always will.

Be advocates for one another, and speak out against hateful and ugly language that is used to disparage others.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sigma Phi Epsilon's response to ENN's coverage of racial slur incident

Dear Elon University community,

Our fraternity wants all students at Elon to feel welcome at our events and within our membership. We have worked hard to build an inclusive fraternity that is sensitive to one another's differences. So when our former chapter president, senior Owen Gaffney used a racially divisive term in reference to another student, senior Austin Meekins, it confused and hurt so many of us.

In a moment of anger, Gaffney chose the most hurtful word he could find, and he unfortunately succeeded in causing deep pain. Gaffney has apologized to Meekins, and he has apologized to our entire membership. He has resigned from his position as president and has faced a standards hearing within our chapter. We believe he is truly remorseful, but we intend to do all we can to ensure our chapter is a safe and supportive environment

for all of our members.

I am serving as president and will be helping our brothers continue to address this head on. This incident does not represent who we are as a student organization and as members of the Elon community. We are committed to earning back the trust of our peers, faculty and staff. If any students have questions or concerns, I am always available to talk to them. My email is below.

Additionally, I want to address inaccuracies about the story that is being reported. Meekins was never barred from entering a party, and certainly not because of his race. Gaffney and Meekins were in an ongoing disagreement over academic standards, which Gaffney believed would have prevented Meekins from attending the function.

We will earn your trust back, Elon.

William Ellick
wellick@elon.edu

Want to share your opinion? Let us know.
Submit a Letter to the Editor by emailing
enn@elon.edu



CAROLINE BREHMAN | Photo Editor
Later this summer, Smitty's will open its third location in downtown Burlington



CAROLINE BREHMAN | Photo Editor
Owner Amy Nakhle has been serving the Burlington community since 2002.

LIFESTYLE

EVERYONE'S FAVORITE SWEET SPOT

How Smitty's owner found her way into Elon's heart

Matt Holzapfel
 Contributor
 @mholzapfel3

There are 5,189 miles between Elon and Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The time difference is four hours, and Abidjan has a population of 4.7 million, about 4.69 million more people than there are in the town of Elon. But both have one characteristic in common — a love of ice cream.

In 2001, Amy Nakhle was living in Abidjan with her family when she realized it was time for a change.

"There had been a coup in 1999 and the economy was falling apart," Nakhle said. "The political situation in the country was falling apart and we knew we needed to get out."

When Nakhle told her family she would be moving back to North Carolina, they had many questions including: "What are your plans?"

"We didn't have any plans," Nakhle said. "We had just made the decision, and so Tom [her brother-in-law at the time] says, 'You know we've been thinking about this, we've always wanted to open an ice cream store, would you be interested in partnering with us?' And it was kind of a no-brainer."

Five weeks after landing in North Carolina, Nakhle and her brother-in-law opened up the first Smitty's Homemade Ice Cream shop on South Church Street, only seven minutes from Elon University's campus.

"We loved ice cream," Nakhle said. "We always frequented the little ice cream store that was in our neighborhood when we were living in Abidjan and we had always been in business for ourselves, so it made sense to sort of stay entrepreneurial and self-employed and so we jumped on the ice cream dreamwagon and that was it."

But, it wasn't until 2012 that Smitty's finally made its way just down the road to Elon.

"Elon had actually pursued us about bringing Smitty's to downtown Elon," Nakhle said. "The university wanted to raise the profile of the commercial center here and all small towns want to have an ice cream store in them. It was a good fit."

Official Pheonix ice cream

Smitty's currently has two locations, one in Graham on North Main Street and the other in Downtown Elon.

There is a Kickstarter campaign now open to help raise money for the new location. The page will close on May 9, and currently has raised \$7,962 of a \$20,000 goal.

Even before Smitty's opened their Elon location, they were already the "Official Ice Cream of Elon University" and had been at all football and basketball games since 2003.

"We had a good student base already. The students were already coming to the store. They liked what we did," Nakhle said. "We're local, we're family and very community-based. We crunched the numbers and it looked like it was something that would make sense."

Despite being the official ice cream of Elon and wanting to open an actual store on campus, there just wasn't space for it at the time. Nakhle and her family had to wait patiently for quite a while.

