

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020  
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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

# THE PENDULUM

## TESTING FOR THE VIRUS

Over the summer, Elon had its students to complete a COVID-19 testing kit prior to arriving on campus. Photo by Emery Eisner



PCR tests were required for incoming and returning students, staff and faculty.

Kyra O'Connor and Lauren Singles | Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

IN PLACE OF THE usual pencils and notebooks, this year Elon students, faculty and staff added a COVID-19 test to their back to school shopping lists.

Elon University students were preparing in July to return to campus for in-person instruction when the university first announced its plans to require presemester COVID-19 testing of all faculty, students and staff. Now

with the Elon community back on-campus, random and ongoing testing has begun to attempt to mitigate a possible outbreak, and students, faculty and staff are required to comply with random testing as part of the Healthy Elon Commitment.

Originally, using a test by LabCorp was required for presemester testing, but the university later announced that students could use any PCR testing kit.

While many students chose to use the Pixel by LabCorp at-home testing kits, some chose to use their local health provider. Freshman Leah Schwarz went to CVS Pharmacy and received her results within 64 hours. The test, while not through the university, was a LabCorp test Schwarz received for free.

See **TESTING** | pg. 5

## COVID-19 hits Alamance County Latino community

With the Hispanic population making up 61% of coronavirus cases, a Burlington nonprofit helps the community

**Mackenzie Wilkes**  
Executive Director | @macwilkes

In a renovated warehouse just off North Church Street in Burlington is CityGate Dream Center. The Dream Center — which is a nonprofit and community center—is usually filled with students after school, English classes taught by Alamance Community College or diabetes prevention classes led by Cone Health, but the center has been missing its normal activity.

The coronavirus pandemic has left the Dream Center empty except for a group of volunteers. Even with most of the activity in the center halted, Dream Center director Lisa Edwards felt the need to continue serving the East Burlington community.

“Instead of working on programming and having a building full of students or kids, or even the classes, we’re more trying to find ways to be able to provide things in a safe environment,” Edwards said.

According to Edwards, the majority of the people the center serves are Latino, a group that has been hit hard by the pandemic in Alamance County.



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR  
Tamara Casey gathers supplies to hand out at the CityGate Dream Center diaper distribution that happens every Thursday at their location in Burlington, North Carolina. Photo taken on Thursday, Aug. 20.

See **COVID-19** | pg. 6



**NEWS • PAGE 10**  
The pandemics effect on Elon’s dual-degree students



**LIFESTYLE • PAGE 11**  
How the lives of the physical plant workers on-campus have changed



**SPORTS • PAGE 15**  
Elon men’s soccer goalkeeper’s journey to Germany and back

# THE PENDULUM

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Nyah Phengsitthy, Ted Thomas, Andrew Zagari, and Caroline Bunder contributed to the design of this edition.

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

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## CORRECTIONS

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

## COMIC

### ROOMMATE AGREEMENT



COMIC SAMS - SAM POROZOK

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## GAMES

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

1. PCR, or \_\_\_\_\_ chain reaction tests, were required by Elon before coming to camps. *See Page 4 for answer.*
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ Center has recently turned from an education center into a space that helps distribute supplies to help the community deal with COVID-19. *See Page 5 for answer.*
3. Tim \_\_\_\_\_, the Director of Building Trades, primarily oversees all of the facilities on campus, on top of many other things. *See Page 11 for answer.*
4. \_\_\_\_\_ of the ten productions put on by the Performing Arts department will be filmed and released to the public. *See Page 12 for answer.*
5. Peter \_\_\_\_\_ had to rush from Florida to his home in Ettlingen, Germany last semester when Elon suspended in-person classes last spring. *See Page 15 for answer.*

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



Elon Freshman Danielle DaSilva sews a mask at the Maker's Hub Take and Make event at Phi Beta Kappa Commons on Aug. 25.



GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR



THOMAS DENOME | CHIEF COPY EDITOR

The muscovy duck on Lake Mary Nell on Aug. 25.

Elon students participate in a Campus Wealth HIIT (high intensity interval training) workout which are hosted on Mondays and Tuesday at 5:30, on Aug. 24.



BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTO GRAPHER

Elon Sophomore Eleanor Irion and LEAF (Lutherans, Episcopalians and Friends) Campus Minister and Spirit and Pride Coordinator Julie Tonnesen sit at the outdoor seating on West College Avenue on Aug. 25.



GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR





Elon Freshmen gather to play a physically distanced game Spike ball in front of Alamance Building on Thursday, Aug. 25.

GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR



Due to COVID-19, Tita Rameriz is now holding her intro to creative writing class outside Under the Oaks. Photo taken on Tuesday, Aug. 25.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Darkness descends upon the Alamance Building on Aug. 18, as Elon University begins its first week of classes for the 2020 fall semester.



Every Thursday the CityGate Dream Center holds a diaper distribution for families in need.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR



# PCR & PENCILS:

*Behind the tests Elon University students were required to take before coming to campus*



## TESTING | from cover

A PCR test, or polymerase chain reaction test, is considered a viral diagnostic test. These tests can detect viral genetic material from COVID-19 to identify a current infection. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are two main kinds of COVID-19 tests: diagnostic viral testing, which will let an individual know if they are currently infected with COVID-19, and antibody testing, which could let an individual know if they previously were infected by detecting antibodies from the virus. Viral diagnostic tests collect specimens from the respiratory system. The CDC currently recommends tests that swab from the upper respiratory tract — in most cases, that means a kind of nasal swab test will be utilized.

According to Ginette Archinal, medical director of student health and university physician, there are two nasal or oral tests available, a PCR test and an antigen test, the latter of which is what is typically administered in a doctor’s office by a medical professional. Archinal said no test can be 100% correct. When looking at testing, one should look for sensitivity and specificity.

“We want the test to be very sensitive; we want it to pick up the disease if it’s there. But we also want it to be specific; we don’t want it to say positive because it’s picking up something that’s related to what we’re doing,” Archinal said. “Because of that, there are always false negatives and false positives.”

Currently, Student Health Services does not administer COVID testing on-site, as it is not possible to have a provider-observed, patient-administered test or provider-collected tests without the proper equipment, Archinal said.

Since coming back to Elon, students, staff and faculty can also be subject to random testing. According to the Ready and Resilient website, Elon students, staff and faculty will be tested weekly throughout the semester based on three methods. While random testing is paid for by the university, symptomatic testing or testing for individuals outside of those chosen for random testing, is not paid for by the university.

If a student, staff member or faculty member has potentially been in contact with someone who has presented symptoms and warranted isolation or if an individual has not been exposed but may participate in high-risk groups on campus or in classes, organizations and residential areas where cases have occurred, one could be chosen for random and ongoing testing. The third method involves a stratified simple random sample of students, faculty and staff from across the main and Greensboro campuses.

All random and ongoing testing will be the same PCR test used for presemester testing and will be paid for by the university contracted with LabCorp, according to Archinal. If selected for random screening, students, staff and faculty are required to participate as part of the Healthy Elon Commitment. The data from the ongoing testing will be used as part of the university’s



A nurse from the Alamance County Health Department conducts a COVID-19 test during the free testing clinic hosted by Cone Health on July 9, 2020 at the Career and Technical Education Center.



EVEN THOUGH IT'S THE SAME TEST, THERE'S A LOT OF DIFFERENT PARAMETERS YOU LOOK AT, BECAUSE AT THE END OF THE DAY IT'S NOT ABOUT THE TEST, IT'S ABOUT THE PERSON. WE DON'T TREAT THE TEST. WE WORK WITH THE PERSON.

**GINETTE ARCHINAL**  
MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF STUDENT  
HEALTH AND UNIVERSITY PHYSICIAN

ongoing analysis of alert levels. The random testing does not involve the health services on campus.

Individuals who have been in close contact with a person who has positive results must be isolated until they receive their own results, Archinal said. If a student who is seen in student health presents signs of COVID-19, they will also go into isolation until they receive negative results.

