

Stressed about finals? Color in the best moments from the semester | Section B

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

A TAXING CHANGE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

A tax reform bill in Washington may have everlasting effects on many lives at Elon

ANTON L. DELGADO | Assistant News Editor | @JADelgadoNews

BURIED WITHIN A 429-PAGE tax reform bill are provisions that specifically target those within the higher education community.

In the bill titled H.R.1 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the elimination of student loan interest deductibility, tax exempt bond financing and tax exempt tuition remission are three provisions with the most potential to affect lives at Elon University.

The end of tax deductibility of student loan interest may make paying off student loans, for seniors such as Erin Bishop, set to graduate this May, harder than expected.

The cutting of private activity bonds may slow down Elon's plans to continue to expand the campus.

Additional taxes to tuition remission may make affording Elon more difficult for students such as Kevin Scott who enjoy the benefits of having parents work at the university as faculty or staff.

These potential challenges for Bishop, the university and Scott are becoming more likely as the majority of the Republican Party hopes the legislation will be signed into law by the end of 2017.

It's a goal many leaders on Elon's campus have spoken out against.

"I am not sure this bill has fully permeated into the American consciousness about what this is going to

mean for actual outcomes for people and institutions," President Leo Lambert told Elon News Network. "Those outcomes will not be positive."

Lambert's stance on the issue has been supported by several professors from different departments. Professors in both the departments of accounting and economics agreed with Lambert.

"This bill is bad. It is not good for Elon, and in the long run it is not good for the country," said Susan Anderson, professor of accounting with a specialty in tax policy.

"The passing of this bill could be disastrous for Elon, there are a number of provisions that would directly hurt not only universities

See **TAXES** | pgs. 4-5



Stretched too thin

Elon's counseling services tries to do more as students seek additional resources

Meagan Gitelman
Elon News Network | @meagan_gitelman

For his sophomore year of high school, Noah Dyson was not sitting at a desk in the classroom. After suffering a mental breakdown and taking a razor blade to his wrist, he was in the hospital.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, in 2015 almost 50 percent of college students in the United States reported feeling hopeless. Of the college students who battle mental health issues, almost two thirds of them never seek treatment, and one in 12 will make a suicide plan at some point in their college career.

Elon University's Counseling Services is struggling to meet the needs of its students — students such as Dyson, who is now a freshman.

See **COUNSELING** | pg. 7

Female Elon leaders shine as powerful figures in their fields

Lauren Kukosky
Elon News Network | @lkukosky

"I asked my dad, 'Do they let girls do that job,' and my dad said a very good thing. 'Well you can be anything you want to be,'" said Connie Book, the next president of Elon University.

The topic of powerful women is one that is strongly represented in the world today. The Women's Index Study revealed that 86 percent identify femininity as a strength and 76 percent of women believe that the 21st century has become the best time to be female.

Though in recent weeks, sexual assault reports have bombarded the news cycle as more women speak out about inappropriate, and often illegal, practices in the workplace. The allegations bring about questions of women feeling safe in workplaces that are dominated by men abusing their power. In the face of the outpouring of these allegations, women have proven they are important figures in their fields and will not be treated as anything less.

Women are feeling more empowered than ever before and taking matters into their own hands to alter the trend of male dominated workplaces, boardrooms and mastheads. Many women leaders from the Elon community are doing the same.

See **WOMEN** | pgs. 12-13



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CAROLINE BREHMAN AND STEPHANIE HAYS | PHOTO EDITOR AND DESIGN CHIEF



NEWS • PAGE 6
With holidays approaching, Allied Churches feeds homeless



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 11
New restaurant opening highlights chicken and shakes



SPORTS • PAGE 14
Junior guard Dainan Swoope leads Phoenix squad

THE PENDULUM

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ELON NEWS
NETWORK

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

Corrections policy:
ENN is committed to accurate coverage. When factual errors are made, we correct them promptly and in full, both online and in print. Online corrections state the error and the change at the bottom of each article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page. Contact enn@elon.edu to report a correction or a concern.

CALENDAR

DEC. 6

Elon Electric Ensemble
7:30 P.M.
McCrary Theatre

DEC. 7

Festival of Holiday Lights
6:45 P.M.
Scott Plaza

DEC. 8

Need a Quiet Place to Study?: Free pizza, snacks, drinks and massages
3 P.M.

First Baptist Church of
Elon

Reading Day
All day
No classes

DEC. 9

Doctor of Physical
Therapy graduation
2:30 P.M.
McCrary Auditorium

DEC. 12

Alamance County Science
Cafe on tectonic plates
7 P.M.
Fat Frogg

CONTACT

WHEN WE PUBLISH:

The Pendulum publishes weekly on Wednesdays.

Elon Local News broadcasts Mondays at 6 p.m.

ELN Morning broadcasts Thursdays at 9:50 a.m.

ELN Online Exclusive broadcasts Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.

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Contact enn@elon.edu

CORRECTIONS

The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation does not live on a reservation, as previously reported by Elon News Network on the front page of the Nov. 29 edition of The Pendulum, but rather are considered an urban tribe who use their local ancestral tribal grounds for Powwows, Talking Circles, events and ceremonies. Elon News Network regrets the error.

GAMES

FOR RELEASE DECEMBER 7, 2017

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- Not insignificant
- LeBron's hometown
- Pet food brand
- Discontinued iPod model
- Saltine brand
- Action word
- Words after an estimate
- Divisions politiques
- Those, to Pablo
- *Award-winning defense unit?
- Sculler's blade
- Capri suffix
- Trattoria menu suffix
- Chaucer offering
- "Stagecoach," for one
- Birdcage feature
- *Manchester hospital hookup?
- Multichannel
- Saturn SUV
- One of the Nereids
- *Either of a historic PGA pair?
- Neatnik's opposite
- Pioneering ISP
- Warm-weather wear
- *Enforcer of greenhouse gas restrictions?
- Three-time Wimbledon champ
- Directive
- One of the three bears
- Mai ___
- Arctic coast explorer
- Consume
- Make smart remarks ... and a phonetic hint to the answers to starred clues
- Mosque figure
- Big name in craft stores
- Response to being slain, in texts?
- Khartoum's river
- Match
- "Would ___?"
- Notable deed

DOWN

- British nobleman
- Motivate
- Mess (up)
- Korean sedan to be discontinued in the U.S. after 2017
- Whistling vessel
- Nation surrounding 10-Down: Abbr.
- Director Premiering
- "Hidden Figures" org.
- "___ Maria"
- Enclaved African land
- Tofu nutrient
- Watch
- Custom on some cruises
- Multiple-choice choice
- Louis XIV, par exemple
- Wrap around
- "I, Robot" writer
- Champion swimmer/actor Buster
- Director Van Sant hang out
- Where ewes can
- Custom on some cruises
- Even keel
- Biennial games org.
- Flightless birds
- Making a touchdown
- Metro area SSE of Casper
- Major hassles
- Updates the plant
- Rush hour report topic
- Suppress
- Vein contents
- Plains tribe
- Source of hard and soft lumber
- A bit cracked
- Forum attire
- Lackawanna's lake
- Ran into
- ___ welding

By Mark McClain
72 Saratoga action
73 PC panic button

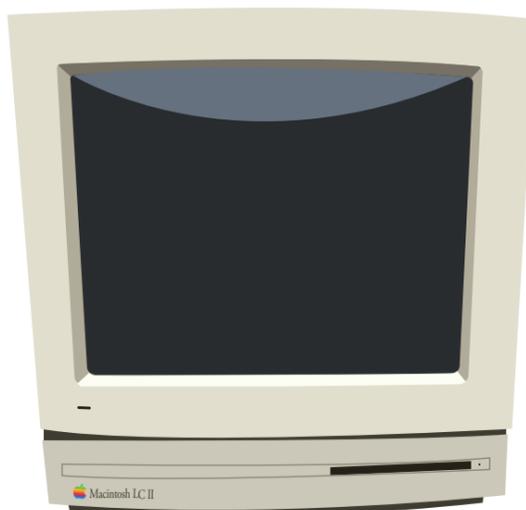
12/7/17

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

ALEX TOMA | ASSISTANT DESIGN CHIEF

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY - MACINTOSH LAB ANNOUNCED



In December 1991, Elon University announced it would be opening a new Macintosh computer lab in the Fine Arts Center equipped with eight Macintosh LC color computers and one high-resolution laser printer.

These computers were brand new at the time — first released by Macintosh just a year earlier in October 1990. They were introduced as a family of lower-priced Macintosh options.

The LC model featured a 16 megahertz processor, 30-80 megabyte (MB) hard discs and two MB of random-access memory (RAM). By comparison, the iMac computers

currently in Elon's School of Communications boast 3.4 gigahertz processors (more than 200 times the LC's), one terabyte hard discs (more than 12,000 times the LC's) and 16 gigabytes of RAM.

The LC computers were used by corporate publishing and communications classes but were open to all students for use during open-lab hours.

Kim Beane, a senior in 1991, said, "I think that a lot of people feel comfortable with Macintosh computers because they are smaller and less intimidating." Formerly, the corporate publishing classes used large, clunky IBM clone machines.

TIME FOR AN UPGRADE

The Macintosh LC computers took the place of the IBM clone machines.

NEWS BRIEFS

School of Education earns accreditation

Elon University's School of Education was reaccredited based on the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) standards.

According to E-Net, the school was accredited because of its highly advanced teacher preparation programs and how effective the program is at preparing students for the workforce. Degrees in early childhood education, elementary education, middle grades education, Physical education and special education are offered at the School of Education. The school's initial accreditation was in 1991.

"Accreditation provides framework for us to continually self-assess," said Anna Bullock, dean of the School of Education. Elon-educated teachers have notably exceeded state standards.

According to the program report card by the state of North Carolina, a third of Elon graduates exceeded the expected growth, which is more than double the state average of 16 percent.

Campus Kitchen donates 1,100 pounds of food in five days

The 5-for-1 food drive hosted by the Campus Kitchen and Elon Dining collected 1,106 pounds of food in five days. To encourage students to donate, Elon Dining gave meal vouchers to those who brought in five or more food items to donate. Students, faculty, staff and community members all participated in this drive.

The food collected was donated to the Salvation Army and Allied Churches of Alamance County. This way, the food could be distributed to residents of the county on a daily basis. This year, the food drive was the most successful on-campus drive yet.

Elon ranked among top private schools for Jewish students

Elon University was ranked in the 2017 November Hillel College guide as one of the best schools for Jewish students. In the article "Top 60 Private Schools Jews Choose," Elon was No. 36.

This guide is used by thousands of Jewish students every year who see Jewish life as essential to their college decision. Hillel International is the largest Jewish campus organization in the world, present on 500 college campuses in the United States.

Jewish life on campus has been growing, while Elon has maintained its 10 percent Jewish student population.

Alamance and Guilford County lines begin shifting

Dating back to before the 1780s, Guilford and Alamance County have been struggling with their county lines.

Much of the issue returns to the taxes between Alamance and Guilford County lines. For example, in Guilford County, the property tax rate per \$100 valuation is 73 cents, while in Alamance County it is 58 cents. Because of the confusing county lines, many tax bills, mortgages and home refinancing loans were harder to work out.

According to the Guilford Board of Commissioners, 109 homes will be affected during this redistricting and 22 properties will be split.



Junior guard Dainan Swope stares down the defender that fouled him during a three-pointer after he made it and fell to the ground during the game against the University of South Florida Nov. 30.

ALEC MANDELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



A volunteer at Allied Churches of Alamance County, stacks the shelves with food for the holidays Dec. 1.

MAGGIE BROWN | ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR



3T's offers alternative option to typical fast food options such as hand-breaded onion rings.

JACK NORCROSS | ELON NEWS NETWORK



The Sweet Signatures perform at their fall concert in Whitley Auditorium Dec. 1.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY NIC ZUHSE

TAXES | from cover

and colleges, but also their students,” said Steve DeLoach, professor of economics and chair of the department of economics.

Professors in the political science department and on Academic Council have also expressed their concern over the potential repercussions of this tax reform policy.

“I hope it gets voted down or substantially changed,” said Phillip Motley, chair of Academic Council. “I worry that even if modifications are made before some final version is passed, it won’t have to do with our particular issues at Elon, in higher education as faculty, staff and students.”

“It is impossible to provide a summary judgement on a piece of legislation as large and complex as this one,” said Jason Husser, assistant professor of political science and policy studies. “But there may be immediate negative financial consequences for the U.S. and for higher education.”

Within the two versions of the Republican tax bill there are three provisions that have the most potential to affect the lives of students, faculty and staff.

KEY TERMS TO KNOW

Deduction: Items you subtract from your income to get to your taxable income. Example: Student loan interest.

Tax exempt bond financing: Elon’s investors who buy bonds that help construct buildings are not taxed on interest income from Elon.