"We had to really wait for a spot to open up, it was on our radar for probably a couple of years before something actually came through. As soon as there was an opportunity, we grabbed it," she said. "We found out that John McDonald was going to be working on this building and was looking for tenants, probably a year and a half before they actually started working on the building. President Leo Lambert had held a meeting or two with business leaders in the area to try and drum up some interest in moving into downtown Elon a few years before that so it came on our radar at that time."

John McDonald, co-owner of EDG Properties, LLC, played a leading role in the development and construction of Park Place at Elon apartments, as well as the Elon Town Center, which houses the Barnes & Noble at Elon University, Pandora's Pies, Smitty's Ice Cream and office space for Guy Carpenter, a business management consultant.

Elon graduates Jeff MacKenzie '79 and Peter Ustach '11 are the owners of The Fat Frogg and Pandora's Pies. The combination of Pandora's and Smitty's seems to go hand-in-hand easily and has been beneficial to both Nakhle, and Jeff and Peter.

"Peter and Jeff, who were the owners of The Fat Frogg, were thinking they wanted to take the entire space. And so we sat down with them and convinced them that

THE ELON COMMUNITY IS INCREDIBLY WELCOMING AND WARM, AND WE LOVE BEING HERE.

AMY NAKHLE
 SMITTY'S OWNER

it would be a really great idea to partner together to do this," she said. "Even though we are separate entities, we'd share space. They agreed with us that it made sense to sort of carry the burden. It's always a risk anytime you open a new business and so to share that risk a little bit appealed to them. We take up so little space so it just made a lot of sense."

Night and day

While both current locations sell the ice cream, Nakhle says they couldn't be more different.

"There's definitely lots of good energy. Graham has good energy as well — it's just of a different sort. There is very different diversity between the two locations. Graham is much more community based, as in people from Alamance County having grown up here, been raised here, have deep roots here — that small town feel — and just a more

diverse customer base that we have over there."

Despite the emptiness of Elon when students are gone, Smitty's still stays open during the summer months.

"Ice cream loves summer, right? But Elon's gone in the summer so we have different seasons, practically, which is not a bad thing. When Elon is slower we can concentrate more on Graham, which is a much faster-paced environment at that point," she said. "They complement each other really well."

She also added that during the summertime, downtown Elon and all of its local businesses tends to see a spike in the number of members of the local community who come out. Nakhle and her fellow local business owners would love to see even more people walking around town in the summer, and they still want to continue to raise the profile of downtown Elon.

Elon students also make up a good portion of the staff at Smitty's, and Nakhle says that they're all top-notch employees.

"I thoroughly enjoy working with our students, my one complaint is that they're never available. Elon engages them so much that they don't have enough time to work, Nakhle said. "And that's not a bad complaint to have."

Smitty's will open their third location in downtown Burlington at 107 E. Front Street later this summer. Nakhle has done everything from ice cream scooper to accountant, but with the upcoming opening of her third business, Nakhle has given up the scooper for some checkbooks and extra time to work with other businesses in the area to

broaden the reach of the community.

Small business in a small college town, have no choice but to cater to the students and faculty that live at or near Elon. They're the number one customers. That being said, the lack of other customers emphasizes how important it is for small businesses such as Smitty's and Pandora's to build strong relationships with those members of the Elon community.

"It's been one of the most positive experiences we've ever had as a small business," Nakhle said about interacting with the Elon community since 2012. "The Elon community is incredibly welcoming and warm, and we love being here. We love the students, we love the staff and faculty and I think they love us back, so it's really important to us that we have good relationships with our customer base and I think we work hard to nurture that."

Sophomore Benton Ashe thinks that Smitty's has had a positive impact on campus. "I think it offers a good treat for college students, especially after you just get your pizza from Pandora's."

Ashe said that Smitty's has the power to bring people together — one of the most important things about them being here on campus.

"People want to have a good time and treat themselves," Ashe said. "Smitty's is a good place to do both of those things."



THE SMITTY'S KICKSTARTER CAMPAIGN IS OPEN UNTIL MAY 9 IN HOPES OF RAISING \$20,000 FOR A NEW LOCATION. THE CAMPAIGN HAS RAISED \$7,962 AS OF PUBLICATION.

