

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020  
VOLUME 45, EDITION 18  
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

CELEBRATING  
BLACK HISTORY



Jarrod Rudd | Assistant Director  
of Student Involvement  
for Fraternity and Sorority  
Leadership Development  
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Pg. 11

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basketball coach Pg. 14

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women's basketball player  
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bill that plans to  
discount Uber rides

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gives students more  
exercise options

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Avoid a fine and take  
part in the 2020 U.S.  
Census

# THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF  
**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 top of the article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page.

Contact  
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### WHEN WE PUBLISH:

**The Pendulum**  
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**Elon Local News**  
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## CORRECTIONS

### NEWS

No corrections were issued for this section of The Pendulum.

### LIFESTYLE

No corrections were issued for this section of The Pendulum.

### SPORTS

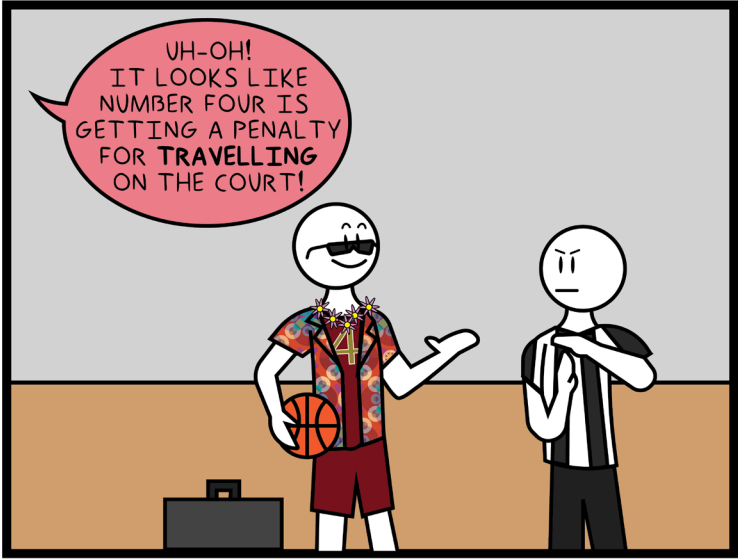
On Page 11 of the Feb. 12 edition, the photo of the men's basketball team had the wrong date. The correct date is Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020.

### OPINIONS

No corrections were issued for this section of The Pendulum.

## COMIC

### TRAVELLING



COMIC SAMS - SAM POROZOK

## CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 25

<b>NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF UKRAINE   7:30 P.M.</b> Schar Center	<b>SPRING COMEDIAN: NICOLE BYER   8 P.M.</b> Center for the Arts McCrary Theatre	<b>LEIGH ANN HALLBERG, EXHIBITION   9 A.M.</b> Arts West Gallery 406	<b>A THURSDAY INSPIRATION   9:50 A.M.</b> McBride Gathering Space Numen Lumen	<b>RIPPLE BREAKOUT SESSIONS   4 P.M.</b> Numen Lumen
19	19	20	20	21
<b>JAZZ FESTIVAL CONCERT   7:30 P.M.</b> Center for the Arts McCrary Theatre	<b>EV! DELIBERATIVE DIALOGUE KICKOFF   4:30 P.M.</b> Lakeside Meeting Room 212	<b>LECTURE: WHITE CHRISTIAN PRIVILEGE   5:30 P.M.</b> McBride Gathering Space, Numen Lumen	<b>MARDI GRAS   6 P.M.</b> McBride Gathering Space, Numen Lumen Pavilion	<b>JOB AND INTERNSHIP EXPO   2 P.M.</b> Alumni Gym
22	24	24	25	25





GRACE TERRY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

An individual opens the Uber app as he tries to find a driver for his upcoming ride.

SGA passes a new bill discounting evening weekend Uber rides, beginning after Spring Break

**Molly Healy**  
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Jonathan Connolly, former Safe Rides student captain, led the push for new Student Government Association legislation that will support a new alternative for secure student transportation during weekend evenings. Connolly said he was inspired to author the bill following the end of Safe Rides last fall. The program, which provided free weekend evening transportation for students, ended after 26 years because of a lack of volunteers and decrease in ridership.