Tax exempt: Income you receive that is not taxed.

Bond: An investment where the investor loans money and receives interests on that loan during the bond’s life.

Dependent: An individual financially dependent on another’s income.

THE TAX REFORM PLAN VERSIONS: HOUSE VS. SENATE

	HOUSE	SENATE
 Student loan interest deduction	Repeals tax deduction for interest paid on federal student loans. Under current law, borrowers can deduct up to \$2,500.	No change from current law
 Graduate student tuition	Eliminates Section 117(d)5 of tax code, which allows institutions to waive or reduce tuition costs for graduate students without tax implications.	No change from current law
 College employee dependent benefits	Would no longer exclude tuition benefits for college employees’ spouses or children from taxable income.	No change from current law
 Termination of Private Activity Bonds	Effectively eliminates tax-exempt private activity bonds that lower the cost of building for colleges.	No change from current law

Reforming Student Loan Interest Deductibles

Interest on student loans would no longer be tax deductible. This means students who borrow money to pay for tuition will pay more in federal taxes, because they can no longer subtract the interest on their student loans from their taxable income.

OVER THE PAST FOUR years, Bishop has been using student loans to pay for her enrollment at Elon. From her freshman to senior fall, her combined debt has added up to almost \$115,000. By the time she graduates in May 2018, Bishop is expecting to owe almost \$140,000 in student loans.

Currently after graduation, if Bishop found a job that paid the approximate average starting yearly salary of \$50,000, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, with student loan deductibles she would need to pay \$7,653 in federal taxes each year, according to the 2016 tax tables.

While the lower tax rates would more than offset the loss of student loan deductibles — in Bishop’s case, by \$1,003 — professors at Elon say the tax reform bill would de incentivize higher education and put students who rely on loans at a disadvantage.

“While a recent college graduate might get a tax cut, it still makes college education more difficult,” DeLoach said. “The reason is that people making the same money without loans will be better off than people with loans. ... It punishes people who take out loans for college relative to others.”

Bishop is unsure if she would have made the same decision if the Republican tax reform policy had been law during her freshman year.

“I wouldn’t know what I would do or how my parents would advise me,” Bishop said. “I don’t know if I would have transferred or if I would have just bitten the bullet and stuck through it. But even if I transferred somewhere else it still wouldn’t have been great because the tax bill would be everywhere.”

Bishop said as her final year ends, she is seeing the effects of her looming debt.

“I have friends who are planning a senior spring break trip, and for me — even if I had the money — I would feel guilty using that money because I know how much debt I have and that puts an emotional toll on you,” Bishop said. “I feel guilty every time I have to ask my dad to help pay for my groceries. While it is not a significant amount

ELON STUDENT DEBT

42%

Percentage of the Elon student body that uses student loans. In 2014, the average student debt for Elon graduates was \$27,176.

of money, it does add up.”

Bishop’s costs are a lot higher than the Elon average. In 2014, the average student debt for Elon graduates was \$27,176, according to the Institute for College Access & Success. Patrick Murphy, director of financial planning, says approximately 42 percent of the student body uses student loans.

Elon’s average student debt has decreased to \$23,250, according to the College Scorecard, an online tool created by the U.S. government to compare the cost and value of higher education institutions. Opponents to the bill say despite this drop in student loan averages and the possibility of less federal tax, the new tax reform policy will not make this debt any easier to afford.

“The heart of Elon University is always going to be the student body at large. The student loan issue is a huge problem because that is a deciding factor for so many students on whether or not to attend Elon,” said junior Michaela Fogarty, president of College Democrats.

During a monthly faculty meeting on Dec. 1, Bob Shea, associate vice president for business, finance & technology gave a presentation about the effects the new tax policy could have on the community.

“Nationally, this has a huge impact and it would have an impact on our students as well,” Shea said.

While Shea was referring to undergraduate students, this tax reform policy will have a similar effect on graduate students.

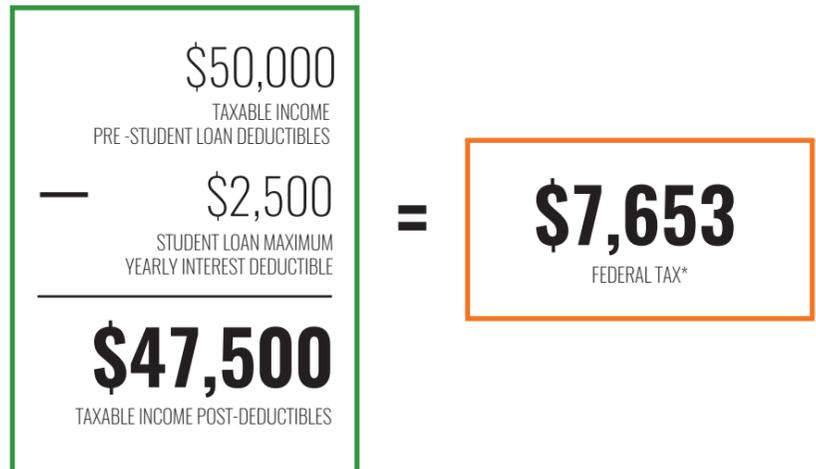
“This bill is going to make it more difficult for students to go to graduate school,” Motley said. “Which could potentially reduce the number of graduate students which then affects the universities.”

A BREAKDOWN OF POTENTIAL FEDERAL TAX COSTS

Before the House tax plan

According to the 2016 tax tables | Single marital status

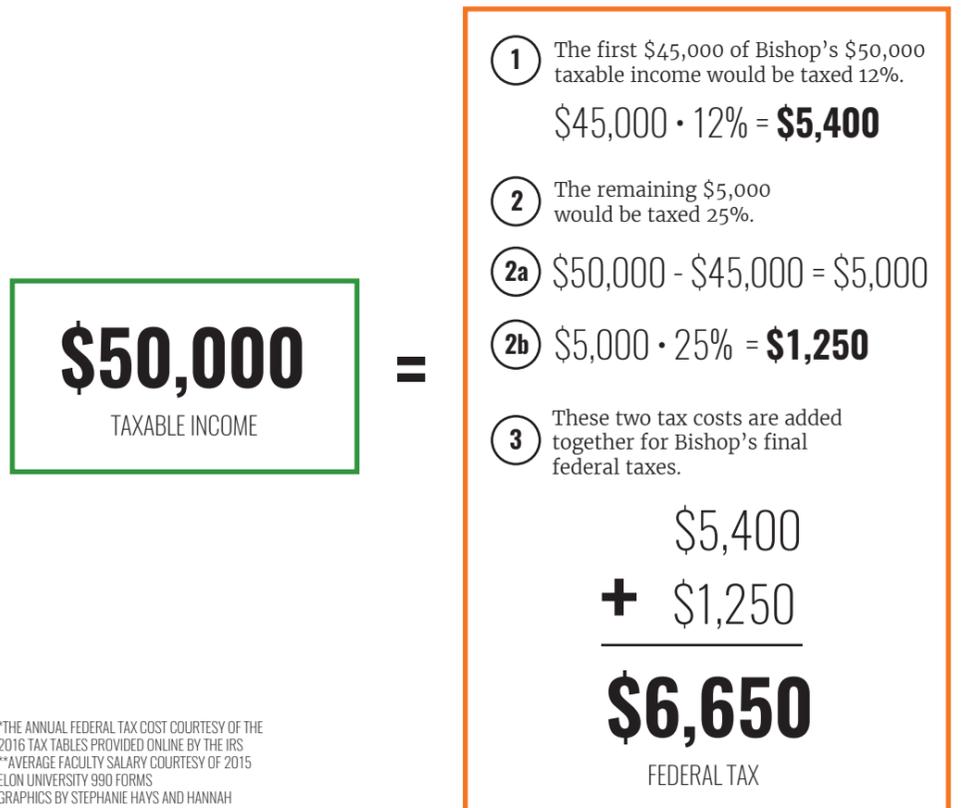
With loan interest deduction, and ignoring other variables, if Bishop got a job after graduation that earned \$50,000 in taxable income, she would be federally taxed \$7,653 for the year.



After the House tax plan

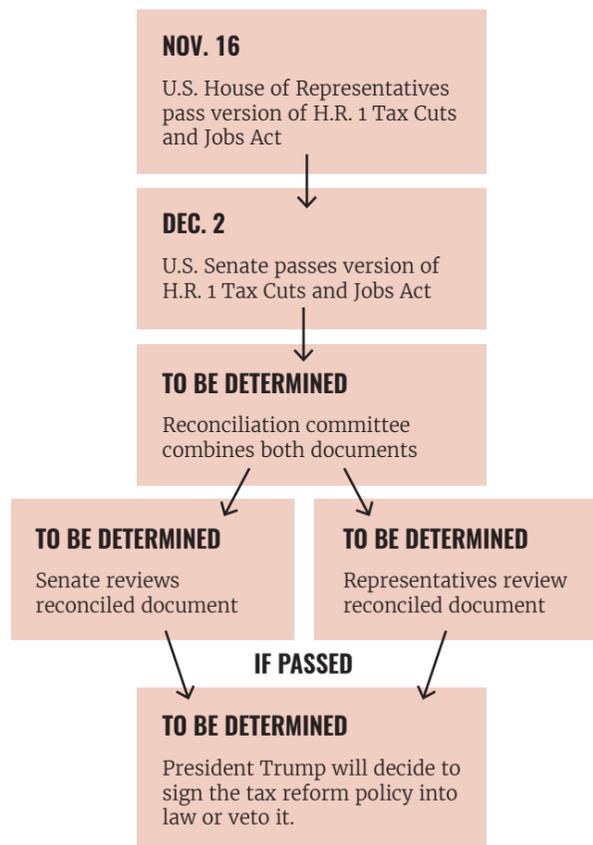
According to Elon News Network calculations | Single marital status

Without any deductions, and ignoring other variables, if Bishop got a job after graduation that earned \$50,000 in taxable income, she would be federally taxed \$6,650 for the year.



*THE ANNUAL FEDERAL TAX COST COURTESY OF THE 2016 TAX TABLES PROVIDED ONLINE BY THE IRS
**AVERAGE FACULTY SALARY COURTESY OF 2015 ELON UNIVERSITY 990 FORMS
GRAPHICS BY STEPHANIE HAYS AND HANNAH SICHERMAN | DESIGN CHIEF AND DESIGNER

FROM POLICY TO LAW: THE UNDETERMINED PROGRESSION OF THE REPUBLICAN TAX POLICY REFORM



A BREAKDOWN OF POTENTIAL TUITION REMISSION COSTS

Before the House tax plan

According to the 2016 tax tables | Married filing jointly marital status

If the average married professor at Elon made **\$82,000**** in taxable income, and ignoring other variables, that amount would be taxed for their dependent's tuition.

This cost is with tuition remission.

\$82,000 TAXABLE INCOME	=	\$12,049 FEDERAL TAX*
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After the House tax plan

According to Elon News Network calculations | Married filing jointly marital status

If the average married professor made **\$82,000**** in taxable income, and ignoring other variables, the tax policy reform would add the cost of their dependent's Elon tuition and fees, **\$34,273**, to their taxable income. Which would then be federally taxed.

\$82,000 AVERAGE TAXABLE INCOME + \$34,273 TUITION AND FEE COST =	\$116,273 NEW AVERAGE TAXABLE INCOME
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<p>1 The first \$90,000 of the professor's \$116,273 taxable income would be taxed 12%. $\\$90,000 \cdot 12\% = \mathbf{\\$10,800}$</p> <p>2 The remaining \$26,273 would be taxed 25%. 2a $116,273 - \\$90,000 = \\$26,273$ 2b $\\$26,273 \cdot 25\% = \mathbf{\\$6,568.25}$</p> <p>3 These two tax costs are added together for the professor's final federal taxes.</p>	<p>\$10,800.00 + \$6,568.25 =</p> <p>\$17,368.25 FEDERAL TAX</p>
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Terminating Private Activity Bonds

When private universities use bonds to pay for buildings, the interest they pay to their lenders would now be taxed. Elon's future construction would be more expensive since the university would have to pay a higher rate of interest to attract investors. This has the potential to disrupt the university's expansion plans.

PRIVATE ACTIVITY BONDS ARE an advantage this new tax reform policy has the potential to take away. "Elon is a growing university and we have built a lot of facilities because of the benefit of having tax-free bonds," said Dan Anderson, vice president of university communications. "The termination of private activity bonds would have a limiting factor on our future growth." If not for these private activity bonds, it is unlikely that Elon would have been able to expand as much as it has. "Over the course of the last 10 years, if this house proposal was law the additional cost to Elon would have been about \$60 million," Shea said. "That means we would not have been able to build many of the buildings that we have." This potential cost may cause Elon to make difficult decisions in the future. "Depending on the size of the bond offering, it could increase out financing

costs in excess of \$1 million annually," Shea said. "This would force us to make difficult choices concerning the implementation of Elon's strategic plans." As an example, Shea said the last two private activity bonds issued to Elon were in the vicinity of \$54 million. The elimination of these bonds would have led to an additional \$60 million in taxable bond cost, making Elon's last two projects unaffordable. "If you take the advantage of private activity bonds away, we would have to pay significantly higher interest rates, which would slow down our plans to expand," DeLoach said. The construction of future housing residences, dining halls, academic buildings and sports stadiums would be dramatically slowed as the cost of building one of those structures may increase astronomically with the new tax reform policy.