MARIA HERNANDEZ | Designer

Alumni share stage in 'Pippin' National Tour

Deirdre Kronschnabel
Contributor
@kronschn

The "Pippin" opening number is a huge reveal — circus artists, illusionists and dancers twirl on stage in an organized chaos of feathers, hoops and lights.

"I just don't think there's anything else like it," said Elon University alumna Savannah Sprinkle '15, who plays the role of Catherine in the 2017 National Tour of "Pippin." "Everyone is just blown away."

Sprinkle and her former classmate Mara Lucas '15 performed alongside each other in "Crazy for You" and "Ragtime" while in the same musical theatre class at Elon. Now, the two alumna are spreading the magic to stages across the United States in the 2017 Pippin National Tour.

Sprinkle received a callback for Catherine, Pippin's love interest, but after no further contact, assumed she hadn't gotten the role. Three months later, the producer called Sprinkle to a meeting. At the time, Sprinkle was playing Mary Poppins in her hometown of Atlanta.

"I had a crazy day," Sprinkle said. "I left at 6 a.m., got to New York at 8 a.m., did my audition and then right after that I left and flew back to Atlanta. I did Mary Poppins that night."

Sprinkle's wish for the role was granted, but the excitement had only just begun.

In February, while Sprinkle was on tour, Lucas began subletting her apartment in New York.

It was a Friday when Lucas received an email from Prather Entertainment Group looking for an immediate replacement for an injured Pippin dancer. By the following Monday, she had been offered the job.

"I had a week to pack up my stuff in New York, and I joined the tour that Sunday," said Lucas, ensemble member and understudy to the Leading Player. "I learned the show in a week and a half, and I've been doing it since."

Sprinkle had no idea the company was going to ask Lucas to submit.

"It's so nice to have someone there who you went to school

with and you shared a lot of growing up experiences together," Sprinkle said. "It's like you're connected to the past but also you're doing something that will forever bond you to the future."

For Lucas, Sprinkle made her national stage debut a little less daunting.

"Joining a tour in the middle is sort of like switching high schools in the middle of the year," Lucas said. "Everybody already knows each other and you're the new kid. It was just nice to know there would be someone I was

comfortable with."

Still, a national tour conjures up other struggles. Almost two years post-graduation, the alumna have had to adapt to fewer resources and more difficult roles.

"It's hard when you're in a collegiate program because you have to cast entire shows with very young people," Sprinkle said. "I ended up playing a lot of older roles when I was at Elon [University], which was incredible, but sort of confusing when I left school. I was trying to figure out, 'What can I play now?'"

The quirky and endearing Catherine has challenged Sprinkle to tiptoe a fine line between comedy and drama.

"That was one of the things that I had the biggest trouble with," Sprinkle said. "Finding the really funny bits and moments, but making them truthful and sincere so that she reads to the audience as a very relatable character."

Linda Sabo, associate professor in the Performing Arts department, is familiar with the genuineness that sparkles from Sprinkle on stage.

"She does the work not because she has stars in her eyes, but because she loves it and would do it no matter what," Sabo said. "She is truly a performing artist."

Lucas and Sprinkle encourage current students to take advantage of resources. Notes from professors and copies of sheet music might not seem critical now, but they will become luxuries once off campus.

"Really think about your time while you're in school, and use that time to take advantage of all you're given, so that you can go into the real world with confidence," Sprinkle said.

And above all, to always get back up.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MARA LUCAS
Mara Lucas '15 and Savannah Sprinkle '15 are sharing the stage again on National Tour of "Pippin."

"There are going to be times when you're going to feel like no matter what you do, you're being pulled back," Sprinkle said. "But you're going to be launched into something great."

Regardless of what obstacles may stand in the way of their next adventures, both women are testaments that with dedication and determination, dreams come true.

"I always had an aunt who would say things like, 'Are you sure you don't want to get a minor in business?'" Sprinkle said. "Then she came to see the show and she goes, 'I understand now. I get it. And I think it was worth every bit of it.'"

IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE THERE WHO YOU WENT TO SCHOOL WITH AND YOU SHARED A LOT OF GROWING UP EXPERIENCES TOGETHER.