“Even though it’s the same test, there’s a lot of different parameters you look at, because at the end of the day it’s not about the test, it’s about the person,” Archinal said. “We don’t treat the test. We work with the person.”

At this point, until supplies for testing, such as PPE for healthcare providers, become more readily available, Student Health Services recommends those with transportation to go to the drive-through COVID testing site at Alamance Regional Medical Center. There, students do not need an appointment or a doctor’s order to be tested. The results from the PCR test there come back within 48 hours, Archinal said.

“We are expecting adequate supplies for testing student[s] with symptoms only to be delivered soon,” Archinal said.

According to Arlinda Ellison, public information officer at Alamance County Health, individuals can go to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services website and utilize the “find my test” page to find a testing location in the area. In addition to testing details, the site also provides information on the number of lab-confirmed cases, completed tests and individuals currently hospitalized in the state



COVID-19 tests were sent in a LabCorp box to students’ homes before arriving to campus.

of North Carolina. The latest innovation in testing currently is a new saliva test developed at Yale. The Yale School of Public Health received emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration for SalivaDirect last week. This new form of testing has individuals spit into a cup, and eliminates time consuming and reagent consuming steps in PCR testing. It also does not require healthcare providers administering the test to wear PPE, and will be much less expensive than other testing available. “Testing is important so that we know how much is out there,” Archinal said. “We have to do what we can do, Just because person A has no symptoms, person B could die from it. We have a responsibility to each other.”



# Coronavirus case disparity hits Latino community hard

## COVID-19 | from cover

Hispanic people make up 61% of COVID-19 cases in Alamance County, or 1,731 of the 2,838 cases in the county, according to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. But of the estimated total population of Alamance County, only 13.1% is Hispanic, yet they make up a large portion of those infected with the virus.

According to the Alamance County Health Department, this disparity is higher than expected. In a statement to Elon News Network, Arlinda Ellison, public information officer of the health department, attributed multigenerational households and the workplace as factors to these case numbers.

“Unfortunately in infectious disease situations, these typically protective practices like multigenerational homes are often associated with easier spread of virus among households, family members and social circles. These also can be attributed to worksites,” Ellison wrote.

According to census data, the average person per household in Alamance County between 2014 and 2018 was 2.43.

“I now know people that have been sick or lost a loved one in the area; it’s not such a distant thing,” Edwards said. “Most of our families, they have not been able to work from home. They’ve had to continue to go and to be in close quarters and doing all the things that they normally do.”

According to Ellison, there are 12 case investigators at the health department and there are “2 interpreters on staff, as well [as] bilingual staff members that assist when needed.”

The Alamance County Health Department declined Elon News Network’s request to interview a nurse who works directly with the county’s Latino population on case investigation.

Yazmin Garcia Rico, healthy communities program manager for Alamance Regional Medical Center, who works closely with the county’s Latino community said the pandemic has exacerbated existing health disparities.

“This crisis came to really shake, even more, a lot of the communities



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

“  
I NOW KNOW PEOPLE  
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THING.

LISA EDWARDS  
DREAM CENTER DIRECTOR

that were already struggling, that were already doing all they could to make ends meet but were already having a hard time,” Garcia Rico said.

According to the 2018 Alamance County Community Health Assessment, which is conducted every four years, racial and ethnic healthy inequities exist due to social conditions such as housing, education and nutrition.

Latino students in the Alamance-Burlington School System have the lowest graduation rate, and their median household income is roughly \$30,000.

In focus groups conducted for the health assessment — that included Latino individuals — an analysis revealed that residents of the county were concerned with included: lack of trust in the healthcare system, having to go above and beyond to access healthcare and job stability.

NCDHHS’ 2018 Health Equity report found that 29.6% of Hispanic and Latino adults ages 18-64 had no health insurance in 2016 which is a 3.2 disparity ratio compared to

white adults. 27.4% of Hispanic and Latino adults couldn’t see a doctor in the previous 12 months due to cost, which is a 2.1 disparity ratio.

The pandemic has exposed the community’s basic needs of everyday things like food and diapers, needs that the Dream Center is trying to meet.

“The needs have always been there,” Maria Hernandez, a staff member at the center, said. “They’ve come to light in the pandemic.”

At the Dream Center, staff and volunteers are working to bridge the disparities the pandemic has enhanced.

While the building is empty, the parking lot is full at the Dream Center. Every Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m. the center does a drive-thru distribution of diapers and — depending upon supply — menstrual products and masks.

For 13 weeks this summer, the center paid for local restaurants to hand out meals for families, to not only help those struggling to access food, but to help businesses suffering due to the pandemic. The center gave out roughly 1,800 meals a week.

The Dream Center received many grants and donations to make the meal distribution possible, including one from Elon University’s It Takes a Village project. The village project contributed \$10,000 to the center’s distribution from a grant that was funded by the Oak Foundation. The village project’s donation was matched by Impact Alamance, according to Director of Elon University News Bureau Owen Covington.

“It’s a huge project,” Hernandez said. “It’s a big mission serving every aspect of life.”

The Dream Center has been serving people beyond providing food and toiletries; they’re also providing financial assistance. The center was awarded a \$13,000 grant from the city of Burlington, which they’re using to distribute funds to those who are in need. The center has set up an application process to receive a check totaling the amount of money a family needs.

Edwards said she saw a financial need due to the pandemic. According to Edwards, many families who frequent the center have been laid off and weren’t

**The CityGate Dream Center, which is a community center located in Burlington, North Carolina, holds a diaper distribution every Thursday for families in need. On Thursday, Aug. 20, the Dream Center received more than a hundred families at their drive-thru.**

eligible for stimulus money from the CARES Act, so the center is trying to help people with bills and other expenses.

According to a study from the Tax Policy Center on adults aged 18-64 who themselves or a family member received economic impact payments — or stimulus checks — the Hispanic population had the lowest percentage of reported checks.

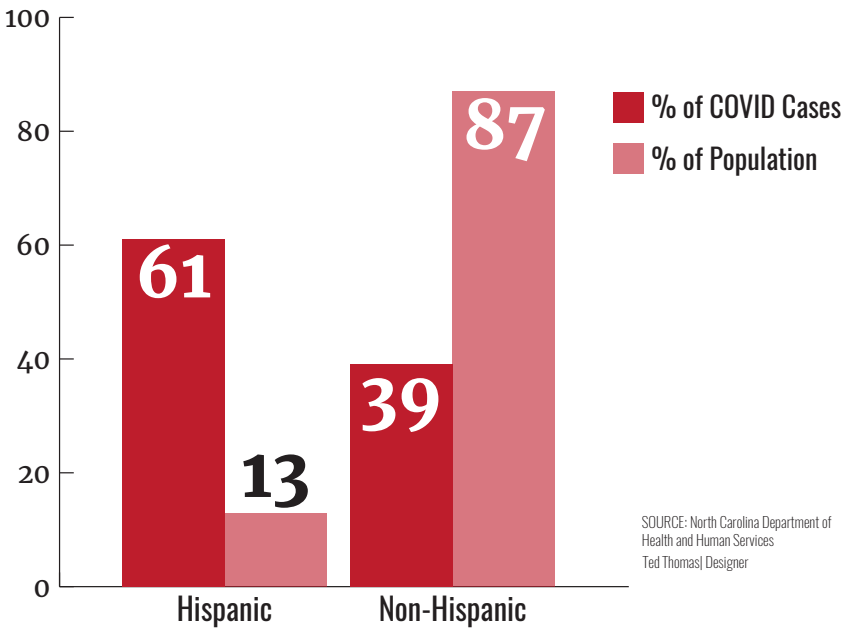
63.7% of Hispanic people reported they received stimulus checks, compared to 68.6% of Black people and 73.7% white people. The number of Hispanic people reporting they received a check is lower depending on immigration status, with 54.1% of Hispanic adults with “noncitizens” in the family reporting they received a check. Although, 69.9% of Hispanic people with all family members being citizens reported receiving a check.

Appointed by Gov. Roy Cooper, Garcia Rico is working to bridge health disparities in communities of color like the Latino community as a member of the Social, Economic, Environmental, and Health Equity Task Force.