Repealing Tuition Remission

The money Elon faculty and staff save with university benefits that waive their children's tuition and fees would be added to their income, which would then be taxed.

MANY FACULTY AND STAFF who have served Elon for several years can apply for this benefit titled tuition remission, which allows them to send their children to Elon without the cost of tuition. Glenn Scott, associate professor of communications, is currently using tuition remission to afford his son's tuition at Elon. "I don't think we would be here if not for tuition remission," Glenn said. "One of the reasons we decided to come to Elon was because of that value down the line. We recognized that we would like our son to be here someday — that kept us here." Glenn has just started using tuition remission, as his son Kevin is a freshman finishing his first semester. The exact cost of how much the Scott family would have to pay if the tax reform policy was put into place is uncertain. "We don't have lots of money, so it will hit us pretty hard," Glenn said. "It means probably for us anywhere from \$4,500 to \$6,500 in additional taxes." The strain these additional taxes may put on his parents is what worries Kevin the most. "My parents work incredibly hard in order for me to be at an institution like Elon," Kevin said. "It worries me that my mom — who already works many hours a week — would have to work even more ... Or my dad would have to end

up taking more of a workload in order to compensate for the money we would be losing." The Scotts are not the only family whose tuition remission has the possibility of being taxed by this new tax policy reform. During the faculty meeting Shea presented in, he asked how many people in the room had sent a "dependables" through Elon and found that many in the audience had raised their hands. "That benefit would no longer be tax exempt, it would be taxable," Shea said. "That would have a huge impact on our faculty and staff and our ability to recruit." This is a problem many professors, even those who do not have a child enrolled in Elon can understand. "If I had a child that was going to Elon, I would now be taxed on the value of Elon tuition that I didn't pay," Susan Anderson said. "That creates a problem because I didn't get that as income, but it is going to be treated as income and I may not have the cash to pay the tax." Currently a married professor at Elon, makes the average salary of \$82,000, according to Elon's 2015 990 forms in taxable income. If the professor was supporting one child through Elon he or she would pay \$12,049 in federal tax according to the 2016 tax tables. If the current tax reform bill is passed, the professors federal tax would increase by \$5,319.25, making their total \$17,368.25.

The full extent of the potential effects this tax reform policy will have on Elon and higher education remains uncertain as both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have yet to pass the reconciled versions of the tax reform policy. "A small change in tax policy has the potential to change all aspects of society," Huser said. "Taxes in some ways are the greatest form of government power." Republicans on campus want to remind the community of the Republican Party's intentions behind this bill. "The intention of the Republican tax reform bill is to benefit all Americans," said senior Carson Steelman, chairman of the Elon College Republicans. Senator Richard Burr celebrated the passing of the U.S. Senate's version of the tax reform policy on Dec. 2. "This bill is an historic opportunity to reform a broken tax code that hasn't worked for the people of this country in years," said Burr in a press release on Dec. 2. Representative Mark Walker reacted similarly after the House of Representatives passed the tax reform policy on Nov. 16. "Today, we kept an important promise to the voters in delivering an overhaul of our broken tax code and bringing tax relief to millions of lower and middle income families," Walker said in Washington the day the tax reform was passed. If this tax reform policy is passed, the effects of this well-intentioned bill could be felt as early as 2019. A reality Lambert hopes not to face. "America's future depends on an educated citizenry, the people who are going to prosper and thrive in the 21st century are going to be the educated people," Lambert said. "It is in our national interest to encourage people to get more education, America's future depends on an educated citizenry."

Holiday donations benefit Alamance County food bank

Maggie Brown
Assistant News Editor | @MaggieABrown_

Allied Churches of Alamance County (ACAC) is the largest feeding program in the county, located less than 5 miles from Elon University's campus. Their goal is to improve the community by helping residents find housing and secure meals.

Originally, ACAC began as a core group of churches pooling its resources to serve community better. But today, ACAC acts as its own nonprofit funded by more than 100 churches in the local community.

During the holiday season, ACAC supports its residents through a program called Honor Cards. ACAC promotes awareness by selling their own holiday cards that have a unique design on them and are something community members can send to their friends and family during the holiday season.

Many churches and ministries in the community, such as Greensboro Urban Ministry, will have these cards available for purchase. Support from fundraisers like this is what keeps many different programs in ACAC funded through the holiday season.

"We have so many programs relying on holiday cards," said Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson, ACAC's community relations director. "We have 'honor card ambassadors' and they will take them back to their church and sell them. It's amazing because I can't sell \$25,000 worth of honor cards."

One of the programs funded by these holiday cards is ACAC's community kitchen. The kitchen feeds hot meals to around 200 residents per day. Most of those seeking a meal are those whose monthly government benefits, like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), can no longer support them.

The community kitchen is open for lunch and dinner five days a week. One of the kitchen staff employees, Willie Warren, is a proud resident of Burlington an employee of the ACAC.

"One time I used to go through this line," Warren said.

ACAC does not act alone. They are not only by being supported by hundreds of churches in the community, but also by Elon. Elon Dining partners with the ACAC to make sure they have meals to provide to residents even more during the holidays. Just last week, they donated leftovers from the Thanksgiving meals.

"This chicken came from Elon cafeteria," Warren said. "Every Wednesday they bring us food like salads, fresh vegetables."

The community kitchen receives most of its food either from donations or from their food bank. Because the ACAC receives their food from a food bank, they are able to get supplies for sometimes 19 cents a pound.

WHAT IS FOOD INSECURITY?

- Food insecurity is a lack of guaranteed access to regular meals
- Food insecurity can also refer to reduced quality, variety or desirability of diet
- The United States Department of Agriculture recognizes four levels of food insecurity, from low to high

"We can go to the food bank so our dollar goes further," Vatikiotis-Bateson said.

The ACAC encourages monetary donations during this holiday season over food donations. While all donations are appreciated, there is more of a monetary need when addressing the issue of hunger.

"Right now the support from the community is huge," Vatikiotis-Bateson said. "We have so many food drives happening and people coming in. We are getting more food than we can use."

In addition to the already abundant contributions from the community, Vatikiotis-Bateson is asking for donations of \$10-\$20 department store gift cards. She hopes those coming to the community kitchen will not be returners, but rather be able to economically support themselves enough to not come back.

"We have great relationships with lots of employers around," Vatikiotis-Bateson said. "But if our resident gets a job in the manufacturing industry and doesn't have a pair of shoes, we can't buy them for him without the proper funds."

By providing residents with gift cards, residents are able to purchase supplies they may need for a job. If they are able to maintain this job because they have the right equipment, then they will not need to return to the ACAC's kitchen.



RIGHT NOW THE SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY IS HUGE. WE HAVE SO MANY FOOD DRIVES HAPPENING AND PEOPLE COMING IN. WE ARE GETTING MORE FOOD THAN WE CAN USE.

CAITLIN VATIKIOTIS-BATESON
ACAC'S COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Issues of housing and hunger are directly related. And though it would make sense to feed the hungry all the time, the ACAC recognizes hunger stems from a larger, economic problem.

According to Feeding America, 78 percent of the residents in Alamance County are below the guidelines for SNAP. The food insecurity rate is 15.7 percent, where nationally, low rates are from 5 to 10 percent and high rates are in the upper 20s.

Senior Meredith Piatt is a student intern at ACAC and has been a resident of Burlington her whole life. She is



MAGGIE BROWN | ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR
Senior Meredith Piatt at the Allied Churches of Alamance County gets ready to serve lunch.

FOOD INSECURITY IN ALAMANCE COUNTY

\$2.90

Average weekly dollar amount food-secure individuals report spending on each meal.

24,200

Number of food insecure people in Alamance County



\$23,550

The current federal poverty level for a family of four. The level is \$19,530 for a family of three.

8,560

Number of children eligible for free and reduced-price school meals

passionate about how housing has affected the hunger in Alamance County.

"Issues of housing can include issues of unemployment or issues of discrimination," Piatt said. "Donating stuff really helps people get on their feet, but the real background to everything is that people need housing and help."

Many in the community believe there is an increased need in the holiday season because more people are donating. But the ACAC is asking for a consistent number of donations that don't fluctuate during the seasons.

"The goal is to get people out as quickly as possible, so we aren't proud to have people," Piatt said. "A perspective of community members and also students is that during the holiday season there is an increased need. There isn't. There is a consistent need for donations."

Because ACAC partners with Elon Volunteers (EV!), many of the volunteers are lost during Elon's breaks. The holidays are where the ACAC has a lack of volunteers and is looking for more help. But mostly, the needs in the holiday season are consistent with the needs throughout the year.

"We work really close with Elon, and Elon gives us a lot of support, but we always need volunteers because there is always something happening at the shelter," Vatikiotis-Bateson said.

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COUNSELING | from cover

After just two months on campus Dyson said he had already developed the habit of utilizing the university's counseling services on a weekly basis.

At Elon University, 846 students used counseling services during the 2016-2017 school year — 13 percent of the undergraduate student population. This percentage has risen 4 percent over the past ten years.

Anita Smith, assistant director of counseling services, said she would actually like to see these rates of utilization continue to rise.

"This reflects to us that students are acknowledging the need for services [and] reaching out to our office for support," Smith said.

But students like Dyson and others who use these services said they do not feel like Counseling Services is equipped to serve a large amount of patients.

"I don't think we're meeting the needs of the students," Dyson said. "If we're going to encourage people to use mental health resources, we also have to ensure that the resources they need will be there."

Meeting student demands

Bilal Ghandour is an assistant professor of psychology at Elon, and he also works at a group practice in Charlotte, counseling many young adults who struggle specifically with self-harm, anxiety, obsessiveness and personality disorders.

Ghandour said that he "often hears from students who don't feel like their needs are being met at Elon's Counseling Services."

"What I hear too frequently is that it was not helpful enough," Ghandour said. "I've heard it enough times that it doesn't feel like it's just one or two. It's more than that. It's definitely something that needs to be explored more."

But Jana Lynn Patterson, associate vice president of Student Life and dean of students, said she believes Elon's Counseling Services is "doing a great job with the counselors they have."

"We have some of the finest and strongest clinicians, I would put up against any college counseling staff in the country," Patterson said.

The six counselors Elon does have include: one health services provider psychologist, one licensed marriage and family therapist, one licensed clinical social worker and three licensed professional counselors. In addition, a counselor is on-call 24/7 for crisis response.

Elon's Counseling Services looks at other short-term counseling centers — of the university's peer institutions, Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Wake Forest University — to benchmark their own status.

Patterson said while these schools are considered peer institutions, "it can be difficult to directly compare counseling centers."

"There's no Carnegie stan-

dard for counseling services," Patterson said.

The International Association of Counseling Services recommends one full-time counselor for every 1,000 to 1,500 students in order to adequately meet the needs of the campus. With 6,045 undergraduate students and 746 graduate students, Elon is just meeting this figure with six full-time staff.

Marie Shaw, director of Counseling Services, said though the minimum recommendation is being met, "Counseling Services could still benefit from more staff to help expand services."

"There is a greater need for more staff," Shaw said. "I would love to see a more comprehensive counseling center where we could devote a lot more time to more informal outreach services. We devote the majority of all our staff time to clinical services."

At Duke, another private North Carolina university with a population twice the size of Elon, they have 27 full-time counselors for 14,832 students. This works out to one counselor for about every 550 students, which is more than twice the recommendation for counselor-student ratios. Their staff includes 10 full-time psychiatrists, two psychology residents and five social workers.

At UNC, a public North Carolina university with a population nearly five times the size of Elon, they have 19 full-time counselors for 29,804 students. This works out to one counselor for about every 1,569 students, just meeting the recommendation for counselor-student ratios. Their staff includes three psychiatrists, one family nurse practitioner and five social workers.

Wake Forest, just an hour away from Elon, is most comparable to Elon as another small, private university. With a population of 7,968 students, it has 10 full-time counselors as well as one psychiatrist through Student Health Services. This works out to one counselor for about every 797 students more than twice the recommendation for counselor-student ratios.

While Elon has a slightly better counselor-student ratio than UNC, all universities have a wider variety of professionals on their staffs, including psychiatrists, which is one of Counseling Service's goals,

"We look forward to expanding staffing resources to better manage the growing demands

STUDENT COUNSELING VISITS**3-4**

the average number of sessions per school year for clients from 2012-2017.

for services, improving access to psychiatric care, diversifying our treatment interventions, developing therapy groups and/or educational workshops and exploring innovative service delivery options," Smith said.