“I never wanted Safe Rides to go away, it just happened. I’m just glad that there is going to be something in its place,” Connolly said.

#### SAFERIDES REIMAGINED

Discounted Uber rates will replace Elon’s previous ride-share program, Safe Rides.

The new bill was co-sponsored by Chief of Staff Deena Elrefai and Deputy Chief of Staff for Research Malia Takei.

The bill, S.B. 20-2.1 — nicknamed “Saferides Reimagined” — plans to allocate \$72,000 to subsidize weekend night Uber rides.

The first phase of this pilot program will begin after Spring Break. Students will get two discounted Uber rides to anywhere within 0.25 miles of campus. The same range as Safe Rides. This radius includes off-campus student residents, such as Crest Apartments.

If the first phase goes well — SGA estimates a 60% usage rate— students will get three rides in fall 2020. There will be a 50% discount with a cap at \$3.50 subsidized. For example, if a student normally pays \$5 for a ride, they will save \$2.50. If they pay \$8 or more, they will save \$3.50.

The rides will only be subsidized between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Passengers will still have the option to share rides.

In order to qualify for a discount, students must tie their Uber accounts to

their Elon emails. SGA Executive President Jack Johnson said he will provide a link to students to register their account for the discount.

The number of rides, the amount subsidized and funds allocated are open to change at the discretion of the SGA Executive Board and adviser if demand is high.

For students taking rides with the discount, the university will have access to GPS data and any complaints students make about the ride to ensure students safety.

For students concerned about traveling alone, Takei said “safety is our number one priority.” The sponsors of the bill encourage students to travel in groups, take advantage of the GPS features and always check the make, model and license plate of the car and the photo of the driver.

“

I NEVER WANTED SAFE RIDES TO GO AWAY, IT JUST HAPPENED. I’M JUST GLAD THAT THERE IS SOMETHING IN ITS PLACE.

**JONATHAN CONNOLLY**  
FORMER SAFE RIDES STUDENT CAPTAIN

#### BY THE NUMBERS

50%

is the maximum discount students will receive when using the Uber app between the hours of 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

#### BY THE NUMBERS

\$72,000

is the amount of money dedicated to the pilot program of “Saferides Reimagined”

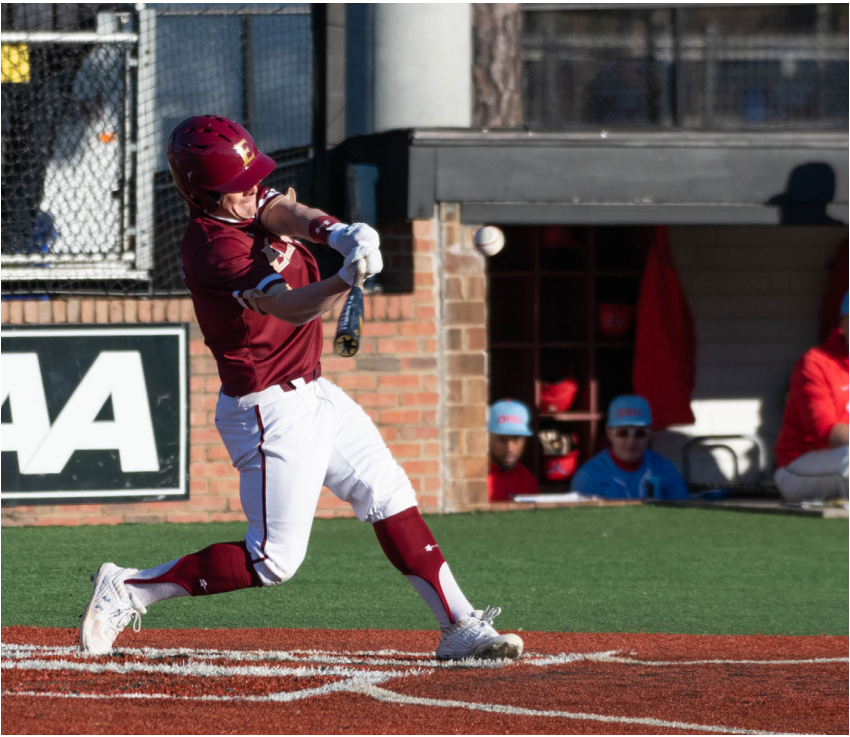


TED THOMAS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Safe Ride vehicles sit idly by on Sept. 8, 2019, after the program was ended because of a lack of volunteers and decline in ridership.