According to the first meeting of the task force, their objective is to generate actions that address access to healthcare in “underserved communities.” Cooper established the task force to mitigate already existing inequities that the pandemic has exacerbated.

“It has affected and does impact everyone and all communities but we can see the disproportionate impact of COVID-19,” Machel Sanders, secretary of the NC Department of Administration and chair of the task force said in the meeting. “This should be no surprise to anyone if you’ve been a part of this nation and understand the history of our nation and understand the inequities that we face not even with COVID-19 but that we face as a person of color.”

## COMPARISON OF PERCENTAGE OF COVID-19 CASES IN ALAMANCE COUNTY TO PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION IN ALAMANCE COUNTY



SOURCE: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Ted Thomas | Designer



# Book responds to community concerns on Louis DeJoy

In a letter to Academic Council, President Book said the board is aware of community concerns about the Postmaster General and Elon Trustee

Miranda Ferrante  
Elon News Network | @ferrantemiranda

In response to a formal request from Academic Council Chair Lee Bush, Elon University President Connie Book acknowledged concerns expressed by members of the Elon community regarding the U.S. Postal Service and Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, who is on the Elon Board of Trustees.

Book said the board is aware of these concerns and will continue to listen to the community.

As the 75th postmaster general, DeJoy has overseen both budget cuts and temporary slowdowns in postal operations, in addition to the reorganization of leadership and the removal of mailboxes and mail sorting machines.

“The board fully supports our community’s belief that a free, fair and impartial election process is essential and forms the foundation of American democracy,” Book said. “Mr. DeJoy has said that he shares those values, and the board looks forward to hearing his upcoming testimony in Washington.”

DeJoy, who has served as a trustee since 2007, created an endowment along with his wife, Aldona Wos, for four full Odyssey scholarships that will grow into a total of 12.

“He has consistently shown that he cares deeply about Elon students and shares our community’s passion for education and opportunity,” Book said.

Book hopes that as national issues

continue to be discussed and community members keep DeJoy’s positive contributions to the Elon community in mind.

Elon University has advocated for voting in recent election cycles and is currently promoting the Elon Votes campaign.

Book said the mail room has not experienced slow service in recent weeks and that students preparing to send in absentee ballots in the general election should not face any issues.

“We have contacted our regional USPS distribution centers and found no mail delivery delays other than the slow down of priority and express mail that was announced by the USPS in April due to the pandemic,” Book said.

In addition, there are no delays currently reported regarding the delivery speed of medications by Elon’s health insurance pharmaceutical provider.

“We will continue to monitor mail pickup and delivery to ensure timely handling of absentee ballots and we will encourage students who vote by mail to do so early,” Book said.

The Alamance County Board of Elections has been contacted to check on its capacity to handle this year’s election.

“There is a need for additional poll workers and working with staff council we made it possible for the two paid days provided to employees for volunteering to be used to work at the polls if they choose,” Book said.

Classes will not be held on election day and staff members have the opportunity to choose that day to take as their fall break holiday.

“These initiatives demonstrate Elon’s commitment to educating our students and encouraging all members of our community to participate in this fundamental process in our democracy,” Book said.



THOMAS DENOME | CHIEF COPY EDITOR  
A protester speaks about the intersection between voting rights, the post office and the Black Lives Matter movement in front of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy’s Greensboro home on Sunday, Aug. 16.

# COVID-19 vaccine trials push ahead at UNC Chapel Hill

The research continues after the university has canceled in-person instruction

Emery Eisner  
Elon News Network | @eisneremery

Less than an hour away from Elon, researchers at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill are working to contain the coronavirus pandemic through a clinical trial of a potential COVID-19 vaccine. The trial is continuing even as undergraduate instruction has moved online at UNC following several cluster outbreaks of the virus on their campus.

UNC is the site of a phase three COVID-19 vaccine trial, meaning the vaccine is now being administered to thousands of people in order to determine its effectiveness. The trial at UNC is led by doctors Cynthia Gay, David Wohl and Joseph Eron in UNC’s division of infectious diseases. None of the researchers returned Elon News Network’s multiple requests for comment.

The trial at UNC is part of a national test of Moderna’s vaccine, also called mRNA-1273. Up to 30,000 participants will be enrolled in the study, according to the National Institutes of Health. The NIH also said participants will be randomly assigned to the vaccine or a placebo injection. Neither the participants nor the researchers involved will know which group is getting which



EMERY EISNER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
The Old Well at UNC Chapel Hill greets fewer visitors now that undergraduate instruction has again moved online following cluster outbreaks of the coronavirus on campus.

treatment.

Though it remains unclear exactly when a vaccine will become readily available, North Carolina State Health Director Elizabeth Cuervo Tilson said she is hoping for widespread vaccination by February or March of 2021.

“I think vaccination is going to be critically important. That will be our lever to change this,” Tilson said. “In

public health, the most important tool we have is vaccination.”

Tilson said while she understands concerns surrounding new vaccines, she emphasized that resources are “ramping up” for the creation and testing of COVID-19 vaccines.

Ginette Archinal, Elon’s medical director, said people should put in careful consideration before getting a COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes

available.

“This is a decision that individuals need to make based on their own risk factors for contracting the illness, spreading the illness to others and suffering complications from the illness,” Archinal said.

Archinal added that when a vaccine is widely available, it could have a profound impact on daily life at Elon and statewide.

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“ALL OUR CITIZENS COULD BE PROTECTED, INCLUDING THOSE AT MOST RISK OF SEVERE COMPLICATIONS AND DEATH BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE HEALTH CARE ACCESS, PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS, AND ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

GINETTE ARCHINAL,  
ELON’S MEDICAL DIRECTOR

“All our citizens could be protected, including those at most risk of severe complications and death because of inadequate health care access, preexisting conditions, and economic hardship,” Archinal said.

Adults interested in participating in the trial can sign up through a national registry where they are asked to provide informed consent. To get involved, visit [coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org](https://coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org).





DEMYA CULP



MIKAILA BROACH



EMMA BACH



CHRIS ADAMS



JORGE SILVA



JANET FULLER



DAVID GRASS





SEDRIC BEULAH



KYRA BRITT



MADISON LUBIN

# SHOULD STUDENTS BE WEARING A SPECIFIC TYPE OF MASK?

Grace Terry | Managing Editor | @gfterry9

A Duke University mask study gives insights into inexpensive way to test the effectiveness of a mask

WITH A CELLPHONE, A cardboard box, a lense, some masks, a device that harnesses the power of a laser and a laser, it is possible to test how good a mask is at stopping water droplets from someone’s mouth, all for less than \$200. A few weeks ago, a team of researchers at Duke University did exactly that.

David Grass, a research assistant at Duke University, is the one of seven researchers who were involved who created this device. The group’s goal was to create a low-cost way to test the effectiveness of different face coverings.

Grass said the experiment came about after the organization Cover Durham — a group that distributes free masks — was making a decision on an order of face coverings, but was unsure if they were any good. The group asked around at Duke, looking for a quick way to test the effectiveness of the mask, which sparked the idea for this experiment.

At the end of the analysis, the results showed the N95 mask was the most effective face covering at stopping water droplets, while neck gaiters were the least effective. In some cases, a neck gaiter allowed more droplets to reach the subject than the lack of a mask.

According Grass, that does not necessarily mean that neck gaiters are the worst style of mask, as they tested 14 different face coverings, but none in-depth.

“You would need to test 20 or

50 people and many more neck gaiters to really say ‘okay, now we understand neck gaiters,’” Grass said.

However, some media organizations took the results as neck gaiters being the worst mask.

“What was a bit sad is that most of the media reports kind of didn’t get it right. I think most of the headlines I read are like, ‘Duke researchers found out the best and

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WHAT WAS A BIT SAD IS THAT MOST OF THE MEDIA REPORTS KIND OF DIDN’T GET IT RIGHT. I THINK MOST OF THE HEADLINES I READ ARE LIKE, ‘DUKE RESEARCHERS FOUND OUT THE BEST AND THE WORST MASKS’ OR VARIATIONS OF THIS

DAVID GRASS  
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

the worst masks’ or variations of this,” Grass said. “Which is not the case, so I think this is just a misunderstanding.”