SAVANNAH SPRINKLE
ALUMNA '15



SOPHIE ZINN

Majors: International Studies and Political Science

Minor: Interreligious Studies and Middle East Studies

Mentor: Brian Pennington



JOCELYN PIETRO

Majors: Public Health and Psychology

Minor: Interreligious Studies and Human Service Studies

Mentor: Amanda Tapler



KRISTINA MEYER

Majors: Religious Studies and Mathematics

Mentor: Toddie Peters



STYRLING ROHR

Majors: Religious Studies and Anthropology

Minor: Asian Studies

Mentor: Amy Allocco



KANNON HALL

Majors: Strategic Communications and International Studies

Minor: Interreligious Studies and Middle East Studies

Mentor: Shereen Elgamal



SAMANTHA CROSIER

Majors: English and Political Science

Minor: Jewish Studies and Interreligious Studies

Mentor: Geoffrey Claussen

MULTI-FAITH from cover

of the program.

"I think that our society has stigmatized religion as something that's private and something that shouldn't be talked about," Zinn said. "However, because we have suppressed our religious identities in our country, we haven't been able to interact on more personal levels with each other."

Amy Allocco, associate professor of religious studies and director of the Multi-faith Scholars program, said that the money from the grant will be used to underwrite the program during its first years, and then the university will assume its funding.

Allocco said that the goal of the program is to be interdisciplinary. It stretches across the whole university, and its first cohort is composed

of students with a variety of majors, backgrounds and research topics.

"We are privileging students who are not otherwise cohorted," Allocco said. "This is a great opportunity for students who wouldn't otherwise have a research platform to get involved in this."

A requirement to be admitted to the Multi-faith scholars program is to be a religious studies major or interreligious studies minor. Though its first cohort ranges from students majoring in public health, English, strategic communications, religious studies and international studies.

"Students who have multi-faith commitments will have the opportunity to pair classroom learning and a closely mentored undergraduate research experience with engagement outside of the university, with our local communities and use those three building blocks intersectionally," Allocco said.

Sophomore Kristina Meyer, who is in the program's first cohort along with Zinn, says she chose to apply to the program not only because of her interest in doing research with interfaith organizations, but also because she finds building relationships with her cohort as a valuable aspect of her experience.

"We each have different research topics," Meyer said. "But the fact that we are engaging in multiple religions and engaging with people of multiple religions, we will be able to challenge each other and offer each other different perspectives."

This two-year program requires the selected scholars to pursue their projects closely with faculty mentors. It also requires the students to engage with the local communities to promote multi-faith learning and diversity. During their first year, the scholars will work with their mentors to plan global engagement opportunities as well as research

experiences that will assist in broadening their development as multi-faith leaders. During their senior year, they will take leadership roles on campus within different departments and lead educational events focused around religion.

Zinn hopes to gain a wider perspective of individual experiences, not only from her cohort, but also from those she engages with in the community.

"I think a lot of the times it's easy to associate different religions with particular belief systems or practices," Zinn said. "But when it becomes more personal, I think that people's convictions of others religions deteriorate."

For Meyer, learning from other religions has made her more compassionate.

"I found that studying other religions and studying how people interact has strengthened my own faith," Meyer said.

Meyer and Zinn are excited to see the expansion of the program and learn more about what they will be doing with their cohort and in their individual research projects.

Allocco hopes for the scholars to bring the communities they engage with outside of Elon back to campus to facilitate conversations within the student body. She wants to see increased communication between religious communities at Elon, and believes the scholars can change the conversation about religion at Elon. Her first meeting with the cohort will be Thursday, May 4. She hopes this meeting will serve as the "launching pad" for the cohort that she is looking to build.

"I hope we support one another in the challenging kinds of projects," Allocco said. "Share resources and cheer one another along and ask hard questions to one another as we dig into these research projects and topics."



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EVEN THOUGH SINGING IS STILL SUCH A RELIEF, HEARING MYSELF SING MAKES ME SAD. BUT THAT FEELING – I DON'T THINK IT'S GOING TO GO AWAY, BUT I THINK IT WILL CHANGE AND I'LL BECOME MORE COMFORTABLE WITH IT.

ILIANA BRODSKY
SENIOR



MUSIC MISDIAGNOSED: A LOSS OF VOICE, DISCOVERY OF IDENTITY

Christina Elias
Assistant Design Chief
@eliaschristina4

When senior Iliana Brodsky woke up on the day of the most important auditions of her high school career, her voice was gone. So she did what most singers would: pretended nothing was wrong.