But Shaw said it is hard to provide these comprehensive services with the limited resources they have.

"We are more limited in what we can do than other universities," Shaw said. "We provide very high quality, very responsive care. I just wish that we could do more."

Patterson said more counselors may not be the solution.

"It's not helpful to just keep throwing staff at us," Patterson said. "At some point, you have to say this is going to be the scope of our services. These are the services we're going to focus on."

A culture of stress

Senior Kacie Lynch, co-president of Active Minds, a mental health advocacy group on campus that aims to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health, said college students face a lot of stress.

"I feel like there's a lot more pressure on students than there used to be," Lynch said. "I talked to my parents about this and they're like, 'Yeah, I was never this stressed when I was in college.'"

Ghandour said as a professor, he can sense that academic life at Elon is a highly pressured environment.

"The more I talk to students, the more I realize that there is almost an unspoken competition about how many people do how many things," Ghandour said. "How many clubs you're in, and do you have two majors and three minors and are you in 16 different clubs. All of that creates a pressure to conform to the standards."

He said beyond academics, "mental health is all encompassing because college is a key transitional period in individuals' lives."

"It's very hard to dissociate yourself from your sense of



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

well-being emotionally because you are subject to a tremendous amount of feelings and thoughts throughout the day as you manage your different life components," Ghandour said. "Whether it's academic, social, family, it's continuously there."

Between 2011 and 2012, the American Psychological Association (APA) surveyed 847 verified directors of college counseling centers, and found that more than 95 percent of the surveyed directors observed increasing mental health concerns on campus.

According to the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors, the top four mental health concerns among college students during the 2015-2016 year were anxiety (51 percent), depression (41 percent), relationship problems (34 percent) and suicidal ideation (20.5 percent).

Managing mental health

Patterson said college is the best time to learn to effectively manage mental health and create good self-care habits.

"Life doesn't get any easier when you get out of college," she said. "If we can begin to teach some of those skills now, I think we can begin to teach and help people develop lifelong mental health skills."

Patterson said growth in counseling services "does not have to happen just in terms of resources." She said they are trying to do more community outreach through campus organizations such as Campus Recreation

and the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life to put a focus on preventative measures against mental illness.

"As we come together and are able to develop strategies and collaborations, then I think we're going to provide a stronger mental health picture," Patterson said. "Not just a counseling picture, but a stronger mental health picture for our students."

Patterson said she believes "stronger community outreach will help students develop better mental health practices outside of counseling."

"It really comes down to helping students learn more about mental health and illness, and helping them understand better how to respond to their peers," Patterson said. "I'm not gonna be there at a residence hall at one or two o'clock in the morning if someone's struggling."

As a counselor himself, Ghandour said it is reasonable that counseling services will not be able to meet every demand.

"Even with my own clinical practice, sometimes I say something beyond my own expertise," Ghandour said. "You have to make that determination as a counselor and be able to direct patients."

He said it is critical for students to know counseling services is an available resource and that they do not need to go out of their way in order to seek help.

"It is so important to feel that help is always available," Ghandour said. "When people are reluctant to talk to someone, take that brave step and it will be received."

Bottom:
Associate Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Student Health and Wellness Chief Administrative Officer, Jana Lynn Patterson sits in her unusually calm office Dec. 4.

Elon reduces waste by growing its recycling initiative

Students, faculty and staff promote sustainability by growing new recycling program

Victoria Traxler
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Elon University consistently promotes its environmentally conscious initiatives, such as geothermal heating, compost bins, the BioBus system and recycling.

As Elon has been growing as a school, its recycling program has been growing in response. David Worden, director of environmental services for Physical Plant, has worked with the recycling program for more than thirteen years.

“Recycling is important to the Physical Plant because it’s important to Elon,” Worden said. “The structures and practices put in place for maintaining a sound recycling program come from the make-up of a caring and passionate community.”

Last month the office of sustainability initiated a Waste Wednesday campaign active around campus and supported by a social media campaign.

“Once a month on a Wednesday, Eco-reps and volunteers are next to waste receptacles in key campus locations to help students and others properly dispose of their waste,” Durr said.

The office hopes this program



ALEEZA ZINN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon continues to improve its recycling program by having blue bins for students to put mixed paper, cardboard and more.

will increase awareness as to what needs to go in each bin on campus. These bins include recycling, compost and waste.

There are also additional bins for materials more difficult to dispose of such as batteries and small electronics.

Durr hopes for additional compost and recycling bins on campus based on further feedback

and use.

“It is comprehensive and has grown from a student initiative to what it is today,” Durr said.

The recycling program collects mixed paper, cardboard, electronics, batteries, ink cartridges and compostable materials. Residential recycling is picked up multiple times per day Monday-Friday, and once during Saturday and

Sunday.

“What is unfortunate is to find recyclable material thrown away in trash containers. Though a recycling container and a trash container can be sitting right next to each other, recyclables can be found to have been thrown away,” Worden said.

By using colored bags — black for trash and clear for recycling —

Physical Plant is able to identify materials by viewing the bags and disposing of them accordingly.

Trash and recycling are picked up at the same times and carried together to the disposal site. For some, this process looks less like recycling and more like waste.

“There is a misunderstanding from those viewing this pick-up process and thinking Elon doesn’t recycle,” Worden said. “Once recycling is picked up from any location on campus, whether it is tossed in with trash bags or not, will end up in the designated recycling container.”

Worden said all materials are brought to drop point dumpsters with specific assignments for either trash or recycling. Recycled materials are then brought to a sorting facility.

“We will always continue to look for ways to improve,” Worden said. “Whether through the addition of more containers, better signage or possibly through the addition of a Waste Reduction and Recycling office.”

Physical Plant will continue to monitor recycling collection through weight feedback.

“As Elon grows, so grows recycling methods and collection,” Worden said.

Elaine Durr, the director of sustainability, says that waste reduction and recycling is a major part of Elon’s sustainability initiative and included in the Sustainability Master Plan.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

ELENA HERNANDEZ | DESIGNER

This winter break, focus on spreading love

HOW WE SEE IT

Considering the numerous tragedies and hardships our campus has felt this semester, it's time to focus on spreading love.

This past semester has been difficult for the Elon University community, the nation and the world as a whole — there is no denying that.

Over the past few months, our country has endured multiple mass fatalities, suffered through natural disasters, watched as numerous high-profile individuals have been accused of sexual misconduct and, here on our own campus, we have felt the loss of a fellow student. Considering all of these events, the last few weeks

of this semester have left many of us dragging our feet. We have all been run down, and now facing finals and the end of the semester, the sheer exhaustion and feeling that tragedies are inevitable is even more prominent.

It is OK to feel sad, tired or overwhelmed after this semester. You aren't alone in feeling that way. But in the wake of these difficult times, it is important to take time to care for ourselves and also consider what we can do to rid ourselves of feelings of

helplessness.

Following finals, we have three weeks away from campus. Whether you are going back to your hometown, traveling with family or celebrating the holidays, this is a time you can use for reflection, planning and taking action.

Take the time you need to care for yourself in whatever way works for you. Unplug from social media and the news for a bit. Spend time with friends and family. Treat yourself to a nice meal or gift you want. Relax.

Then, care for others. It is cliché, but the one thing our nation could really use right now is love. Throughout the holiday season and winter break, spread love as much as you can. Tell

your family and friends how much they mean to you. Smile at strangers as you pass them on the street. Give gifts of service to communities that need it.

There is so much in this world that we cannot control. We cannot change the paths of hurricanes or pass legislation on gun control ourselves, but we can control how we act and react. We can respond to these tragedies with helplessness, anger, sadness or fear, or we can react with love. It may seem small, but acts of love and kindness can go so far, especially in times that feel bleak. Do what you can to support yourself and others this season. We may not be able to do much, but a little love can go a long way.

Homophobia is still alive and well — we cannot look away



Olivia Zayas Ryan
Opinions Editor
@oliviazryan

I remember the day the Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriage would be legal in all 50 states. It was June 26, 2015, and I was at home in my small suburban town in New Jersey. I read the news and immediately cried. My mom and I baked a rainbow cake that afternoon. Our home was filled with joy, happiness and gratitude and I felt that the LGBTQIA community had finally won.

The next day I had the privilege of attending the New York City Pride March. I watched as groups passed through the streets, some holding signs calling attention to social issues, some celebrating the passing of marriage equality and others simply celebrating. I felt so fortunate that in that moment, acceptance and love was the norm.

While I knew the fight for equality and acceptance was not over, I naively thought marriage equality would help change the culture in the

United States. I thought — or rather hoped — the decision would inspire people to be more accepting of the community. I thought everyday homophobia, such as acts of violence or using slurs against LGBTQIA people, would soon be over.

But then, less than a year later, House Bill 2 was passed in North Carolina. The Pulse Nightclub shooting happened, where a single gunman murdered 49 people. Donald Trump was elected president, bringing with him Mike Pence, who has previously supported many

anti-LGBTQIA initiatives. Transgender people, especially trans-women of color, continue to be murdered at an alarming rate.

Even still, after witnessing these blatant acts of homophobia and hate, I held on to the belief that most people in our country are no longer homophobic and support the LGBTQIA community. I saw these as isolated events.

I was fortunate enough to grow up in an accepting household with many queer family members. Here at Elon University, I have surrounded myself with

like-minded individuals, many of whom also identify within the community. I have lived in this bubble of acceptance I created for myself for so long that I often forget everyday homophobia is still alive and well.

This past weekend, my brother's boyfriend, Jacob, experienced homophobia while in an Uber Pool on his campus at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles — a city often seen as being very liberal and accepting. While in the Uber, a fellow USC student riding with him spoke on the phone with a friend, carelessly using homophobic slurs. Once he hung up the phone, Jacob asked the other student why he used such language.

At first, the student tried to excuse his language choice, saying it was different in that context. Then, he said he didn't believe in homosexuality. He then said he was offended by Jacob calling out his use of slurs and,

completely out of nowhere, said he got angry when gay men hit on him. Finally, the student offered to fight Jacob, at which point Jacob left the Uber. All of this happened while the Uber driver listened and said nothing.

When I first heard this story, I was in shock, but soon realized Jacob's experience was not unique. Homophobia didn't disappear from our nation's culture just because our laws changed — it is still a prominent issue that affects LGBTQIA folks in every generation. We cannot view small victories in legislation as winning the whole fight.

There is still plenty of work to be done. I am so proud that Jacob was able to stand up to this homophobic person and was safe in doing so, please combat everyday homophobia such as slurs and stereotyping. We can't settle with the battles we have already won. We need to do more.



HOMOPHOBIA DIDN'T DISAPPEAR FROM OUR NATION'S CULTURE JUST BECAUSE OUR LAWS CHANGED — IT IS STILL A PROMINENT ISSUE THAT AFFECTS LGBTQIA FOLKS IN EVERY GENERATION.

CAMPUS VOICES

Trust the process of fraternity and sorority recruitment



Gabby Vance
Senior

I was dropped by the sorority I wanted to be in and I'm still okay.

As recruitment quickly approaches and campus starts to buzz about sister dates and 110 percent pins, I start to think back to three years ago when I was an anxious freshman preparing for the recruitment process. Unlike what everyone had told me, I did not go into recruitment with the most open mind. I had been meeting lots of girls in a sorority on campus (let's call the organization "Gamma").

Naturally, I had started to see myself in Gamma because I loved everyone I had met in their organization and I thought they loved me. Everyone was so cool and I was really excited about being friends with all of them.

I remember the first time I met my recruitment counselor she had us rip sheets of paper with the names of all the sororities and their supposed stereotypes in order to go into the process with an unbiased opinion. But like I said before, I did not listen.

I was consumed by the idea of becoming a Gamma. I really did not think about recruitment as a holistic process but instead as an end result. All I could picture was me running down the hill on bid day hugging my new sisters in Gamma and being one of them.

But then reality hit — on the third day of recruitment Gamma had unexpectedly dropped me. I was crushed. I wondered how and why this could've happened. What could I have done differently? Why didn't they like me? I even wondered if I should drop out of recruitment.

Thankfully, this time I listened to my recruitment counselor. She encouraged me to not question myself

and what had happened but look forward to what could happen. She gave me another sheet of paper and had me write Gamma on it and told me that this time I should rip it and believe that it's all going to be OK.

After I told her my thoughts about bid day, I was pretty sure I was going to drop out. She said, "I want you to picture bid day with an organization who loves you for you."

Then she asked me to think about why I wanted to be in a sorority in the first place — philanthropy, friendship and community. She reminded me Gamma was not the only organization that had these things, each of these organizations and non-Greek organizations alike have them.