Elon University left fielder Anthony Galason hits a line drive to center field to lead the game for the Phoenix on Friday, Feb. 14. Galason was 2-4 with a 3-run home run in Elon's 16-4 win over Delaware State University.



THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

The annual Lunar New Year Festival opens with a guest performance by the Cambodian Cultural Center of North Carolina on Thursday, Feb. 13.



THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon University guard Hunter Woods drives to the basket in a game against Drexel University on Saturday, Feb. 15. The Phoenix won 75-70.



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Robert Heller, a Holocaust survivor, speaks to Elon University community members about his experience during World War II in McKinnon Hall on Thursday, Feb. 13.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rip Chord, a student a cappella group, performs during the Make-A-Wish Concert in Whitley Auditorium on Saturday, Feb. 15.



Elon University sophomore and guard Brie Perpignan dribbles past Northeastern University's defense in Schar Center on Sunday, Feb. 16. The Huskies beat the Phoenix 69-45.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marrell Elam of Affirmative Groove sings to the crowd at Elon Ball on Saturday, Feb. 15 in Global Commons.



ZACHARY OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR



THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon guard Marcus Sheffield II dunks after running past the University of Delaware's defense in the Phoenix's 81-75 loss on Thursday, Feb. 13 in Schar Center. Sheffield was one of the team's focal points in the game, turning the energy of the game around with his second-half scoring run.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon University pitcher and junior Jared Wetherbee pitches against Delaware State University on Friday, Feb. 14 in Latham Park. The Phoenix beat the Hornets 16-4.



# VOTERS SET TO DECIDE POTENTIAL LOCAL TAX INCREASE

Profits made from potential increase would go toward education

**Kieran Ungemach**  
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

The March 3 primary ballot for Alamance County will have a referendum to establish a quarter-cent sales tax on the county, while also reducing property taxes for local taxpayers.

If passed, Alamance County residents would see their total local and state sales tax increase from 6.75% to 7%, which would provide about \$6 million in revenue for the county.

According to the ballot, the 0.25% increase would be applied to all county sales and use taxes.

In a 4-1 decision, Alamance County Commissioners voted in an Oct. 21, 2019 meeting to put the referendum on the primary ballot rather than the general election in November 2020.

Tim Sutton (R), the board member who voted against having the tax vote on the primary ballot, said in the Oct. 21 meeting that putting the vote on the primary ballot rather than the general election would be passing the tax on the easier voting cycle to get it approved, leading to a lack of full transparency to the public.

The four commissioners who favor the current referendum said it could allow them to factor the savings into the county budget before they take a vote in June.

“The next time we would have an opportunity to adjust the tax rate would be the next budget cycle in June,” said Steve Carter (R), the vice chair of the board who made the motion to add the referendum to the ballot. “So if we get it on earlier, and if it passes, we get to do something for the benefit of our taxpayers.”

Other commissioners explained that people who shop in Alamance County are already paying more than 6.75% due to the cash registers already rounding up to 7% when conducting sales.

“I think what’s really interesting to remember is that our sales tax right now is 6.75 cents, and they can’t charge three quarters of a cent,” said Amy Scott Galey (R), the chair of the board. “I think if



Members of the Alamance County Commissioners come together for a meeting on Monday, Feb. 17.

KIERAN UNGEMACH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

“

THEY’RE (YOUNG PEOPLE)  
NOT EVEN GOING TO  
EXPERIENCE AN IMPACT  
FROM THE SALES TAX

**STEVE CARTER**  
VICE CHAIR

people look at their receipts, they will see that they’re actually paying more than 6.75 cents anyway because the cash register rounds up to the next amount.”