"I couldn't speak," Brodsky said. "I couldn't even whisper. Nothing was happening. And I did what you were always taught to do. I got up and got dressed, took my music, put on my makeup, drank about three gallons of tea, put on the biggest scarf I could find and I went to the audition and just stood there."

Rewinding

Brodsky had grown up in a musically inclined household in Brooklyn, New York. Her grandmother and aunt went to what later became the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts in Manhattan.

"I loved, loved, loved to sing," Brodsky said. "If I could sing at school, it made math and science and history better, so I just started singing at school. When it came to applying to high school, it was kind of a no-brainer to do what they had done."

She auditioned for LaGuardia where alumni include Jennifer Aniston, Liza Minnelli, Al Pacino and Nicki Minaj — and got in.

"It was in my junior year when I started getting sick a lot," she said. "All of a sudden I was tired all the time, but I thought maybe it was just the stress of living in South Brooklyn and going to high school in midtown Manhattan."

So Brodsky continued to go about her daily life.

"It wasn't that my voice was changing, it's that I started having to work harder to maintain the sound, and I stopped getting better," she explained. "I was maintaining a sound, so nobody thought anything was wrong with me."

Things took a turn the day of au-

ditions for the highest-level chorus, individual voice instruction and opera workshop all in the same day with her voice nowhere to be found.

For one audition, students learned five arias (foreign-language pieces) and their translations. Brodsky's teachers read her random lines from the arias and let her write the translations to try to accommodate her inability to sing.

"I actually wound up getting into the class," she laughed. "But joke's on them, I came back after summer and still didn't have a voice back. I didn't get into the chorus, but I got into opera workshop."

A closer look

She was still sick and struggling with her voice August of her senior year.

While one doctor put her on three months of vocal rest and a special diet, she started seeing Dr. Benjamin Asher who practiced a more homeopathic approach to medicine. She was sitting in his office one day, waiting to hear test results.

"Iliana, have you ever been bitten by a tick?" he asked her. When she immediately said no, he continued, "Are you sure?"

"And all of a sudden, I recalled this memory of two years earlier when I was volunteering for a weekend in the fall at my summer camp, and I got a tick on my shoulder," she said. "I just had some guy pull it off. There wasn't any bump, there wasn't a circle, it didn't look like anything, but that was the only time in my memory that I'd had a tick and that was about when I started feeling sick."

Asher was the first doctor in New York City to be able to diagnose Brodsky with Lyme disease.

According to the International Lyme and Associated Diseases So-

ciety, Lyme presents differently in each patient and is difficult to catch through screening. Because under 50 percent of those afflicted remember being bitten by a tick or show symptoms of a rash, many cases go undiagnosed. Those with chronic Lyme require long-term treatment and still experience relapses.

"So I had had this disease for two years before it was diagnosed, and in those two years that's why I was so tired, that's why I was sick all the time, that's why I didn't feel like myself, that's why all of this other medication that the doctors were giving me weren't helping," she said. "I was being misdiagnosed for about a year and a half."

Relieved, but not reassured

Sulica told Brodsky she could still make singing her life, but her voice would never go back to normal.

"I was really, really determined to do that," she said. "To just make it work."

Brodsky was on voice rest, in rehab and on a special diet for months. She went every other week to get antihistamine injections at 17 and was forced to change her college list to schools that didn't match the training she'd dedicated herself to for years.

"I was singing for them, and I was sounding not good enough for them," Brodsky said. "And I couldn't tell them, you know? I was representing myself with a voice that didn't sound like me in my head to people who I didn't think I should have been representing myself to. And it was very damaging."

Making it work

Brodsky lived and worked in Israel for a year before coming to Elon, where she finished a bach-

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PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ILIANA BRODSKY
Senior Iliana Brodsky poses in front of a kolam street art contest in South India in January.

elor's in music by her junior year. "I was killing myself over it," she said. "And it was painful to still be trying something that I knew wasn't representing who I was anymore."

Lisbeth Carter, adjunct instructor in music, was Brodsky's voice coach. Carter has worked as a voice coach for about 30 years.