LUCIA JERVIS | DESIGNER

So I decided to stick it out and stay in the process — which ultimately ended up being one of the best

decisions of my life. On bid day, unlike I had imagined I didn't really know any of the girls at the bottom of the hill, but everyone was so excited to see me and hugged me like I was their best friend. Everyone had been telling me to stick with it and that I would find my people. I am so happy I listened.

I thought I knew what was going to be good for me at the time, but by trusting the process I got what was

best for me. My current organization brings me so much joy — I really cannot explain my love for the girls. I live with three people in my organization and I'm so grateful for that. I would not have met so many people otherwise if I would have dropped out.

And one of the best parts of the process is I'm still friends with many of the

Gamma girls, but over time I realized I do fit much better in my organization. Looking back at recruitment now as a senior, I think I've realized that my freshman year I thought getting into a sorority was everything.

Now, what I have come to realize is a sorority is just another part of your college experience. It's not the end of the world if you get dropped. You just have to show resilience and be confident in how amazing you are — even if someone cannot see that after a 10-minute conversation.

We are fortunate enough to go to one of the best universities with so many chances for students to find where they belong. Greek life or not, you're going to find your people here at Elon. I truly believe that.

“ I THOUGHT I KNEW WHAT WAS GOING TO BE GOOD FOR ME AT THE TIME, BUT BY TRUSTING THE PROCESS I GOT WHAT WAS BEST FOR ME.

Disheartened by Elon's social climate, I stopped trying



Bryan Anderson
Senior
@BryanRAnderson

One of my former professors was offering advice to a student reporter when she finally told her, "Be like Bryan, but don't be like Bryan."

No truer words have ever been said.

The teacher was referring to my professional track record and my personal shortcomings. I didn't take good care of myself, and I didn't experience many of the social aspects of college.

As I am graduating early and wrapping up classes in the coming month or so, I have forced myself to reflect on my college experience. I haven't liked what I've found.

If I could convey one message to students, it would be to follow the latter half of my professor's advice: "Don't be like Bryan."

More specifically, don't put work above health.

Don't sacrifice all your time with friends and family for work. Don't skip meals. Don't restrict yourself to only a few hours of sleep each night.

Don't get me wrong, I am proud of what I've achieved during my time here at Elon University. I've written three scholarly research papers, performed well in all of my classes, secured spectacular internships and even landed a one-on-one interview with then-candidate Donald Trump.

I do not regret the path I chose during my time at Elon, and I cannot think of a single thing I've said or done that I would take back.

Even so, I wish I had more opportunities to connect with others. I do not drink, smoke, do drugs or engage in any risky behaviors, making me feel like an outsider on a campus that

“ AS I AM GRADUATING EARLY AND WRAPPING UP CLASSES IN THE COMING MONTH OR SO, I HAVE FORCED MYSELF TO REFLECT ON MY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE. I HAVEN'T LIKED WHAT I FOUND.

booms with such activities on a nightly basis. I have found it virtually impossible to meet people of similar minds. Whether I'm an endangered species at Elon or one that is soon-to-be extinct remains to be seen.

Here is where I failed, and why I don't want others to follow in my footsteps: I stopped trying.

I quickly grew disheartened upon my arrival to campus almost four years ago and felt there was very little for me to do outside of schoolwork and reporting. I amped up my workload, leaving my mind as little time as possible to think about the personal struggles I was going through.

Time has a way of catching up to you, and I'm grateful it only took me three and a half

years to see a potentially dangerous road that lay ahead.

In many ways, journalism has served as a form of escapism for me. More importantly, it has allowed me to give a voice to others, share their stories and occasionally, create a positive change. I know reporting is all I want to do for the rest of my life and will remain my biggest priority.

But I also know it should not be the only thing I have going in my life.

If you distinguish yourself from others in your field of study, achieve your professional goals and make a positive difference in others' lives, it is still possible to fall short of where you'd like to be.

Don't be me. Be better.

LIFESTYLE

Alternative study spaces to escape finals week in Belk library



Great Hall of Global Commons

CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR



Media Sandbox

CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR



Moseley Center

FILE PHOTO

Alex Roat

Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Come finals week, Elon University crowds of students pack into Belk Library seeking a quiet place to study, but those sought-after spaces tend to fill up quickly. But Elon has many alternative study spaces around campus for both solo studying and group work that are accessible to all students with a Phoenix card and open 24 hours a day.

The Inman Reading Room, nicknamed the “Harry Potter room” by students, is located in the center of Lindner Hall. It is a fully silent study environment, but with long, lamp-lit tables and leather couches.

Global Commons also offers an ambient environment for studying and group work, and if the tables fill up on the first floor, head up to the second or third floor. If you need some outdoor stimulation, soft jazz and big open windows, the Great Hall

makes a good choice. Both levels offer a lounge-like environment with tables and couches, as well as televisions that can project presentations.

The School of Business and the School of Communications both offer study areas open to all majors during the day. After 9 p.m. each school is restricted to students with a corresponding major.

The lounge surrounding the Doherty Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership in KOCB has multiple couches and computers that allow for group and individual work. The Media Sandbox on the second floor of Schar hall in the School of Communications offers students a collaborative study space with a television and computer, as well as unique seating and tabletop Mac computers for Adobe Suite work.

If these study spaces are full, classrooms around campus are available for use after hours. Academic buildings lock at 9 p.m. and can then be accessed with a Phoenix card.



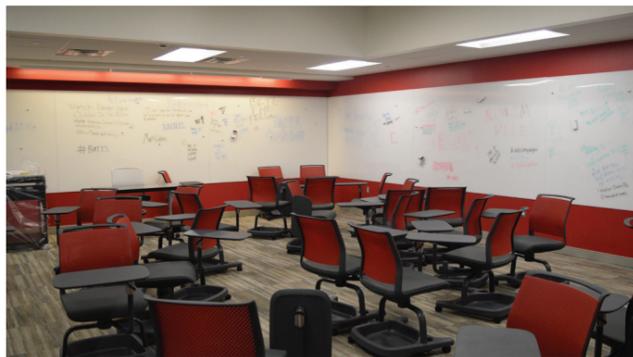
Inman Reading Room

FILE PHOTO



Irazu Coffee Shop

FILE PHOTO



School of Communications

FILE PHOTO



Argo Tea in Global Commons

CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

ELON EATS

New restaurant offers “fast food from 50 years ago”

Just down the road, a new restaurant offers a homemade alternative to typical fast food options

Sarah Johnson

Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

3T’s Chicken and Shakes is fast food from 50 years ago, according to manager Travis Leonard.

New to Burlington, 3T’s opened on Nov. 8 and has been serving up simple, home-cooked, “terrific tasting tenders” ever since. After his success with local restaurant Delancy’s, owner Michael Thomas decided it was time to give this new concept a shot.

“I wanted something that was easy, simple and that had a limited menu, but also something that was growing in popularity,” Thomas said. “I started developing a very simple menu and a very simple concept.”

This simplicity is reflected in the crisp, clean look 3T’s has adopted. Nestled right next to the Food Lion, the open-concept restaurant has embraced a new-age feel with glossy wooden tables and a rustic wooden bar that runs the length of the room. Thomas says everything from the look, to the touch screen Coca Cola machine, to the menu, was designed to appeal to 3T’s target audience — millennials.

Chicken as a protein has become very popular among millennials, Thomas said.

This trend is what led to the development of 3T’s menu that consists of a few sandwich and salad options that can either be made with hand-breaded fried or grilled chicken.

So far, said Thomas, the BBQ sandwich with fried chicken breast, cheddar cheese, sautéed onions, bacon and BBQ sauce has been the most popular menu item. But Thomas’ go-to is the avocado sandwich with grilled chicken, bacon and house-made ranch.

The fried chicken is all hand-battered and breaded, the fries fresh-cut and the onions rings hand-sliced and breaded.

The three T’s, Michael Thomas and his wife and daughter, pride themselves in making real food with high-quality ingredients.

“We’re trying to be as hands-on as possible,” Thomas said.

Thomas has been in the business of home-cooking all his life.

His parents started catering in 1996, then opened Delancy’s in the early 2000s; Thomas became heavily involved in the business after college.

Delancy’s, and now 3T’s, have always been and will always be family-owned and run, said Thomas.

“After 20 years, I have quite a few long-time employees that I feel a lot of obligation to take care of,” Thomas said. “My employees are making this their home, and I don’t want to cash out and leave them hanging. I always want to give them a place to work and a home to come to.”

Manager and lifelong friend of Thomas,



JACK NORCROSS | ELON NEWS NETWORK

Homemade ranch dressing and hand-breaded onion rings are two things Thomas prides most on his menu.

Leonard said, “sentiment is reflected in the atmosphere of 3T’s.”

“We offer something that’s a little different,” Leonard said. “Once people dine here, they’ll realize that we’re not true fast food. Everything is cooked to order, and the place just feels like home.”

Thomas said 3T’s is a quiet, relaxed and peaceful place to come sit down and chill. But, at first, it was a little too quiet for Thomas’ liking.

“I had forgotten how slowly the wheels can start turning,” Thomas said. “It has been a slow, soft-start, but things have really picked

up this week.”

Despite the slow start, 3T’s has been getting a lot of positive feedback both from customers and staff members. One of the most rewarding things Thomas has experienced throughout the process of starting up 3T’s is seeing his staff get excited about customers coming in and being a part of something new.

If this excitement continues, Thomas hopes to grow the business and expand into other parts of North Carolina. He also sees a deal with Elon on the horizon and said students can expect to be able to use Phoenix Cash at 3T’s in fall 2018.

KATIE BURKE

CLASS OF 2003

BURKE GRADUATED FROM ELON in 2003 with a major in business and a concentration in finance. She then worked for more than a decade in the financial services industry before attaining enough knowledge to start her own firm.

Self-doubt played a huge role in why it took her so long to open her own financial planning firm in an industry that is typically dominated by males.

"I was worried if people would take me seriously being a younger female in finance," Burke said.

Burke credits her husband, family and business network for pushing her and believing in her.

Burke said she never once in her 12 years of finance worked under a female advisor or manager. This made it difficult to picture what her career could develop into.

She combated this by realizing women are greatly suited for the financial planning field.

"We naturally are organizers and relationship-focused, which are two of the main traits that make you successful in this field," Burke said.

She often gets asked the question, "How do you manage it all?"

As a wife, mother and

businesswoman, she has learned the meaning of balance and realizes that sometimes her needs come first, too.

"Balance is not giving each part of your life the same attention each day," Burke said. "It is giving the part of your life that needs it the most attention that day. Sometimes that is my business and sometimes that is my children, family or even myself."



SUBMITTED BY KATIE BURKE

GABRIELLE L. MCGEE

CLASS OF 2006

GABRIELLE MCGEE '06 IS the vice president of digital marketing and special projects for the Tory Burch Foundation. In this role, McGee develops content, online programs and products.

The Tory Burch Foundation empowers women entrepreneurs.

"I've conceptualized and launched ToryBurchFoundation.org, which has empowered more than 200,000 women in the last year. I've also worked with our Tory Burch Fellows online program, #EmbraceAmbition campaign, Seed Box and much more," McGee said.

McGee is able to utilize her talents in the numerous opportunities provided at Tory Burch to create, design and develop content to support to foundation's cause.

McGee calls Tory Burch — the chairman, CEO, and designer of Tory Burch LLC — the ultimate entrepreneur.

Women CEOs in Fortune 500 companies, like Tory Burch, have increased from zero percent in 1995 to 5.4 percent in 2017, according to the Pew Research Center.

WOMEN CEO'S

Women CEO's in Fortune 500 companies have increased from zero percent in 1995 to 5.4 percent in 2015.



COURTESY OF TORY BURCH FOUNDATION FACEBOOK

ALANNA VAGIANOS

CLASS OF 2013

ALANNA VAGIANOS '13 WORKS as the associate women's editor at HuffPost in New York City.

"I'm very passionate about women's issues and activism, so the fact that I get to be in a field I'm passionate about is definitely a positive," Vagianos said.

Living in New York City is not cheap. For Vagianos, finding a job that paid

enough, while staying within the journalism field was a big feat.

"Journalism doesn't pay the big bucks," Vagianos said. "So getting to a point in my career where I didn't feel like this struggling writer has been big for me."

In her role at HuffPost, Vagianos writes and reports on women's issues with a focus on sexual violence. She also tackles feminism in entertainment, body image, women in politics and reproductive rights. Vagianos said it is important to maintain self care while tackling the hard issues she sees in her day-to-day reporting.

"The negative emotions are unfortunately just as real," Vagianos said. "I write a lot about sexual violence so understanding the importance of self care, whether that's going to therapy or just letting myself unplug from work on the weekends, is really key. Also, working online all day and dealing with trolls is very taxing. Much of it comes back to self-care and knowing my limits."