In 2018, the county voted on and approved education bonds for the Alamance-Burlington school system and Alamance Community College, totaling over \$180 million.

The same sales tax that will be voted on this cycle was also on the 2018 ballot, but did not pass.

“If you voted for \$180 million in school bonds, you were going to have to find a way to pay for it,” Carter said. “Taxes in some form would have to go up.”

Carter said he thinks the sales tax will

have a minimal impact on Elon University students because the tax excludes groceries and gas, however the sales tax will go towards retail purchases.

He said people from outside of Alamance County who drive through and spend money at places like Alamance Crossing, the Tanger Outlets, convenience stores and fast food restaurants will be the ones impacted by the sales tax.

“Most young people living at the university probably aren’t buying a lot of clothes while they are here,” he said. “What they’re spending their money on is gas for their cars and food for their apartment. They’re not even going to experience an impact from the sales tax.”

# STUDENT APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR SGA’S FUTURE FINANCE BOARD

The student committee, which decides student organization budgets, has seven open positions for next year

**Emery Eisner**  
Elon News Network | @eisneremery

The Student Government Association Finance Board — the committee that allocates funding to student organizations — has seven open positions for the next academic year.

Those include four representatives outside of SGA and class treasurers for the sophomore, junior and senior classes. A freshman class treasurer will be elected at the beginning of next year.

The treasurer’s manual states that in the first year of the new funding model, members of the board are appointed by the executive treasurer.

But that’s changing this year, as the positions will now be elected by the student body.

Amanda Yaffa, the current executive treasurer, said the elected positions may lower the diversity of perspectives on the board.

“When I was picking the non-SGA representatives, a big thing I was looking for was diversity in terms of majors,” Yaffa said. “I’m a little afraid that everyone that runs might be a business major, and we

don’t want that. We want representation from different parts of campus.”

This representation is the part freshman Kiara Hunter said she enjoys the most about her experience on the board. “[It’s] not just a collection of finance and accounting majors,” Hunter said.

Junior Andrew Ciampa, another member of the board, said that as a political science and history major, he values “good conversations coming to campus,” and that he tries to “make it as easy as possible” to bring these conversations to Elon.

According to Yaffa, the finance board will meet twice a week next year to discuss and vote on budget requests submitted by student organizations. Yaffa said the decision to increase the number of meetings was made in order to respond to requests more frequently.

“A lot of events happen on campus, and a lot of people don’t know they’re funded by student government,” Yaffa said.

According to the official finance board allocations document, the board allocated \$206,187.24 from Oct. 22, 2019 to Feb. 3, 2020.

During this time, 290 requests to 67 organizations and four individuals were granted.

During a typical finance board meeting, Yaffa briefly presents the information of each budget request to the finance board. Members then discuss “anything that might come up” during the allocation and vote on the request, Yaffa said.



Executive treasurer Amanda Yaffa covers the agenda during the Finance Board’s meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 18.

ABBY GIBBS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

“At the end of the day, I think it’s important because we’re having some awesome conversation topics,” Yaffa said.

Yaffa said anyone “interested in having respectful, honest conversation” or influencing “what happens at Elon” would be a good candidate for the finance board.

In addition to “a strong sense of

dedication” and attention to detail, SGA advisor Jana Lynn Patterson said a member of the finance board should be “willing to recuse themselves if a request presents itself where they may be biased.”

Those applying for open finance board positions must do so via PhoenixConnect by Monday, Feb. 24.





# ELON'S 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

The four themes of Boldly Elon will lead the university's development for the next decade

Kyra O'Connor | Enterprise Story Coordinator | @ko\_reports

**A**FTER EIGHTEEN MONTHS OF planning and contributions from thousands of Elon community members, Boldly Elon, the 2030 strategic plan, was formally released to the public on Feb. 11.

The strategic plan is used to guide Elon's development and inform the community about what the university hopes to achieve in the next 10 years.

According to the previous strategic plan, titled The Elon Commitment, from 2010 to 2020 the plan aimed to affirm Elon's place "among colleges and universities known for academic excellence and exceptional student achievement."

The university's fifth strategic plan intends to define Elon's

position as a top-100 national university in the next decade.