Some of the headlines that popped up are: “Researchers created a test to determine which masks are the least effective” from CNN, “The 14 face masks tested in Duke

University study, ranked from best to worst” from the New York Post and “Wearing a neck gaiter may be worse than no mask at all, researchers find” from the Washington Post.

According to Grass, finding out what masks most and least efficiently blocked water droplets was not the purpose of the experiment.

“We wanted to show it that with very simple methods and very cheap equipment ... you can build such an experiment to test masks yourself,” Grass said. “This was the idea, and then in order to demonstrate the platform, we tested 14 masks, with a single speaker, but this is of course not at all enough to make a recommendation. I mean, you would need to do a full blown clinical trial.”

Grass, who originally is from Germany, hopes this study changes people’s perspective on masks, as he thinks more people wearing masks in Germany helped them keep their coronavirus cases lower.

“I have the personal impression that in Germany people wore masks more and here, it was more like a political discussion if masks were actually any good or not. I really hope that now due to the media attention this kind of convinces more people to wear masks,” Grass said. “Although this is not the point of the paper, I just think it would just be good.”

Elon University’s Ready and Resilient plan lays out in detail when students are required to wear face coverings. The only recommendation they give as to what type of mask students should be wearing is one without exhalation valves or vents.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention gives the same recommendation and also recommends that people do not wear face shields in replacement of masks.



MAX SHILLING



DEBBIE PERRY



NICO SOLOVEY



# COVID-19 affects abroad travel plans for students

International travel for students in the business dual degree program is still permitted for the fall semester

**Brian Rea**  
Elon News Network | @brianmrea

Two years on campus at Elon University and two years abroad in Madrid. That's what Janie McCarthy, Elon junior, was planning for since she first toured Elon.

"It was a done deal. I wanted to do this," Janie said. "I definitely came in as a freshman having my life planned. I know people always told me, 'you know, Janie, you're very wise. However, things may change.' And I thought they were crazy. No not for me, things aren't going to change for me."

Most international travel during fall semester has been canceled under the university's reopening plan, except for the business dual degree program, which Janie was enrolled in.

Students in the program spend two years on campus and two years at a partner business school in Germany, Spain, France or Italy. At the end of four years, students receive a degree from both Elon and their institution abroad.

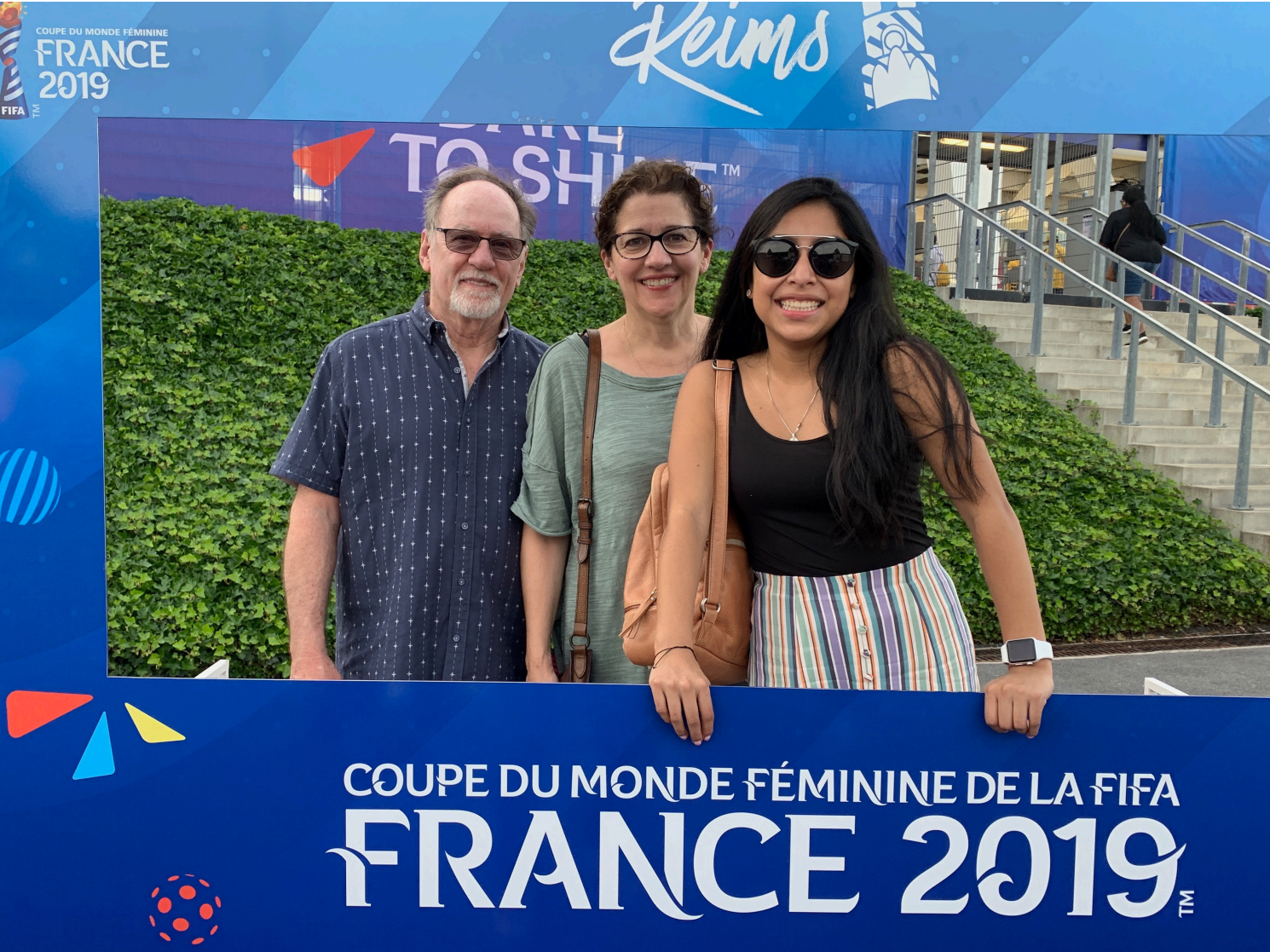
Janie was all set to go to Madrid -- even visiting the school she'd be going to and selling her car for travel money -- until the coronavirus pandemic hit.

"It was heavy on my heart all summer, constantly on my mind," she said. "But I ultimately decided -- and it was weeks -- that right now, as much as an international experience sounds so tempting right now, for safety reasons I just could not justify going abroad amidst a global pandemic," Janie said.

Meg Rude, an Elon junior, received her visa days ago and is still going to Riems, France -- about 45 minutes east of Paris -- as part of the program. But the pandemic is adding some turbulence to her travel plans.

"We've waited so long to get housing because I was like, 'am I going, am I not going?' I don't want to pay a lease and get stuck in the lease if I'm not going to be there," she said. "So now I'm stuck with no housing."

Students are an exception under Europe's travel restrictions, which currently doesn't allow U.S. travelers. France was once a



Meg Rude and her family in France in 2019.

“  
I COULD NOT JUSTIFY  
GOING ABROAD ADMIST  
A GLOBAL PANDEMIC.

**JANIE MCCARTHY**  
JUNIOR

hotspot for COVID-19, leaving Meg with some concern.

"There's definitely that thought in the back of my mind," she said. "If I get it over there, it's going to be a struggle of two weeks, you know. What do I do because I'm all by myself?"

Meg said her family's business works closely with people in France and they've visited the country multiple times -- leaving her with a reminder of home.

"I'm definitely going to get homesick because being from Maryland I can go to Elon very quickly, I can get home very quickly," she said.

"Being in France, you can't do that as easily."

Despite having to move off-campus and rearrange her academic plans, Janie said she's satisfied with her decision to stay in the U.S., but will always wonder 'what if.'