This variety of stories ranges from smaller write-ups to longer form pieces that can take weeks to create. But Vagianos' work doesn't stop there. She also edits copy, packages stories and runs social media accounts.

"I honestly feel like I'm making an impact every day I go to work," Vagianos said.



SUBMITTED BY ALANNA VAGIANOS

HALLIE CORNETTA

CLASS OF 2009



SUBMITTED BY HALLIE CORNETTA

AS VICE PRESIDENT OF human capital at Red Ventures, a marketing company headquartered in South Carolina, Hallie Cornetta '09 has made her mark in previously a male-dominated environment.

"After starting my career in marketing and business, I found a new sense of passion, purpose and excitement for my people-focused role," Cornetta said. "My strongest positive emotions are seeing the accomplishments, successes and personal breakthroughs of younger talent I have touched in some way."

She joined the senior lead-

ership team at age 28, where she was more than 10 years younger than her team — which was 90 percent male.

The struggles she faced were found in trying to understand her value, having belief in her decisions, and to be a thought-leading peer rather than an order-taking subordinate.

Now, three years later, she has found her voice and the senior leadership team is now nearly 40 percent female.

The trend of female leaders climbing the corporate ladder is spreading across industries. On this year's Fortune 500 List, there were more female CEOs listed than ever before.

CONSTANCE "CONNIE" LEDOUX BOOK

ELON UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT-ELECT 2017

CONNIE BOOK, ELON UNIVERSITY'S incoming president, is the current provost of The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina. As a former Elon faculty member and administrative leader, Book will be returning to Elon as president in March.

From a young age, Book remembers feeling inspired to become a leader by her father telling her she could be anything she wanted to be. Though she never imagined that these dreams of leadership would lead her to become the president of a university.

Book always enjoyed teaching and helping others achieve their goals. Through her time at The Citadel, she realized she not only enjoyed assisting students, but also faculty as well.

One particular opportunity she credits is the ability to lead and guide fellow faculty members at Elon.

"It gave me a chance to lead, and I would want to give other women that same chance," Book said.

She believes women in all positions, ranging from secretarial work to working as a professor, should be provided with opportunities and assignments that will help them advance their careers and qualify for higher positions.

When Book thinks about the future, she hopes to see a greater number of successful and empowered women.



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

“

IT GAVE ME A CHANCE TO LEAD, AND I WOULD WANT TO GIVE OTHER WOMEN THAT SAME CHANCE.

CONNIE BOOK

PROVOST OF THE CITADEL AND ELON'S INCOMING PRESIDENT

CARLY LEDBETTER

CLASS OF 2013

LEDBETTER DESCRIBES HER WORK environment as crazy and fast-paced. The Elon alum is now a lifestyle editor at the HuffPost — her dream job.

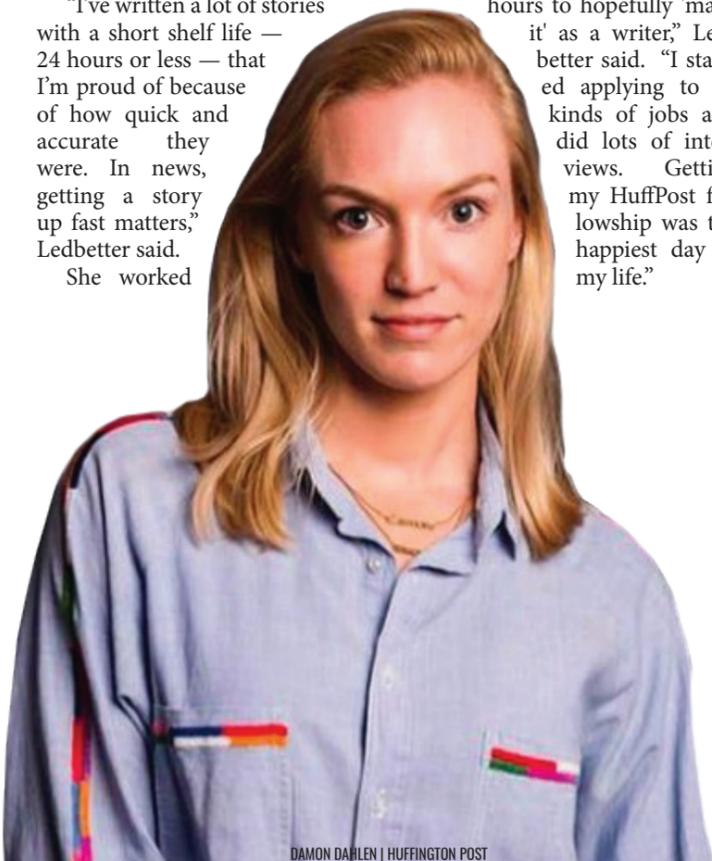
In her role as lifestyle editor, she covers what's going on in the world for their Taste, Travel, Home and Style sections.

"I've written a lot of stories with a short shelf life — 24 hours or less — that I'm proud of because of how quick and accurate they were. In news, getting a story up fast matters," Ledbetter said.

She worked

hard to get to her current position. After graduating from Elon in 2013, she worked for a company in Charlotte, where she didn't feel fulfilled. Ledbetter knew she was the one that needed to make the change.

"I started freelancing on the side and working ungodly hours to hopefully 'make it' as a writer," Ledbetter said. "I started applying to all kinds of jobs and did lots of interviews. Getting my HuffPost fellowship was the happiest day of my life."



DAMON DAHLEN | HUFFINGTON POST

TATUM ROBINSON

CLASS OF 1999

ROBINSON GRADUATED ELON COLLEGE in 1999 and proceeded to get her Masters in Physical Therapy from Elon in 2002.

After graduate school she worked at a hospital before taking a job working as the director of physical therapy for another company.

Robinson knew she wanted to do more with her career.

In 2006 she opened a physical therapy and sports performance company with Lisa Ciaravella — another Elon alumna.

"From the time we decided to start our own business, it took one year of a lot of sweat, planning, market research, fear, guts and trust to open the doors of Phoenix Physical Therapy & Sports Performance, LLC," Robinson said.

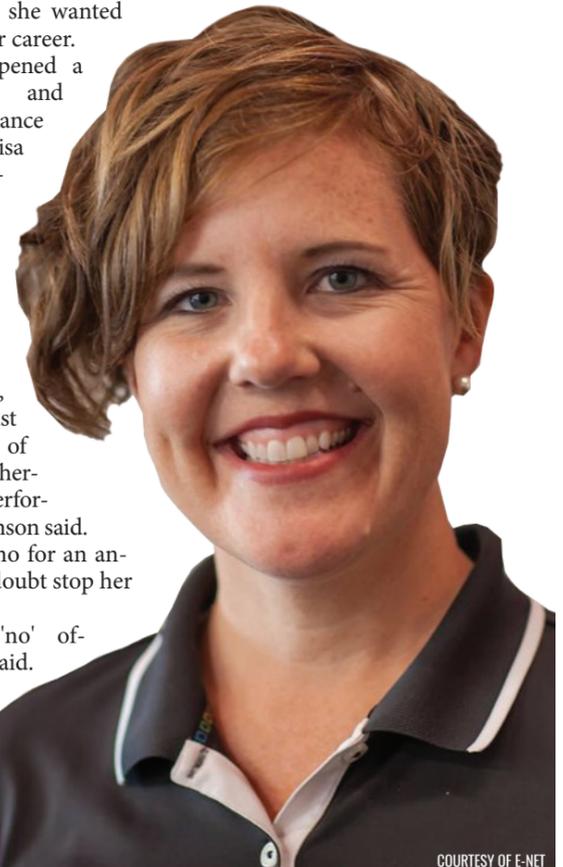
She didn't take no for an answer or let other's doubt stop her from succeeding.

"I was told 'no' often," Robinson said.

"Whether by employers, banks, businesses, etc., the word 'no' became

too familiar by others who didn't think I/we could make it. This just fueled my fire further."

That is the advice she would give to young ambitious women. Robinson said not to be afraid of rejections — as they are likely to happen in life — but to know there is always another way.



COURTESY OF E-NET

SWOOPE'S SCORCHING START



Junior guard leads Elon scorers through the first nine games

Erik Webb
Sports Director | @ErikWebbElon

He doesn't have to be tall to make a big impact. In fact, he's the shortest starter on the Elon University men's basketball team, but when Dainan Swoope steps onto the court, he makes his presence known.

The 6-foot, 185-pound junior guard has had a stellar start to the 2017-2018 season. Through the first nine games of the season, Swoope is averaging 17.1 points per game, which is ninth in the Colonial Athletic Association. The next closest Phoenix is redshirt senior forward Brian Dawkins, who averages 13.4 points per game and is 18th on the list.

"I guess I would describe my game as kind of being a leader on the offensive and defensive side — trying to get us into our offensive flow," Swoope said. "Just kind of doing the little things that will get our team a win."

Offense has not been a problem for Swoope this season. From Nov. 17-22, he had four straight games where he scored more than 20 points. This included 26 in the triple-overtime win against Florida International University on Nov. 17, 25 during the Phoenix's win against Concordia University, St. Paul the day after, 20 in the loss to the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee Nov. 19th and 24 points at home against Radford University on Nov. 22.

During those games, Swoope averaged 23.8 points per game, something he credits to his mindset on the court.

"It's the same mindset I have today," he said. "Playing aggressive and shots were just going in and that's what kind of just fueled me up for the next game."

Swoope said seeing the ball go in the hoop was a confidence booster for him — both on the offensive and defensive side. But Swoope also was selfless when talking about his high-scoring nights.

"That just builds yourself up," he added. "My teammates did a really good job of running our offense, staying with it and nobody was playing selfish. We were giving each other great looks and that was just a fun stretch to play in —

getting those wins, too."

The team chemistry is noticeable on the court. Elon returns all five starters and top scorers from last season. Swoope said having the veteran players around him makes it easy to feed off the energy from one another.

"Everybody is just really close — we're all brothers," Swoope said. "We hang out after practice, before practice, we're with each other all the time. I just think that having that off the court just makes it even more fun being on the court to play with each other and have the success that we're having."

Through the first nine games of the season, Swoope is connecting on just about the same percentage of shots from inside and outside the arc. He is shooting 40.5 percent from inside the arc and 39.4 percent from downtown, an improvement over last year's 40.5 percent and 36.1 percent, respectively. He attributes his higher numbers to the work he put in during the offseason.

"I think a really big thing was working out with assistant coach Chris Long," Swoope said. "I was here both terms this summer and took some summer classes. But we worked out every single day. That's what I feel like helped turn me into more of a point guard."

That summer work helped Swoope find a new mentality when he's passed the ball.

"Last year I was kind of just out there doing whatever I could. Now I feel a lot better in our system, I feel a lot better having the ball in my hands — more than I ever have in my life."

Not only is Swoope the top scorer for the Phoenix squad, but he also leads the team in the number of personal fouls with 24.

"Sometimes you're in a tough position to be in defensively and either I'm behind or they're too early and it ends up being a foul," Swoope said. "I don't really think that's going to be a problem going forward because that's just the game of basketball ... I think I'm going to keep maturing and growing on the court and avoid fouls."

Recent success

As of now, the Elon team is 6-3. Since last week, the Phoenix played two games, both of which went to overtime with Elon coming out victorious.

"I definitely prefer not to play in overtime games, especially back-to-back games," Swoope said. "It's a lot of

SWOOPE BY THE NUMBERS

40.5

Percentage of shots that Swoope has made from inside the arc

39.4

Percentage of shots Swoope has made from long distance

24

Personal fouls this season — the most of anyone on the team

17.1

Points per game, on average

minutes on all of our bodies — kind of wears us down."

No matter how much he says he doesn't enjoy it, Swoope comes up clutch the extra minutes. In the double-overtime victory against Saint Peter's University Dec. 2, Swoope knocked down a three while being fouled, completed the four-point play and helped the Phoenix pull away from the Peacocks in the second added five-minute overtime periods.

Swoope also played a big role in Elon's win against the University of South Florida on Nov. 30. He was tasked with guarding one of USF's top scorers, graduate student guard Stephan Jiggetts, who averages 12.1 points per game.

"Jiggetts was kicking my butt," Swoope said. "He was scoring at will on me and I kind of took that personally and I didn't want to allow that to keep going throughout the whole entire game."