President Connie Book said that over the past ten years, Elon has transformed in many ways, from doubling need-based financial aid, ensuring 100% access to study abroad and increasing the residential campus by 1,600 beds. Other notable additions include establishing the School of Health Sciences and the construction of Schar Center.

"In the late 1980's, Elon College was ranked 39th in the Southern region with a 40% graduation rate," Book said. "Through careful planning and wonderful teamwork, today we are a national university, ranked number 84 in the country and with a four-year graduation rate that ranks number 35 among

national universities."

The 2030 plan is comprised of four themes: thrive, rise, connect and learn. Jeff Stein, vice president for strategic communications, served as the co-chair of the new strategic plan. Stein said the most exciting part of the planning process was the inclusion of the entire Elon community.

"One aspect that was very reaffirming in this process is that the entire community said we need to double down on engaged learning and mentoring," Stein said. "We need to stick with who we are and double our efforts to be a leader in engaged learning, to support the teaching and learning that we're so good at and well known for. That really makes a difference."

THRIVE

RISE

CONNECT

LEARN

An aerial view of Global Neighborhood, which is home to nearly 600 students, taken in fall 2019.



# THRIVE

The new strategic plan champions a campus culture of inclusion, physical health and mental well-being

**Madalyn Howard**  
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Boldly Elon's second theme, 'Thrive,' promises a campus-wide community in which every student, faculty and staff member can do just that, according to the strategic plan's full text.

In creating 'Thrive,' the strategic planning committee combined the research of past initiatives like the 2015 Presidential Task Force on Social Climate and Out-of-Class Engagement and the Council on Wellness and Well-Being to create a holistic approach, ensuring every individual will experience a greater sense of belonging on Elon's campus.

"Plans often build upon each other," said Vice President for Student Life Jon Dooley. "What you see in the Boldly Elon Strategic Plan is absolutely a continuation of previous work."

While the prior strategic plan, The Elon Commitment, focused little on community health and wellness, Boldly Elon indicates a desire for every member of the Elon community to achieve their full potential.

The plan includes the implementation of new policies and workshops that cover all aspects of well-being: emotional, physical, financial, social and spiritual. In implementing these campus wide projects, Elon hopes to serve as a national model for programs and research regarding student, faculty and staff wellness, according to the full text.

Boldy Elon envisions an increasingly diverse campus community that provides members of any race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation and socioeconomic background with ample opportunities to succeed socially, academically and professionally.

Initiatives listed to achieve this vision include admissions benchmarks intended to strengthen the representation and retention rate of underrepresented groups as well as a proposed goal to double international enrollment. The plan marks an increased commitment to support offices on campus devoted to students of marginalized and underrepresented groups and their success. Specifically referenced are staffing increases across these offices.

The 'Thrive' theme also sees a number of major updates to campus infrastructure. According to the plan, renovations to the Koury Athletic Center will reimagine the

recreational space as a community hub dedicated to physical and mental wellness. The Moseley Student Center will also be renovated in an effort to bring, according to the text, a "vibrant" energy to the heart of campus, though this was not elaborated on.

In addition to renovations, Dooley hopes that an increase in on-campus residency will further bolster the Elon community.

"When you think of the best universities in the United States as it relates to student success, graduation rates and retention rates, one feature that many of them share is that they are highly residential" he said.

Elon currently sees about 68% of students living in on-campus housing, but it is looking to raise that number to 80% by 2030. The administration hopes to achieve this through the renovation of existing residences and the addition of new dormitories. Although the location of these new residence halls has not been confirmed, they will have the capacity to house an additional 1,200 students.

In the coming years, Elon will also turn to more sustainable practices in the hope of becoming a carbon-neutral campus by 2037. These practices include investing in renewable energy sources, cutting campus energy consumption by 20% and continuing to construct green buildings certified by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system.

Administration believes the transition to a more environmentally-conscious campus will teach students the importance of sustainability while benefiting the greater Elon community.

Boldy Elon finally cites the importance of maintaining exceptional faculty and staff, saying they are "driving forces" behind Elon.