Carter said it's hard to undergo that type of change and Brodsky "worked really, really hard and made a lot of progress, but there are certain limits to what one can do."

"She found a true calling and I think that she's going to be very, very good at what she does," she said. "She will have probably gained a great deal by her music studies even though that's not necessarily the career path she's going to follow."

According to Carter, voice abuse is common among young musicians, even unintentionally through illness or injury.

"[Vocal folds] are like any muscle, it's like any part of the body: if you injure it, sometimes it repairs and sometimes it does not," she said. "The thing about it is if you smash your piano, you can go and buy another one. But if you abuse your voice, you only get one."

Even as Brodsky tried to recreate the voice she once had, she realized it would never be the same.

"I just remember I had this sound of who I was, and then I just stopped hearing it after a while," Brodsky said. "I was trying to recreate it and I couldn't, and it was frustrating and it became pointless, and I started finding other interests."

Identity in swing

"They talk about the stages of grief; I went through all of them," she said. "I think that first one where I was told, 'You can work

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PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ILIANA BRODSKY
Iliana Brodsky poses in an opera costume for a performance in 2011 at her high school in New York City.

on this,' and me falling so hard for that idea was denial in a big way."

She said her gap year in Israel helped her discover other interests, and she eventually declared a second major.

"I became enamored with religious studies," she said. "I realized I could be successful at other things, and it wasn't a compromise of who I was but it was an extension of who I was."

Despite having to move on, music remains something Brodsky holds close to her heart.

"I still don't sing in front of people, really," she admitted. "It was hard. I don't tell people, I don't talk to people about it still. I just still try to find the words for it, because it's not been a part of my identity at Elon, but it was my entire life before it."

Moving forward

Now, Brodsky is looking forward to after graduation, when she will go back to her old summer camp as director of group programming. After this summer, she plans to return to the city.

"I'm giving myself two years of leeway, but the idea is that in fall of 2019, I think I'm going to rabbinic school," she admitted. "I want to do community work. I want to work with people. And so this is, I guess for me, the way to go about it and still remain part of the religious studies community."

She credits this new facet of her personality to the loss of her voice. Her advice to young performers is to trust themselves and rethink what success looks like.

"Even though singing is still such a relief, hearing myself sing makes me sad," she said. "That feeling — I don't think it's going to go away, but I think it will change and I'll become more comfortable with it."



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
**Freshman quarterback
 Jalen Green runs the
 ball during the annual
 Spring game March 29.**

SPRINGING TOWARD THE FALL

Phoenix ends spring scrimmage schedule with newfound intensity

Miles Garrett
 Contributor
 @MilesMGarrett

The Elon University football team concluded its final spring scrimmage on a hot and humid Saturday afternoon with 20 40-yard sprints.

Midway through the scrimmage, new head coach Curt Cignetti stopped the players and gathered them for a quick kneel-down before colorfully yelling at his team for their effort.

It's a part of the new level of intensity the former University of Alabama wide receiver coach has tried to bring to the Elon football team, which is coming off a disappointing 2-9 season.

"He was just telling us if we want to change the culture around here, we have to change what we do right now," junior offensive lineman Alex Higgins said.

Two young quarterbacks compete for the starting spot in the fall.

"We have to do those sprints after practice to make sure we can finish in the fourth quarter." The scrimmage displayed some noteworthy competition at the quarterback position. The Phoenix's former No. 1 and No. 2 on the depth chart — juniors Connor Christiansen, who has since moved to safety, and Daniel Thompson — have been replaced with early freshmen enrollees.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
The Phoenix looks to use a strong run game behind new quarterback choice.

New gunslingers Davis Cheek and Jalen Greene battled for a chance to lead the Phoenix in the fall, though the spring game offered no clear-cut favorite. Greene opened up the scrimmage with a 55-yard touchdown run and had some impressive longer throws to receivers throughout the game.

Greene saw success on multiple short, intermediate throws as well, but he also had a couple of fumbles on read handoffs to running backs.

Cheek, who has only participated in five of the 12 practices due to sickness, delivered some high intensity throws down the middle of the field. He hit sophomore receiver Tre Marsh for a 32-yard touchdown and added a short running touchdown of his own.