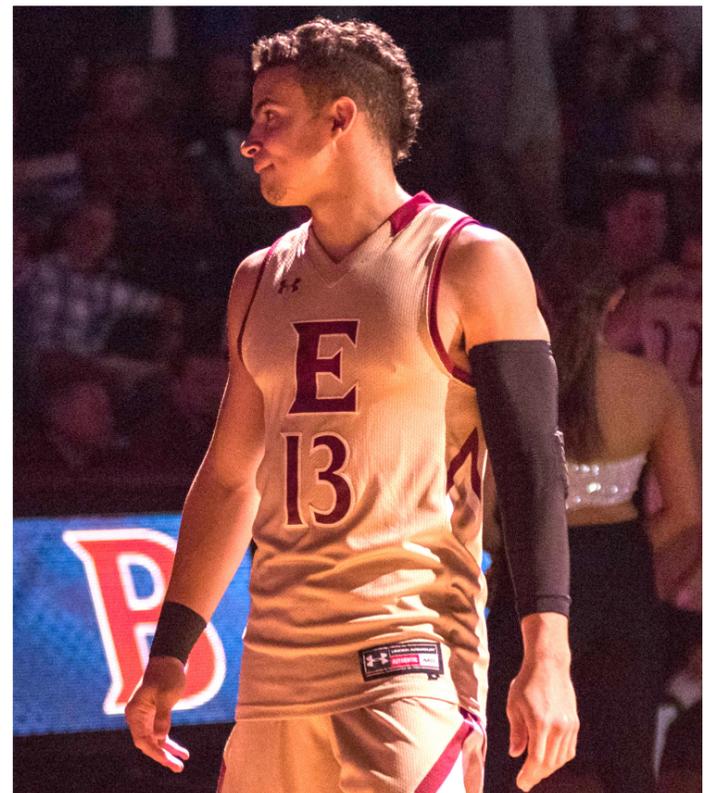
"I love Dainan's toughness," said head coach Matt Matheny.

After talking about taking Swoope off Jiggetts at halftime, Matheny said Swoope didn't like that.

"It really irked Dainan ... and that's what I love about him," Matheny said.

"I don't want to be that type of person that just backs off a challenge," Swoope said about wanting to continue to defend Jiggetts.

In the end, the decision to keep the matchup as it was proved to be crucial



ALEC MANDELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

for the Phoenix. Swoope blocked the final shot by Jiggetts that would have sent the game into double overtime. Instead, Elon came out on top. Jiggetts finished the night with 21 points.

"[The game] comes down to [Dainan] defending [Jiggetts] on the final play — I didn't have a great view of what happened, but I know that Dainan is tough," Matheny said. "I started to say pride, but it's more toughness. He's a warrior, and a warrior doesn't like to be taken out of the battle."

The future

For the Overland Park, Kansas, native, Swoope said there is no personal statistics line he would like to see at the end of the season. He just wants the team to do well — and to do one thing in particular.

"I want to make the NCAA tournament — that's been a dream of mine since I was a kid," Swoope said. "It's just about us making everybody's dream. We all have the same goal, same dream. We want to do that as a team and I think that it's going to be really possible."

The Phoenix will play its next game on Thursday, Dec. 7 when it makes the short trip to Greensboro to face the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, the first of a four-game span of away games.

Top: Junior guard Dainan Swoope leads an offensive possession against the University of Central Florida Nov. 30.

Bottom: Swoope waits as the other starters on the team are introduced on Nov. 30.

“

HE'S A WARRIOR, AND A WARRIOR DOESN'T LIKE TO BE TAKEN OUT OF THE BATTLE.

MATT MATHENY
MEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

Scientists study concussion recovery

Elon and UNC collaborate to help student-athletes

Heather Munro
Contributor | @munroheather

Before stepping foot on the field, student-athletes across the country have one very important test to take.

A test that, if completed accurately, can help a trainer better diagnose concussions in student-athletes.

This is where Caroline Ketcham, professor of exercise science and chair of the department of exercise science, and the Elon BrainCARE Research Institute come in. For more than a year and a half, Elon University has been working with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to conduct concussion research, part of which is baseline concussion testing.

"We've collaborated with UNC on an active rehab grant and this is baseline testing for all of our varsity athletes," Ketcham said. "The idea there is: Does being active during recovery from a concussion improve outcomes; so do athletes return to play sooner? We've always been interested in collaborating with them because they're our neighbors and they do a lot of concussion research down there, so we've worked with them closely."

Before beginning their seasons, all student-athletes must complete a baseline concussion test to be cleared to compete. Ketcham explained that baseline concussion tests



ALEX TOMA | ASSISTANT DESIGN CHIEF

include demographic information, concussion history information, academic information, quality of life measures, a balance assessment and a cognitive assessment of memory. These tests are important because they allow the trainers to understand what the athlete is like on a typical day. They can then refer to these standards when the athlete potentially has a concussion.

Last year, Elon senior and men's golfer Jake Leavitt suffered a concussion during the middle of his fall season, and the feeling of being in a concussed state is one that he struggles to forget. Leavitt describes the feeling as being in a fog, with his ability to do simple things extremely restricted.

During this time, Leavitt worked closely with

his Elon athletic trainer, Veronica Mondaca. Mondaca explains that she has always been very cautious with her athletes and urges them to take time off when they need to recover, a remedy that Leavitt struggled to adhere to.

"It's definitely really difficult to take time off, especially at the time because I was playing really well and it was hard to sit out," Leavitt said. "Honestly, as an athlete we're used to doing stuff to get better and it's more difficult just to sit there and do nothing. They [athletic trainers] gave me a ton of support. They were more urging me to take time off than I had wanted to and they were very good at making sure that I had completely recovered before putting me back into a competitive situation."

Though the Elon Brain-

CARE Research Institute is collaborating with UNC to research active recovery, they have not yet analyzed the results of this research due to it being the start of the school year. But, they have found some interesting information in last year's data.

"One of the things that we have found most interesting at Elon in our research is some of these pre-existing factors that really do influence neurocognitive performance and recovery," Ketcham said. "Some data has shown that people with ADHD are taking longer to recover than people without it, and what's really important for athletes and trainers to understand is: are those symptoms there beforehand, how do we assess that athletes have recovered?"

CONCUSSION RESEARCH

For the past year and a half, Elon has been working with the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill to conduct concussion research.

Ketcham's aim for her research is to gather more information on what can affect recovery time, something both trainers and athletes like Leavitt want to reduce, as long as it is safe to do so.

"It's definitely important to make sure recovery is as quick as possible," Leavitt said. "But at the same time you have to make sure that it's full and don't rush back into it because there are obviously very negative side effects to rushing back in after a concussion. I think that I could have had some long-term problems if I hadn't taken some time off and it would have affected my performance negatively, so I'm glad I did."

With almost all of Elon's varsity student-athletes having been baseline tested already, all that Ketcham and her team can do now is wait so they can begin experimenting with an athlete that has a concussion. Ketcham expects the active rehab research to last another couple of years and following that, wishes to continue her work in concussion studies. She stated she is an advocate for student-athletes. She sees her future concussion research covering more emotional and mental wellness problems and how they affect concussion recovery time.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Indoor track and field starts season

The Elon University women's track and field team started its indoor season this weekend at the JDL College Kickoff Classic at Wake Forest University.

Sophomore thrower Skylar Barthelmes recorded a personal best in the shot put with a toss of 12.98m, shy of the school indoor record of 14.78m set by Charlise Morgan in March 2014. The throw by Barthelmes gave her a fourth-place finish in the event. In the long jump, jumper and fellow sophomore Melody Burke finished sixth after a 5.39m jump.

The Phoenix will have a long break before it sees competition again. The next scheduled event for Elon will be the VMI Keydet Invitational Jan. 19-20 in Lexington, Virginia.

Men's soccer players receive recognition

Four members of the Elon University men's soccer team were named to the 2017 North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Association (NCCSIA) University Division All-State Men's Soccer Teams.

Redshirt junior goalie Matthew Jegier was selected for the first team, while senior midfielder/forward Elijah Agu, junior forward Jaiden Fortune and sophomore defenseman Luke Matthews received second team honors. Jegier was selected for the first team after playing every minute for the Phoenix this season, posting a 0.57 goals-against average and 10 shutouts.

The NCCSIA is group of sports information professionals from all levels of college teams in the state of North Carolina. Nominees were submitted by the professionals and voted on by the NCCSIA members.

Baseball announces 2018 schedule

Starting with a matchup against Pennsylvania State University to begin the season, Elon University baseball coach Mike Kennedy announced his team's 2018 schedule Monday.

The Phoenix begins its 56-game slate on Feb. 16, when it welcomes Penn State, who went 18-37 last year and who Elon has defeated in all previous matchups. Those three games are part of the 37 home games the Phoenix will have throughout the spring.

Elon will face 11 teams during the 2018 season that also played in last year's NCAA tournament, including Radford University, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, the University of Maryland - College Park and fellow Colonial Athletic Association member the University of Delaware.

Men's tennis to start mid January

With the announcement of its 2018 schedule, the Elon University men's tennis team will begin the spring season in the middle of January.

The Phoenix will start its season with a doubleheader on Jan. 14 against North Carolina A&T State University and North Carolina Wesleyan College. The two matchups are part of the 22-match slate ahead for Elon, including a match against the reigning Colonial Athletic Association champion University of North Carolina at Wilmington Seahawks on March 3.

Elon was ranked No. 2 in last year's CAA Championships when the Phoenix was knocked off by the No. 3-ranked College of William & Mary in the semifinals matchup.

THE PHOENIX FOCUS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

RESULTS	6-3
NOV. 30 SOUTH FLORIDA/ELON	79-78
DEC. 2 SAINT PETER'S/ELON	71-65

SCHEDULE

DEC. 7 UNCG/GREENSBORO	7 P.M.
DEC. 17 BOSTON UNIVERSITY/BOSTON	1 P.M.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

RESULTS	6-2
DEC. 2 WAKE FOREST/WINSTON-SALEM	51-53

SCHEDULE

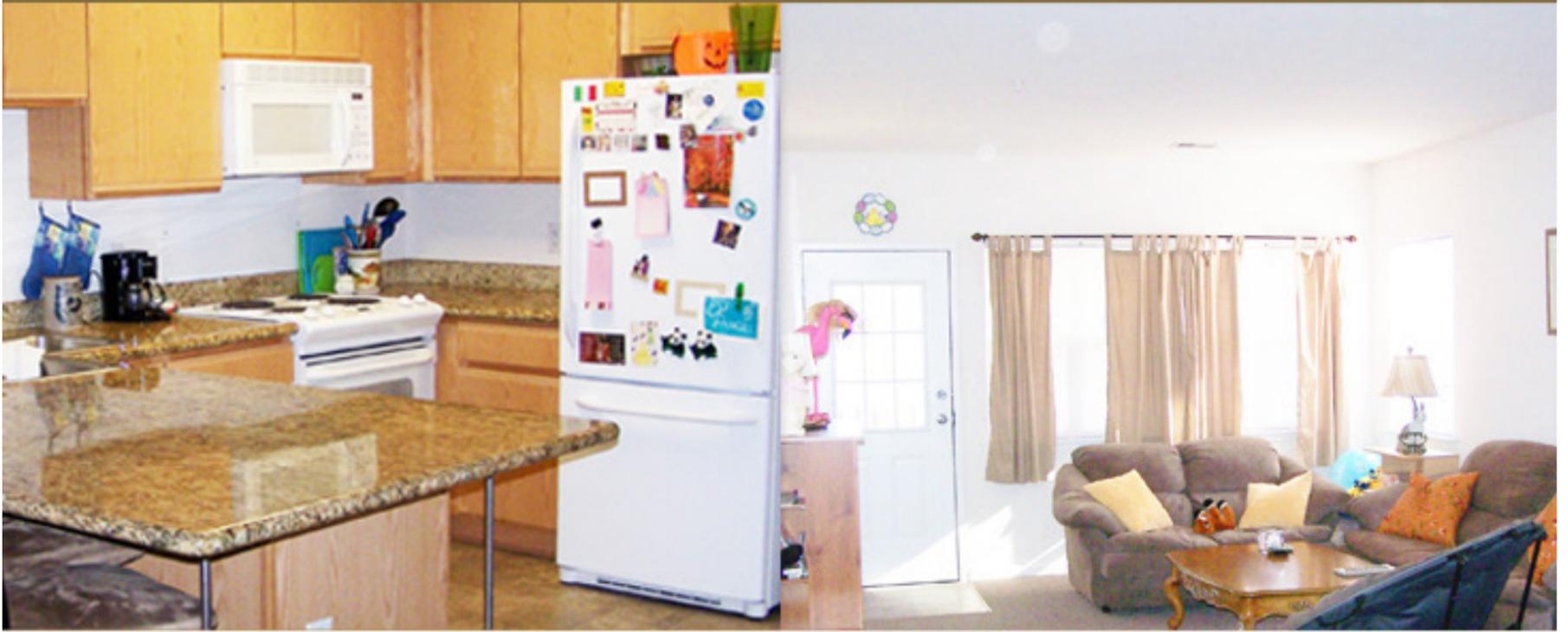
DEC. 6 DAVIDSON/DAVIDSON	7 P.M.
DEC. 16 NC STATE/RALEIGH	7 P.M.