"It's always going to be the question, what would have been," she said.

Mark Kurt, director of the business dual degree program, declined a request for an interview but said he's working to support students in the program as the new academic year starts.

## Town of Elon Police will begin to tow vehicles with more than one parking ticket



A parking ticket placed on a car for not being moved by the allotted time. This year, if students have more than one unpaid parking ticket, their car will be towed.

After a build-up of unpaid parking tickets, Elon Police changes its parking ticket policy

**Grace Terry**  
Managing Editor | @gfterry9

The town of Elon Police has implemented a new policy in which they began towing cars with more than one existing parking ticket, which began on Aug. 17.

According to the town of Elon Police Chief, Kelly Blackwelder, this is due to the issue of parking tickets going unpaid. On average the department sees about 150 unpaid tickets each year and in total, they have well over 300 unpaid tickets, totaling over \$23,000. This total does not include tickets before 2017, as that year the Board of Aldermen allowed the department to "charge" off any of the old unpaid parking tickets.

"This was an attempt to clean up the parking records and make it easy to gauge our current past due situation," Blackwelder wrote.

Parking tickets are \$25 and then increase to \$35 after 15 days. Finally, after 45 days, the tickets

increase to the max of \$75. If a car would need to be towed, this cost is not included in the cost of the ticket.

The town of Elon Police enforces parking rules on the majority of streets. This includes the Downtown area, while Elon Campus Police parking jurisdiction includes on-campus parking lots.

Blackwelder is unsure how many of the tickets are from Elon University students but believes many are.

"We can say that the vast majority of citations issued for parking are associated with out-of-state registrations," Blackwelder wrote in an email. "We can make an inference that most of the out-of-state plates are likely students, but not all."

Blackwelder hopes that this new policy will create less work for the parking enforcement team.

"I am an optimist, so I would love it if our parking enforcement team had NOTHING to do," Blackwelder wrote. "Realistically, I am just hoping to see a reduction and for folks to pay the tickets in a timely manner to avoid accumulating fines."

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR



# A DAY IN THE LIFE

# OF A PHYSICAL PLANT WORKER

Physical Plant has implemented COVID-19 protocols to ensure safety throughout the academic year

**Miranda Ferrante**  
Elon News Network | @ferrantemiranda

As Elon students settle in to campus and begin classes, Director of building trades Tim Dengler said that Physical Plant is working vigilantly to ensure the Elon community has a safe and healthy 2020-2021 academic year.

With the onset of COVID-19 and certain restrictions and guidelines, Dengler said that Physical Plant has implemented specific protocols into their daily routine, none of which that does not take time away from or diminish the quality of their work.

Physical Plant has extensive responsibilities in both operating and maintaining the university’s facilities and infrastructure. Dengler said that since March, Physical Plant workers have taken great responsibility and precautions for COVID-19 to protect themselves and the Elon community.

Students, faculty and staff will see proof of Physical Plant’s dedication to ensuring safety all across campus, Dengler said, with plexiglass in areas where close proximity to one another is likely and signage enforcing physical distancing around campus.

### Physical Plant’s Tasks

Dengler, who said that he has a background in civil engineering and that at Elon, he is primarily in charge of all of the facilities on campus, managing the carpentry shop, key shop, paint shop, in addition to the moving and setup departments.

“To sum it up, we do reactive maintenance,” Dengler said. “That’s students, faculty and staff putting in work orders [for things such as] browning ceiling tiles, squeaky doors or a broken headboard.”

According to Dengler, Physical Plant works to get ahead of all those problems with preventive maintenance. On a recurring basis, the team goes around inspecting roofs, looking at windows, the exterior of buildings, and any areas that can fail easily or often.

“Even before the university had gone with the mask policy, here in Physical Plant because of the nature of our work ... we were wearing masks very early on just to make sure we weren’t spreading anything,” Dengler said. “We didn’t want the whole shop to get sick at once. So, using those protocols — handwashing, not sharing tools, trying to keep as separate as we can — are things

we put in place to ensure if someone got sick that we could isolate them and that it wouldn’t spread to the rest of the department.”

This year, Physical Plant had all of their typical summer tasks with dorm maintenance in addition to extra safety work, such as building plexiglass shields and putting signage around campus.

Dengler said that even with new protocols and precautions in place, he was impressed with the work his team has done and continues to do all around campus.

### Following COVID-19 Guidelines

Dengler said that Physical Plant continues to abide by university guidelines while maintaining and producing quality work.

According to carpentry shop supervisor Eric Hill, more than 110 plexiglass shields have been installed in various offices and anywhere that will have a lot of contact between students and staff.

In addition, more than 300 sanitation stations, both wall-mounted and free-standing, have been put in classrooms and meeting areas, and over 1,000 physical distancing floor and seating signs has been installed.

Carpenter of 20 years Jonathan Brown has become an expert on building plexiglass shields.

“It has been a lot of trial and error,” Brown said. “Now, I can get them made both quickly and efficiently. Repetition is key; you really get used to it.”

Hill said that Physical Plant will continue to install more plexiglass shields and signage to promote physical distancing.

“We really believe in the precautions the university is taking, and we think we are working in a safe environment,” Dengler said. “We have actually gotten more work done this year than we have in the past just because we are so focused and efficient.”

The carpentry department is not just responsible for carpentry work; rather, they handle anything that has to be fixed.

“We are the general maintenance men, but we have a carpentry tile,” Hill said. “We do a whole lot of things all over, outside and inside. For our department, we take care of the outside of the buildings, roofing, the only thing that we don’t take care of is heating and air, plumbing and electrical, but basically, everything else falls under us.”

During the school week, a regular workday for a carpentry shop worker is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hill said that Physical Plant follows a set schedule and that they are primarily concerned with fulfilling work orders turned in by students, faculty and staff. Once caught up with work orders, they focus on roof repairs, cleaning gutters and any outside maintenance on the building.

Even when all the work orders have been taken care of, there is still more work to be done.

“As a college goes, there is more and more stuff to do throughout the day,” Hill said.



Elon Physical Plant carpenters Jonathan Brown (left) and Kevin Lasley (right) create plexiglass walls to go into classrooms, offices, meeting areas and more to create a safer environment.

### BY THE NUMBERS

300

sanitizing stations, both wall-mounted and free-standing have been placed around campus

“

WE REALLY BELIEVE IN THE PRECAUTIONS THE UNIVERSITY IS TAKING, AND WE THINK WE ARE WORKING IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT. WE HAVE ACTUALLY GOTTEN MORE WORK DONE THIS YEAR THAN WE HAVE IN THE PAST JUST BECAUSE WE ARE SO FOCUSED AND EFFICIENT.

**TIM DENGLER**  
DIRECTOR OF BUILDING TRADES

“We always have something to do. It doesn’t matter if it’s a work order or not; we are always busy and working on something.”

Tending to work orders and doing maintenance fills up the majority of the day.

### Continuing the job

Although precautions with COVID-19 are widespread, Hill said that Physical Plant workers are still willing to work with anybody, inside or outside.

“I think that the most important part of our job is that we can show people that we can still do our job here, and everybody can maintain a level of normalcy as much as they can,” Dengler said. “Everything has changed since March, but with us still being here over the summer, we still continued to work as normal, taking a lot more precautions.”