"I thought both quarterbacks did good things," Cignetti said. "I thought Jalen had a really good scrimmage and Davis really picked it up as the

scrimmage got going and made a few throws. They both had terrific springs. I'm glad they're here enrolled early. We've got a nice situation at quarterback."

Meanwhile, on the ground, the Phoenix look to be in good shape.

The team will enter fall practice with a new starting tailback. Redshirt freshman Brellynd Cyphers has the edge over junior running back Malcolm Summers, according to Cignetti. But Summers did have an 84-yard run from inside his own 5-yard line and a 38-yard scamper.

The success and failure of Cyphers and Summers will perhaps be a strong indicator of how Elon performs this season with its new offense. Coach Cignetti has preached a "pound the rock" approach with an emphasis on the run game.

It's an approach that Higgins said the offensive line has taken a liking to.

"I frickin' love it," he said with a smile.

As for the team's goals heading into summer before fall camp begins, Higgins and fellow offensive lineman junior CJ Toogood said it all starts in the weight room.

"We need to just trust in our strength coach and get bigger, stronger, faster over the summer," Toogood said. "We don't need to catch up going into camp; we just need to take another step forward like we did for spring ball."

"We just have to stay in the film room, get everyone to learn their plays and focus on technique," Higgins added. "The weight room is going to be big for us this summer."

The necessary constant improvement will be something to note going forward, with an Elon team going through a regime change. The Phoenix have not had to make too many adjustments strategically, but the mindset has been a clear medium of focus for Cignetti.

Higgins mentioned that the difference in intensity has already been "through the roof," but this fall will be a true indicator of the team's progress as it begins regular season play Aug. 31 in Ohio at the University of Toledo.

"We're making progress as a team," Cignetti said. "We're making progress in terms of our toughness, our tempo, our physicality; we're finishing better, we're executing better. We've still got some holes that we have to fill, but we have a long way to go yet. But we're a lot further along than when we started."

THE PHOENIX FOCUS

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

RESULTS & SCHEDULE 12-5 (4-2)



Apr. 29
18-4

Tribe

Away May 5
CAA Semifinals
6:30 p.m.



WOMEN'S TRACK

SCHEDULE

Away May 5-6
CAA
Tournament



SOFTBALL

RESULTS & SCHEDULE

32-18 (9-8)



Apr. 26
5-4



Apr. 29-30
3 Games
2-1



Away May 5-6
3 Games



Away May 9
CAA
Tournament



CAROLINE BREHMAN | Staff Photographer

BASEBALL

RESULTS & SCHEDULE

20-24 (10-8)



Apr. 25
2-11



Apr. 28-30
3 Games
1-2



Home May 2
6 p.m.



Away May 5-7
3 Games



Away May 9
6 p.m.



CAROLINE BREHMAN | Staff Photographer



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer



CAROLINE BREHMAN | Staff Photographer

SPORTS BRIEFS

Softball prevails in final contest at home

The Elon University softball team finished its home schedule this weekend, winning two of the three games played against the University of Delaware. The series was capped off by a 1-0 win on Sunday off of a walk-off single by left fielder Alaina Hall on her senior day.

With the two wins this weekend, the Phoenix improves its record to 9-8 in the Colonial Athletic Association, solidifying their place as the fifth and final team in the CAA Tournament.

The Phoenix will close out its regular season play this weekend, battling No. 14 James Madison in Williamsburg, Virginia with a three-game CAA matchup.

Track and Field looks to capture another title

The Elon University Track and Field team will head to Newark, Delaware for the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Outdoor Championships. The Phoenix two-time defending CAA champion will go for a three-peat this weekend.

The team contains four athletes who have previously earned CAA individual championships, including junior Emily Dixon (heptathlon), senior Jayna Coyle (triple jump), senior Bryanna Hames (discus) and senior Kimberly Johansen (800 and 1,500-meters).

The meet will take place on Friday and Saturday at the University of Delaware.

Women's lacrosse finishes season with a strong win

The Elon University lacrosse team finished the regular season with a strong 18-4 victory over William & Mary this weekend.

Though the team fell behind 3-1 at the beginning, the Phoenix scored 15 unanswered goals to lead to the victory. The 14-goal win is the largest CAA victory in program history.