ALEC MANDELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



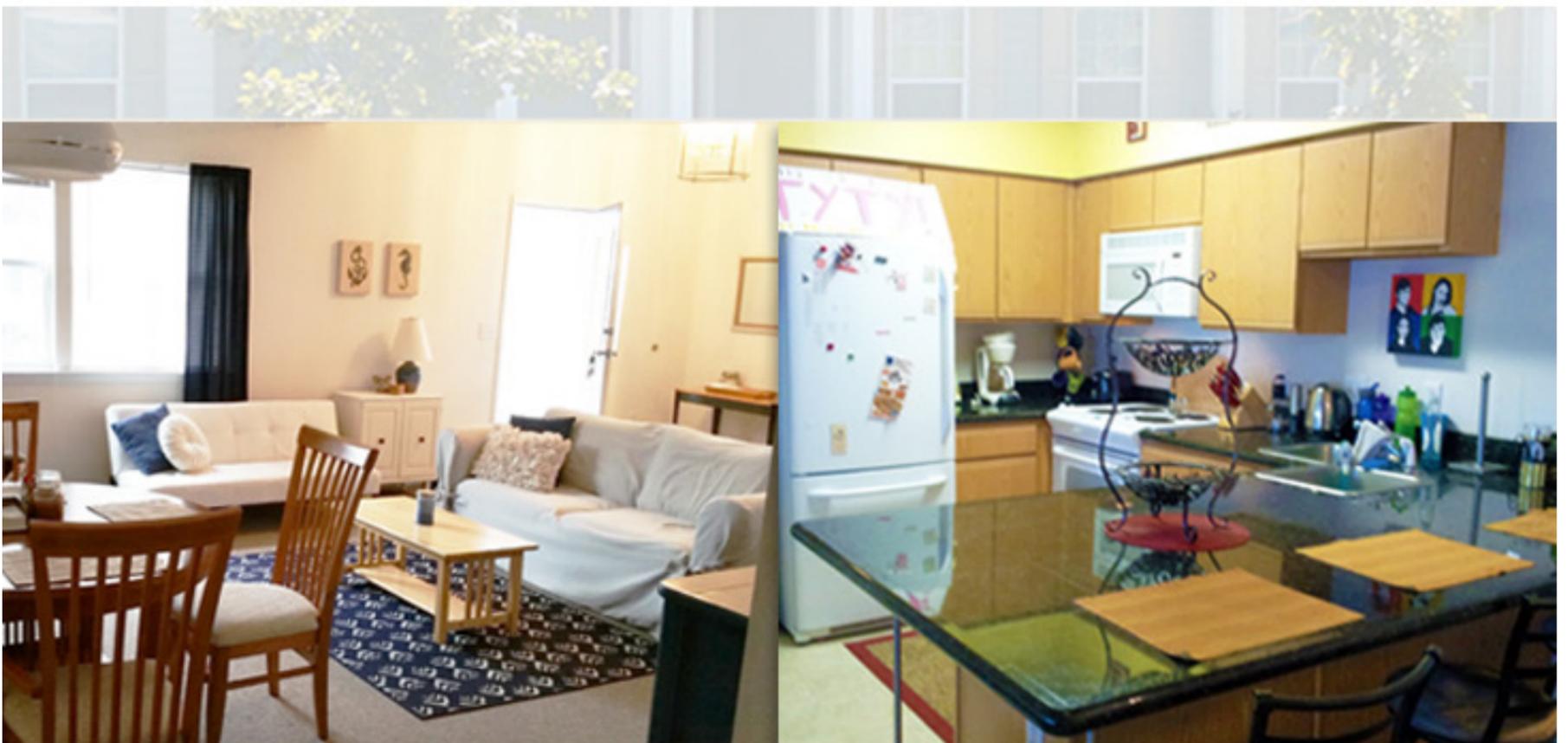
ALEC MANDELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



PROVENCE & EVELLIEN

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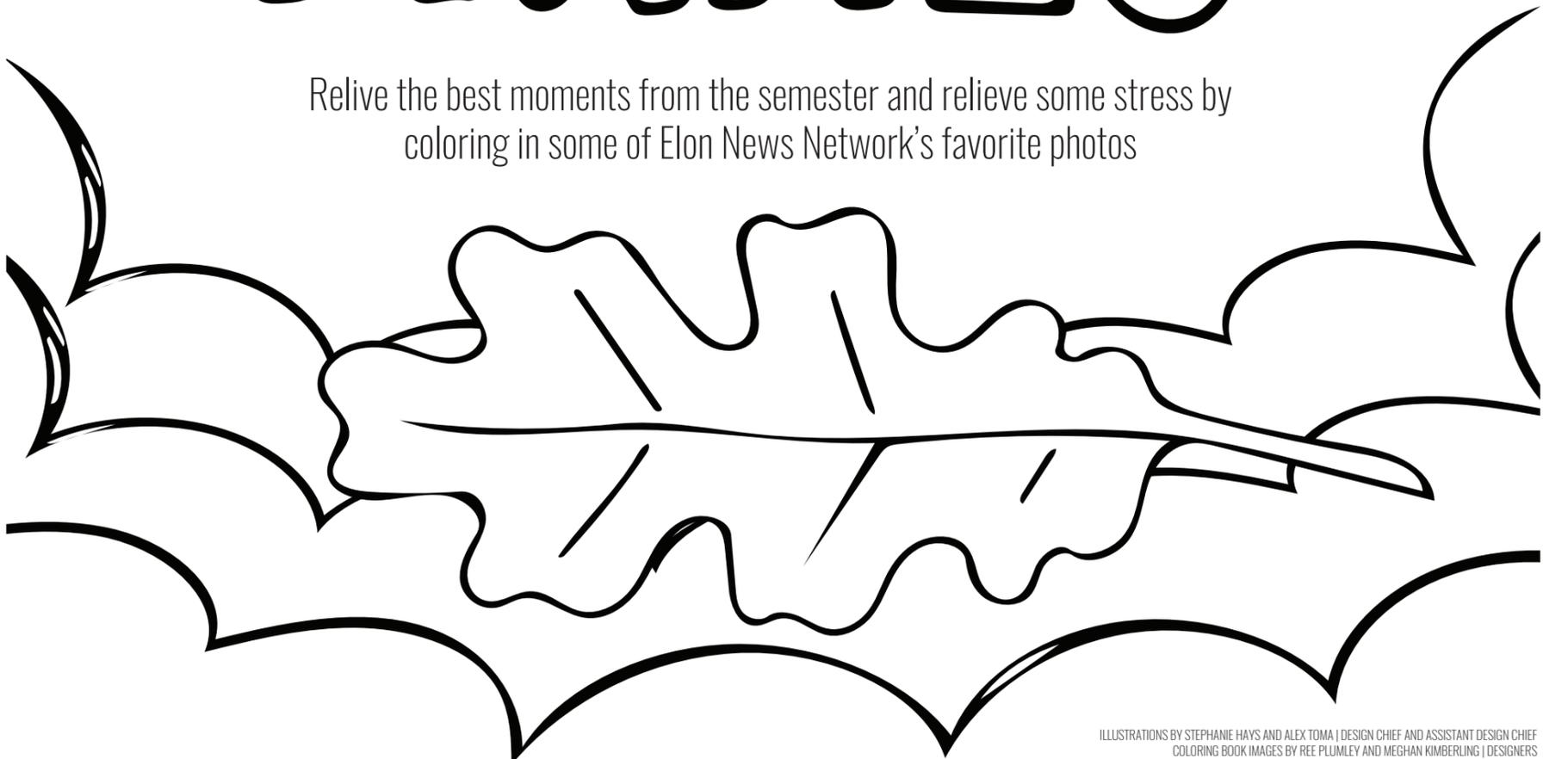
THE PENDULUM



COLOR YOUR
WAY THROUGH

FINALS

Relive the best moments from the semester and relieve some stress by coloring in some of Elon News Network's favorite photos





COREY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Both the men's and the women's cross country teams finished third at the CAA championships. Color a picture of them running.



CORY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon's women's soccer team finished its season with a 9-6-4 record. Color in a picture of midfielder Raket Jonsdottir.

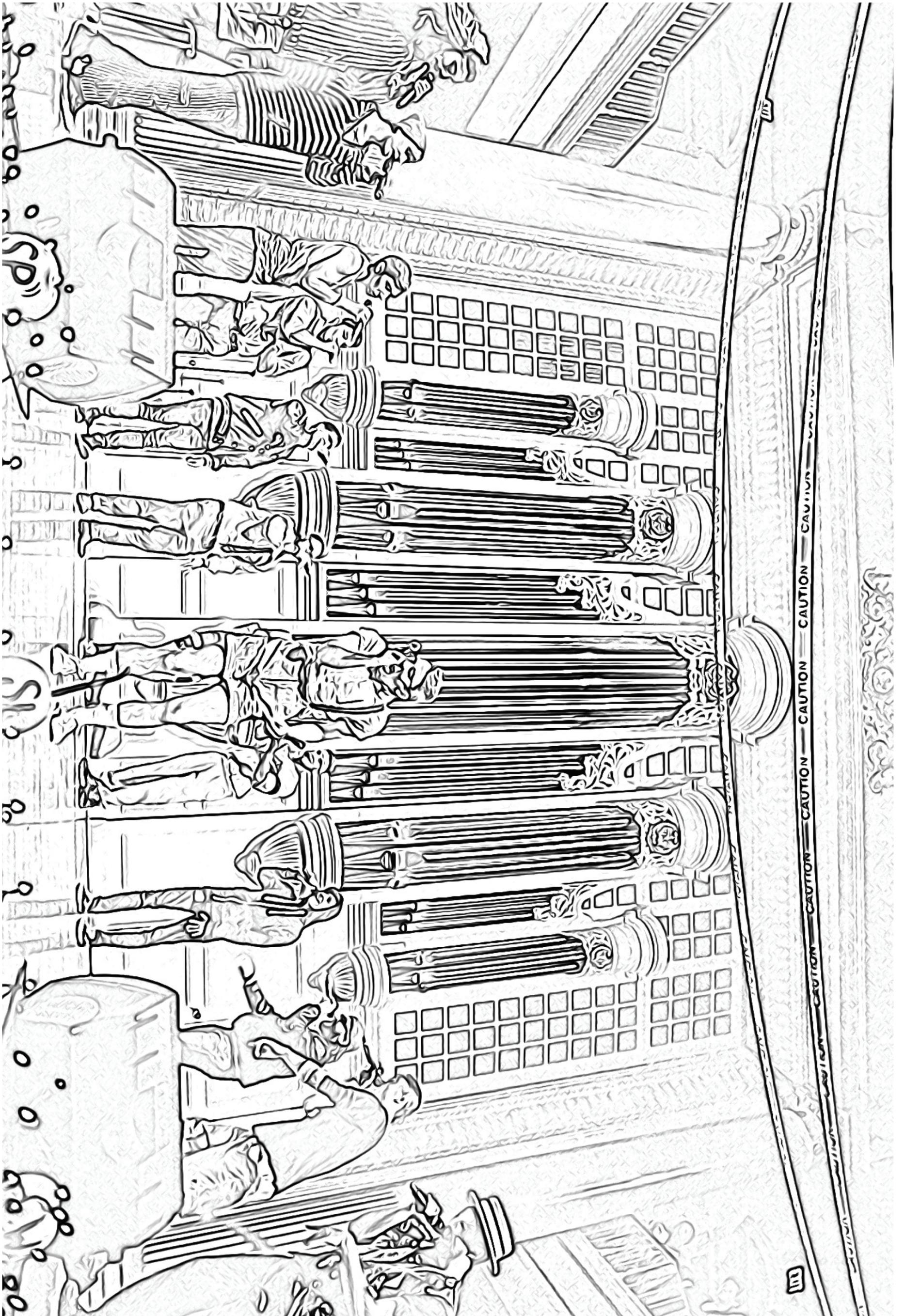


CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

Former United Kingdom Prime Minsiter David Cameron delivered Elon's Fall Convocation. Color in a picture of his entrance.



Pop singer Jon Bellion headlined Elon's Fall Concert. Color in his performance from his visit from Nov. 4.



COREY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Color in a picture of freshman Jack Snow singing during the Acapocalypse concert benefiting Camp Sunshine in Whitley Auditorium Oct. 21.



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

Students showed more enthusiasm this football season as the team excelled. Color in a group of fans in Rhodes Stadium.



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

Connie Book was selected as the ninth president of Elon University. Color a picture of her announcement speech Oct. 9.



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

Elon won its third game of the season against Charleston Southern University. Color in a picture of defensive back Efrim Borders.



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

The Class of 2021 marked the largest freshman class in Elon history. Color in a picture of New Student Convocation.



DIEGO PINEDA | ELON NEWS NETWORK

Senior Kyra Gerber played Ernestina Mooney in "Hello Dolly!" Color in a picture of her performance from Oct. 25.