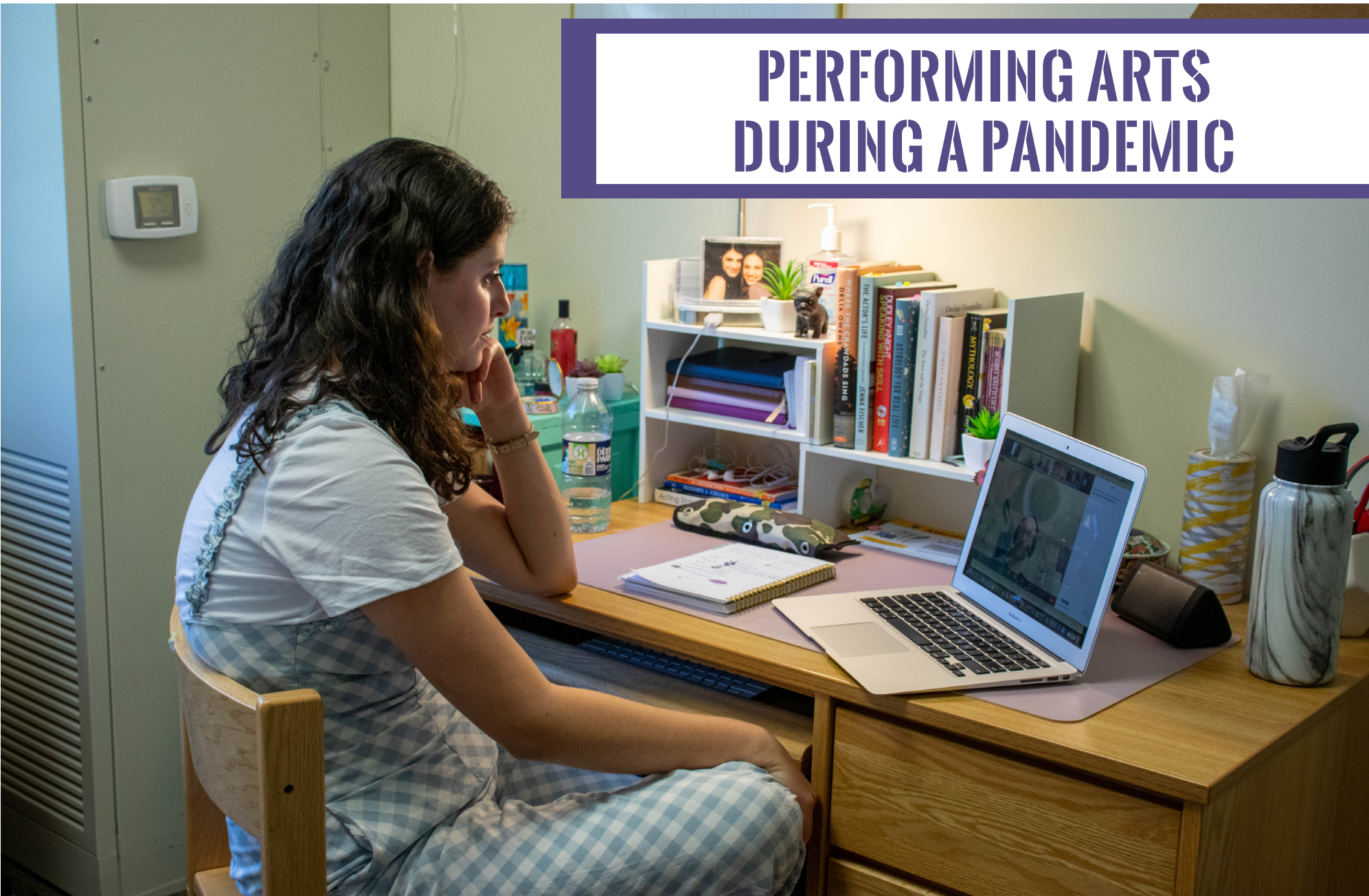
Although the atmosphere has changed, Dengler said that Physical Plant workers are still able to provide a level and service and timeliness on that service.

“We wanted to show the campus that we are still here to help everybody out and that they can call if they need us,” Dengler said.

Dengler said he and his team are excited to have everyone back on campus.

“We have spent a lot of hours planning and preparing for school to open,” Dengler said. “Now that students have returned and faculty have returned and some staff has returned, we are really happy to see everyone back. Yes, it is different than it has ever been, but it’s a community here, so to get everyone back on campus is a really good feeling.”





ANNA TERRY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon University's performing arts adjust their curriculum to maintain social distancing

**Anna Terry**  
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

While actors, singers and dancers traditionally aim to provoke emotions in their audience while on stage, this fall, Elon University's performing arts students must learn to act and dance in a new setting — a virtual one.

Like in Elon's other departments amid the coronavirus pandemic, performing arts class sizes have decreased in order to allow for physical distancing. Some professors have also chosen to hold lectures online or implement a hybrid approach to their classes — holding half of the lessons in-person and the other half online or splitting their students in each class section in half and rotating the two groups between meeting for classes in-person and online.

Additionally, outside of the classroom, the performing arts department will hold their 10 annual productions online to help limit physical contact between cast and crew members and the audience.

Professor of dance and chair of the performing arts department Lauren Kearns said that unlike many other institutions that chose to cancel their production season, Elon has reconstructed their performing arts schedule and revised certain selections of plays and musicals to allow for the new digital medium.

Nine of these productions will be pre-filmed and released to the public on a set date. The other one — the fall play — will be broadcast to the public over Zoom.

During these productions, dancers will be required to wear masks at all times and stay 10 feet apart unless they are performing a solo number where physical distancing can be maintained. When singing, the actors will wear a face shield and stay 16 feet apart to avoid spreading the coronavirus through the air.

Although these productions are completely different from years prior, Kearns said the industry for online theater and dance is only growing in prevalence, so giving students the experience of performing online is only going to benefit them in the future.

“

I LOVE CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE ON A HUMAN LEVEL AND I THINK IT'S SO HARD ONLINE, WHERE WE CAN'T EVEN REALLY FEEL EACH OTHER'S ENERGY

**SIVAN PROPPER**  
SOPHOMORE

“It's certainly different, the digital theater and the digital dance, but it's not going away. It's like a burgeoning new, new discipline. So we're really looking at this as a positive,” Kearns said.

When the performances are released online to the public, they will be available free of charge. However, at the moment, professor of arts administration David McGraw is still working out details on what method they will use to allow public access to the prerecorded productions to avoid potential privacy issues.

### Fall Production Auditions Reformatted for Physical Distancing

Students auditioned for the annual Dance in The Landscape Concert on Aug. 19 and 20 in a whole new way. Unlike years prior, in order to avoid a large gathering, students were sent a video with the audition choreography and told to learn it outside of the studio.

After practicing at home students signed up for audition time slots online. At their designated times, the dancers went into the audition, waiting six feet apart in the hallway, then dancing 10 feet apart in the studio — all while wearing face masks.

Auditions for the Fall Play, “Pheromone: An Awkward Olfactory Inquiry” are also looking different than past years. In hopes to receive a role in the show, Elon University sophomore Sivan Propper is auditioning for the role of Olive. However, rather than going in front of a casting director, Propper will record herself on her iPhone and submit the tape as her audition. From there, if given a callback, she will then go and perform live.

Filming video auditions comes with pros and cons in the eyes of Propper.

“Auditions have always been in-person. And this is less stressful because you get to self-tape, but at the same time it's not the same excitement, and good anxiety that fall auditions have,” Propper said.

Actors cast in the play will perform from home during the live Zoom performance using a lighting package and a green screen. While performing on Zoom, the actors will enter and exit the livestream so they can imitate on-stage scene changes in the digital format.

Propper is grateful her classes are in-person, even with the new COVID-19 guidelines. However, she said she misses

**Due to COVID-19, Sivan Propper takes her Acting II class online with professor Kevin Hoffman on Tuesday, Aug. 25.**

### BY THE NUMBERS

9

out of the 10 productions this semester will be pre-filmed and released to the public on a set date.

10

feet will be kept between all dancers, as well as wearing masks at all times, unless performing a solo number.

16

feet apart and a face shield will be required for the singers.

the community theater fosters through working closely with others. Because contact is limited, she does not feel the full power of connecting with others while performing.

“I love connecting with people on a human level and I think it's so hard online, where we can't even really feel each other's energy, Propper said, “I personally feel that my greatest work is always on stage when I'm feeding off of the audience, so it's definitely been hard for me to click into my super inspired actor mode.”

As the semester continues on under these new adaptive circumstances Propper said the best thing she can do is take on her days one step at a time.

“I'm here. I'm still learning. If we do get sent home, then, you know, we'll cross that bridge when we get there,” Propper said.