"When you look for something like wellness and wellbeing or an inclusive community, those aren't things that you can just achieve within a student body," Dooley said. "The importance of focusing on faculty and staff is to create a community where everyone thrives."

The 'Thrive' theme ends anticipating that, in the next 10 years, the university will continue to recruit and retain a diverse, adept and driven group of faculty and staff. By increasing compensation, advancing benefits and providing professional development opportunities, Boldly Elon hopes to foster a healthy work environment for faculty and staff. According to Dooley, this will in turn affect students.

"We want you to live and learn in an environment where students, faculty and staff are all promoting their own wellness. And that kind of a community, in turn, will have a positive impact on student learning and student success."



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A view from above the McMichael Science Center, where the Innovation Quad will be located behind.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

An aerial view of East Neighborhood, completed this academic school year, where over 300 students live.

Strategic plan seeks to increase recruitment, graduation rates and financial aid opportunities

**Elliot Rivette**  
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

According to Elon University's new strategic plan, there will be a focus on increasing Elon's admissions footprint. Additionally, the university plans to increase graduation and retention rates as well as expand and diversify recruitment.

With a graduation rate of 83.8%, Elon ranks 91 among private universities in the U.S. Specifically, the strategic plan set the goal of reaching 85% in the next four years and 90% in six years.

The strategic plan outlines how Elon will continue to provide merit and need-based aid.

Patrick Murphy, director of financial aid, said a certain amount of money is consistently awarded by the admissions office in the form of presidential scholarships, Elon engagement scholarships and various fellows program scholarships. Murphy said "a main thrust of the strategic plan is raising money for more scholarships."

The Odyssey Scholars program, one of the programs addressed in the strategic

plan, lends a financial hand to students in need. The Odyssey program is a part of the Center for Access and Success, and has a vision of assisting students who have financial limitations. Students selected for the program not only receive financial assistance, including study abroad and book stipends, but through the program scholars also build a strong network of peers and mentors who can assist them at Elon and beyond.

Ashley Billie, junior, said one of the things she has appreciated about the Odyssey program is the sense of community.

"Third floor Mooney... that's our second home, for a lot of us," Billie said.

Another aspect Billie has appreciated is financial empowerment workshops she has been able to attend through the program, because it is "not something a lot of the students had no prior knowledge about."

Resume crafting, portfolio development, undergraduate research, service -learning and more are available through the Odyssey program.

"The next 10 years... there is going to be a heavy emphasis on fundraising for the endowments that feed those scholarships," Murphy said.

According to Murphy, in 2009 Elon was able to provide aid to about 56 students. Currently there are 136 Odyssey Scholars. The strategic plan projects

“THE NEXT 10 YEARS... THERE IS GOING TO BE A HEAVY EMPHASIS ON FUNDRAISING FOR THE ENDOWMENTS THAT FEED THOSE SCHOLARSHIPS.”

**PATRICK MURPHY**  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL AID

that the Odyssey Scholars program will increase to 400 students. From 2009 to 2020, the university has increased the amount of money dedicated to the Odyssey program. Scholarships for students range from \$7,500 to \$25,000, Murphy said, with financial aid "filling in all the other pieces, so they all end up [in] relatively the same place."

"The money that is going to the 135 students is a little over \$2.5 million," Murphy said. "Whereas 10 years ago, we were spending about \$940,000."

# RISE

BY THE NUMBERS

136

students have recieved the Odyssey Scholarship this year.

\$2.5 million

support the current students in the Odyssey Scholars program.



# CONNECT



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Some of the profits from the newly opened Inn at Elon will be used to support additional student scholarships.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon Elementary, just built by Elon University, educates approximately 740 students from prekindergarten to fifth grade.

The plan outlines new investments in alumni, sports and the surrounding area

**Lauren Singles**  
Elon News Network | @lauren\_singles

The ‘Connect’ section of Elon’s new strategic plan outlines developments for Elon alumni, sports and the town of Elon. ‘Connect’ introduces more staffing and programs for alumni professional development, prioritizes athletic success and creates new partnerships with the town of Elon.