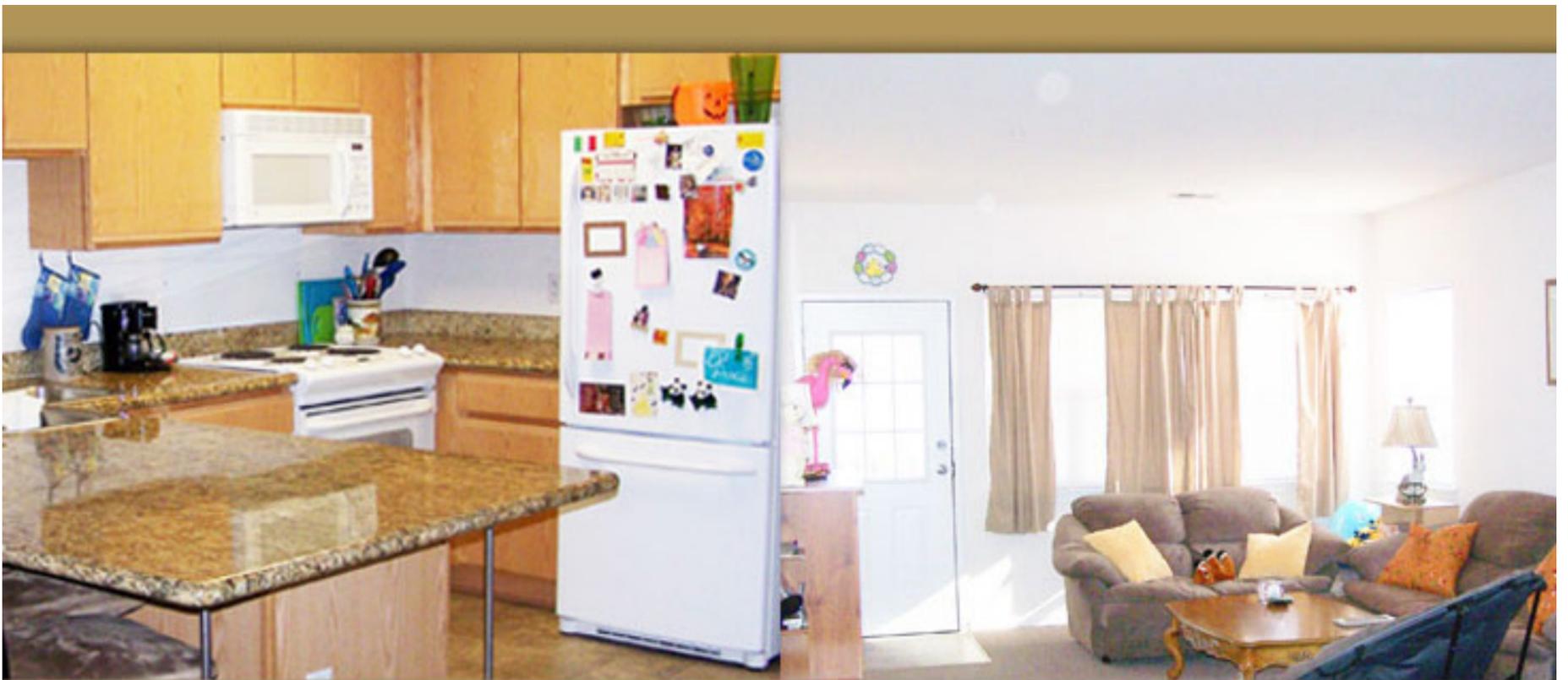
The Phoenix now heads to the CAA tournament, its second consecutive appearance. The No. 3 ranked Phoenix will face off against No. 2 ranked Towson on Friday riding a four-game winning streak. The game is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 5 in Towson, Maryland.

Baseball struggles against College of Charleston

The Phoenix dropped two of three games against the South Carolina opponent this weekend, struggling against the College of Charleston in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

The only victory for the Phoenix came during Sunday's series finale when the Phoenix scored three, ninth-inning runs to capture the 6-4 victory. The Phoenix are now 20-24 and 10-8 in the CAA.

The team has 11 regular season games remaining. The Phoenix will be at home Tuesday against University of North Carolina at Greensboro, looking for revenge after losing to the Spartans earlier this season. The team will then head to Long Island, New York this weekend to battle Hofstra in a three-game series.



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