# OPINIONS



## Elon University

*should not view students, unions as a scheme*

THOMAS DENOME | CHIEF COPY EDITOR  
Elon University students attended a Die-In protest in front of Young Commons off East Haggard Avenue on Thursday, Aug. 13.



**Calvin Deutschbein**  
Former Elon Adjunct  
Professor of Computer  
Science

In an interview with Elon News Network on Aug. 13, Elon University President Connie Book insinuated that the “(6 Feet) Under the Oaks” Die-in action by the Boldly Elon Solidarity Collective, a coalition of student groups, was staged by the Service Employees International Union. Book went on to say the SEIU, the international organization with which the Elon Faculty Union is affiliated, had further planned similar die-ins at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and the University of Georgia — two schools where, like Elon, there were student-organized die-ins, despite the key fact there is no on-campus SEIU affiliate at either university mentioned by Book.

Let’s be clear on the facts — BESC is a movement by students, for students, to create a network of mutual aid and advocate for policy change that benefits each respective member organization and the Elon community as a whole. To set the record straight, I reached out to members of the collective. Trinity Dixon (Students for an Equitable Elon), Will Bruno and Liz Clark (Elon ROSES), Alexis Malaguti (President of College Democrats), Anne Williams, (Stem4BLM), Cameron Birtcher and Alexander Schmidt all share this understanding of events.

Neither the Elon Faculty Union, nor any of its members, nor any other organization affiliated with the SEIU, is part of the BESC. The students alone organized the die-in. Book’s unprincipled and baseless speculation is transparently born of animus toward one of the only other campus organizations working to protect students — the Elon Faculty Union. Her remarks serve to “otherize” the collective, an organization more diverse than the student body as a whole.

Furthermore, Book’s remarks serve to erase the legitimate, scientifically grounded concerns

shared by these students about a reopening plan that, if followed, will result in the unnecessary spread of COVID-19 throughout the Elon community, a pandemic which already disproportionately affects Black and Brown people, especially in Alamance County.

Elon University should not view dedicated student organizers, passionate about creating a better Elon for themselves and their communities, as a scheme by the faculty union, which Book clearly opposes and has now scapegoated as the driving force behind the legitimate concerns and student-led protests about opening a college campus during a pandemic. Elon should recognize when students and workers love their university enough to demand that it be better.

Elon can recommit to education, to fully funding classrooms and to recentering the educational mission of the university — a mission fallen by the wayside as the Elon administration has grown increasingly hostile to its own educators. BESC and Elon Faculty Union each uplift in their own way the core mission of the university: to empower people with education in order to dismantle systems of oppression.

As a final point of clarity, groups coming together across the South to demand safe schools is evidence for, not against, the grassroots nature and urgency of these actions.

The collective’s actions are related to the need for a recognized and empowered Elon Faculty Union to address issues specific to the adjunct experience and to organize adjuncts and students, for both their sakes. An adjunct myself and a member of SEIU Workers United Southern Region Local 32, the Elon Faculty Union, I reached out to my fellow current and former adjuncts in the union. I spoke with Catherine Bush, Robin Marie Gary, Deborah Amaral, Martin Fowler to set the record straight.



THOMAS DENOME | CHIEF COPY EDITOR  
An Elon University student in a Die-In protest in front of Young Commons off East Haggard Avenue on Thursday, Aug. 13.

Elon’s work with anti-Black law firm Ogletree Deakins, which has been defending the North Carolina General Assembly’s “surgical” targeting of Black voters for vote suppression, to deny union rights to Elon workers and Elon’s termination of employment and revocation of insurance coverage for Robin Gary, a beloved Black adjunct professor who taught social justice, in the midst of the national Black Lives Matter movement must not go unchallenged by students or adjuncts. But no member of the Elon Faculty Union or any other SEIU affiliate organized, or “staged” the die-in action on campus.

I also reached out to the Anti-Racist Graduate Worker Collective, who planned the UNC die-in, and spoke with Lindsay Ayling and Abigail Lee to confirm there was similarly no SEIU involvement. They confirmed that they have no relationship to SEIU or any other union. Speakers at their event predicted in public record and weeks in advance the circumstances that led to the cancellation of UNC in-person classes. Just one week

after class began, 130 students tested positive for COVID-19, while many more were unable to access testing.

I also reached out to the UGA, and spoke with Annie Simpson, United Campus Workers of Georgia - UGA, Communication Workers of America, Local 3265. At UGA, the chapter of the United Campus Workers of Georgia, a student union affiliated with the AFL-CIO, a separate national labor federation of unions with no relationship with the SEIU, also hosted a die-in action on their campus in Athens, Georgia. Again, SEIU had no involvement.

As Elon engages in the same reckless in-person reopening, there is no reason to turn to problematic conspiracy theories to explain similar reactions by Elon students — rather, Elon should learn from its students and its peer institutions. Elon must fulfill its obligations to its community: suspend in-person classes, commit to its educational mission, ensure the health and safety of all members of its community and create an Elon culture responsive to the demand that Black Lives Matter.



# READY AND RESILIENT?



**Trinity Dixon**  
Junior

Ready and Resilient are the last words I would use to describe Elon's reopening plan.

As a proud founding member of the Boldy Elon Solidarity Collective, I have spent the last two months with like-minded students organizing and mobilizing to promote policy change at Elon University. Yet, even with this persistent effort and small victories, I am deeply troubled by the lack of a moral conscious present on this campus.

Although there are a myriad of ethical problems and institutional failures being brought to light — including but not limited to the Elon University Police Department's involvement with Terry Johnson, who, in my opinion, is the living embodiment of white supremacy and whose actions have been condemned by the U.S. Department of Justice, the school's complicity in voter suppression by refusing to condemn Louis DeJoy, a Board of Trustee member and Postmaster General, their firing of adjunct faculty and suppression of the legally recognized Elon Faculty Union — I am writing on behalf of Elon's disastrous and ethically egregious reopening plan.

From the very beginning, this plan had no comprehensive protections for students, faculty and other campus workers. The premise of the plan hinged on the insistence on an in-person semester despite the state of North Carolina becoming a hotbed of COVID-19 cases.

As of Aug. 18, in North Carolina alone there have been 146,779 positive cases of COVID-19 and 2,396 deaths. According to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, there have been 2,681 positive cases in Alamance County alone, followed by 42 deaths. There are only 212 ICU beds currently available in Alamance County, which has a population of 169,509 people — not including homeless people, undocumented immigrants and other groups underrepresented by the U.S. Census.

Despite this data being readily available all summer, Elon administration has pushed forward with this senseless plan with the help of their "Ready and Resilient" committee — inviting 7,000 students back from all over the country to a health care system already under a significant amount of duress.

To make matters worse, Elon's reopening policies and their attitude towards students have been atrocious, to say the least. While fully planning for an in-person semester, students looking to stay on campus for remote learning may lose their housing as a result of applying for accommodations. To apply for these accommodations, some students must also have access to a health

care provider that is able to advocate on their behalf while navigating through a bureaucratic entanglement of emails, departments, and committees.

Furthermore, although this policy has recently been amended due to pressure from administration from students and news sources like the Washington Post, students were mandated to take a \$129 COVID-19 test through LabCorp — a company with a clear conflict of interest with the university. LabCorp's direct beneficiaries and founder, James Powell, as well as his wife, Anne Powell, are on the Board of Trustees, and former CEO of LabCorp David King served a short term of the Board of Trustees starting in 2016. Elon is still disenfranchising adjuncts who have limited to no healthcare access, and there is no clear plan for emergency pandemic leave or protection for campus workers — physical plant, dining staff — who form the lifeblood of this institution.

Additionally, Elon still planned for a full move-in and orientation schedule. Students who returned to campus were tested two to three weeks before the semester began, but family members accompanying them were not. Orientation groups were immediately formed with little to no thought about realistic social distancing procedures. The Elon administration also did not account for the inevitable parties that have been occurring and will continue to occur. All of these issues combined are, simply put, a recipe for disaster.

In response to these foreseeable issues, prior to the semester, the Boldly Elon Solidarity Collective addressed these concerns in the "We Won't Die for Elon" town hall, where students community members, and faculty members issued their concerns about Elon's re-opening and the effects this "plan" will have on the surrounding community. Additionally, the Boldly Elon Solidarity Collective issued an open letter to the Elon administration with a list of 13 demands including more comprehensive COVID-19 policies, as well suggestions for pay cuts for members of upper administration, President Connie Book included, to prevent possible furloughs and layoffs for all campus workers and employees at Elon.

The Collective also organized a "die-in" protest — which Book seemed to find very funny as she not only laughed when asked about it but implied the demonstration was staged by the Service Employees International Union. She also decided an appropriate response to a protest called "We Won't Die for Elon" was to advise students to take a semester off of school instead of actually taking these concerns into consideration.

The SEIU had no involvement in the "die-in" — it was organized and led by concerned students such as myself, who are terrified for their lives. Elon administration has yet to respond to any of these efforts or any concerns addressed by individual students in a comprehensive manner. Instead we received one or two short, dismissive emails.

Respect. Trust. These are two virtues that must be earned and in the past two months alone, Elon administration has lost them both not only from myself but from several



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

Elon junior Trinity Dixon protests against a potential war with Iran outside of the Alamance Building on Jan. 9, 2020.

members of the undergraduate student body and alumni of the university.

Make no mistake, I do not hate Elon. I am grateful for the opportunities I've had here and the professors and mentors I've gained along the way. I am speaking out because I want Elon to be better and do better for all of us.

I don't want to be writing this. I don't want to fear for my life, but unfortunately, the Elon administration has proven by their actions or lack thereof, yet again, they value tuition money over the lives of their students, employees and members of the Alamance County community. By planning and facilitating this reopening plan with little to no consideration for the common good and or those that are most vulnerable, Elon administration is perpetuating systems of oppression — which is, in essence, violence.

For a university that claims to value global engagement, diversity and inclusion, these promises ring hollow and our complaints continually fall upon deaf ears. And with the outcry of student and faculty grievances, I have no choices but to view these empty promises as intentionally malicious and repressive.

When an outbreak happens, it will be the Elon administration — from Jon Dooley right up to Book — who is to blame. If any student, worker and or community member gets ill or dies, it will have been the result of an apathetic administration who has ignored science, ignored public health and ignored the concerns of the very people they claim to care about.

In-person classes have already taken place. As proven by UNC Chapel Hill's closing, it is clear an outbreak is inevitable. This decision to reopen campus without any regard to students or those who will be disproportionately affected by COVID-19,

immunocompromised, low-income, and Black and Brown people, is cementing Elon's firm foundation in white supremacy, classism and racism.

Elon students: wake up. Recognize that Elon is not doing the right thing. Call on Elon's administration to close campus for an online semester before even more people are exposed. In conclusion, I will leave you with this quote by BESC member Jay Tiemann.

"When the first death occurs, it will not be tragic. It will have been preventable."

**SCAN TO READ  
TRINITY'S STORY ONLINE  
OR  
VISIT  
ELONNEWSNETWORK.COM**



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

**AS OF AUGUST 25, 2020**

*FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES*

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**157,741**  
cases  
**2,570**  
deaths

**ALAMANCE COUNTY**  
**2,931**  
cases  
**44**  
deaths





Elon goalkeeper Peter Wentzel, flanked by defenders Lewis Green (left) and Luke Matthews (right), prepares to make a kick during their game against the Rutgers Scarlet Knights on Sept. 7, 2019 at Rudd Field. The Phoenix lost to the Scarlet Knights 0-1.

Phoenix goalkeeper faced a new challenge over the summer

Alex Reynolds  
Staff Writer | @elonnewsnetwork

On the field, Elon redshirt sophomore and Phoenix men's soccer goalkeeper Peter Wentzel has to be prepared for anything. But nothing could have prepared him for what happened last spring.

A native of Germany, Wentzel and his friends were enjoying the beaches of Florida in March, soaking in the sun and enjoying the relaxing bliss of the soccer offseason. The coronavirus pandemic was still in its infancy.

"In Florida, it started to get a little bit worse, slowly, but from one confirmed case, somewhere in Tampa, it turned out to be multiple confirmed cases in our area, and we really didn't know what to do," Wentzel said.

The whirlwind began. Cases of the virus quickly started popping up across the country. Elon University made the call to suspend in-person classes. The campus was cleared out

except for Wentzel's things. Wentzel had to do what he does best: react quickly.

He called his family and determined the best place for him was home in Ettlingen, Germany. The next thing he knew, he was on a flight from Florida to Germany. All he had was a ticket, a laptop and a single backpack full of vacation clothes.

"My mom gave me a call and said, 'Listen, I got your flight tomorrow. 5 p.m. I'll see you at the airport,'" Wentzel said. "And next morning, I thought I'd wake up somewhere in Florida, but turns out that I was back in Germany."

When he landed, Wentzel was met with a serious challenge. Although Germany was in a near full lockdown, Wentzel still needed to train. He was allowed to leave the house for physical activity, but fields at gyms were all closed.

Over the course of the lockdown, Wentzel didn't put on his goalie gloves for close to eight weeks. Meanwhile, his teammates in the United States were able to practice together on open fields. But the international trends of the virus would change. By mid-June, Germany was back to a sense of normalcy, while the US continued to struggle. Daily cases of

BY THE NUMBERS

500  
or fewer daily cases of COVID-19 in Germany per day in mid-June.

20,000  
or fewer daily cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. per day in mid-June.

“HEALTH DOCTORS THAT OUR FAMILY FRIENDS HAVE REALLY WARNED ME THAT THIS IS NOT SOMETHING TO TAKE RELAXED — IT’S A PAN-DEMIC, RIGHT? — AND THAT SOCCER SHOULDN’T BE THE ONLY THING THAT I SHOULD WORRY ABOUT.”

PETER WENTZEL  
ELON MEN'S SOCCER GOALKEEPER

COVID-19 in Germany were less than 500 per day at the time. In the U.S., that number was over 20,000.

Since Wentzel did not have a goal to defend during lockdown, his training went back to the basics. Elon's Sports Performance program provided him with old-school, low-tech workouts. Wentzel said that while he was at home, he was doing lower body workouts with a backpack stuffed with textbooks.

Wentzel had to have tough conversations with his parents, friends and doctors on how to return to his second home in Elon.

"Thankfully my parents were always very encouraging of my decisions that I wanted to go back to the U.S.," Wentzel said. "Health doctors that our family friends have really warned me that this is not something to take relaxed — it's a pandemic, right? — and that soccer shouldn't be the only thing that I should worry about."

Still, there was another obstacle standing in Wentzel's return to Elon. Back in March, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement created regulations forbidding international college students from returning to campus if classes were 100% online. This stayed in effect until late July, just a week before Wentzel made his return to the States.

"It really took me a lot of phone calls just to confirm that I have my new travel documents," Wentzel said. "I had a few days to fill everything out. And I got through the border, so I'm happy to be here."

Stepping foot on Elon's campus marked the end of a hectic summer for Wentzel and his teammates. Half of the players on the Elon men's soccer's roster are international student-athletes. Wentzel said almost all of them chose to fly home during the pandemic. Many of the players live together in apartments, so to see each other again during move-in brought solace upon Wentzel.

"We're not only teammates, because we are the closest friend group as well on campus," Wentzel said. "So being able to see our teammates and friends, yeah, it was a mix of relief and also joy."

On Aug. 10, Elon University announced the plan to postpone all fall sports competition. The Phoenix will not return to Rudd Field until potentially the spring. For Wentzel, this news is disappointing, but he has come to terms with this new "normal."

"We're just happy to be back and, thankfully, practice together," Wentzel said.



Elon goalie Peter Wentzel makes a save during their game against the Rutgers Scarlet Knights on Sept. 7, 2019. The Phoenix lost to the Scarlet Knights 0-1.



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