“What we heard from alumni over the last few years and particularly in this process was that they wanted to come back to Elon,” Vice President for Strategic Initiatives Jeff Stein said. “Alumni were clear that they want further professional development and further professional networks.”

The biggest initiative in alumni development will be the creation of three Elon learning centers in Los Angeles, New York City and Washington D.C. These hubs will be accessible to alumni, current students and prospective students, although the exact details have not been decided yet.

“Hopefully they will combine some learning spaces, some collaborative working spaces, but create a central location where those activities can occur,” Stein said.

The strategic plan also addresses sports development, wanting to increase championship appearances and wins in the Colonial Athletic Association and the NCAA. According to Stein, the university will build new facilities and improve old ones, including new indoor spaces to allow athletes to practice regardless of weather conditions.

“We know that athletics is a great learning opportunity for students and we want to continue to stay focused leading there, on and off the court,” Stein said. “I think we recognize that the Phoenix spirit is something that transcends many communities all across the world.”

Stein said funding for the strategic plan will come from a combination of the annual budget and fundraising.

“At Elon, we align our annual institutional priorities and our annual budget with the strategic plan. One way we ensure that we focus on and complete the strategic plan is to build the annual

budget around the priorities and initiatives of the strategic plan. There is no exact formula or percentage used,” Stein said.

Finally, the plan explores how Elon University and the town of Elon can collaborate and create better partnerships.

“These four themes really encapsulate where we want to go, partly being connecting with our local community, so that we’re not going to be an island of prosperity,” Stein said.

Emily Sharpe, a town of Elon alderwoman, said that the downtown area is a focus for improvement. Sharpe said she wants to increase retail space to encourage new businesses to move in.

“We have a lot of places, a lot of businesses, that would love to come into downtown Elon, but we don’t have anywhere to put them,” Sharpe said. “The retail space that is currently being used by the university could really be usable space for improving the downtown retail.”

The alderwoman said that the old Lighthouse bar property, black box theater and the church on Trollinger Avenue are being used by the university but have potential for retail development.

Sharpe said one of the issues with the current relationship between the town and the university has to do with services provided by the town of Elon to university students. She said the town’s limited budget is a concern when it has to provide for a large number of people.

“We have to support anywhere from 10,000 to 12,000 people, but we only have about 4,000 people who are in tax residence,” Sharpe said. The university is considered a nonprofit entity, meaning it is not a taxable property like other parts of the town.

With the number of students increasing each year, she said that the town struggles to keep up with the constant growth.

According to Sharpe, the university provides about \$150,000 a year to the town – but the costs of services to the university are much higher.

“If you were to take every single call that our fire department reports to, a large percentage of those are tied to the university,” Sharpe said. “It’s a huge cost – it’s a lot more than \$150,000 a year.”

Nevertheless, Sharpe said that because of the university, the town is able to keep businesses running. “The university certainly provides us with a lot of opportunity,” Sharpe said.

‘Learn’ section of strategic plan highlights Elon’s hope to build a new engineering school

**Brian Segovia**  
Elon News Network | @brian\_segovia

As part of Elon University’s new 2030 strategic plan, the ‘Learn’ theme introduces initiatives in science, technology, engineering and math programs across campus. The plan specifies a new School of Engineering as well as a new nursing program.

“In terms of engineering, nursing and S.T.E.M. in general, the programs that students today are looking for, tomorrow we will have,” said Jeff Stein, vice president for strategic initiatives, who served as the co-chair of the 2030 strategic plan.

The plan will include an “Innovation Quad.” This space will be the foundation for a new School

of Engineering, as well as a multi-purposeful space that will include a garage-style door and heavy-duty power tools. According to President Connie Book, the university will organize a committee when it is time to decide which majors it wants to incorporate with the new school.

The ‘Learn’ theme of the plan also covers the growth of the planned nursing program within the established School of Health Sciences, which was introduced in the 2020 strategic plan. The strategic plan seeks to create opportunities for nursing students to choose between graduate and undergraduate programs.

“Last time we did a major construction ... project for S.T.E.M. was McMichael Science Center and that was 1998, so since then the majors in S.T.E.M. have increased by 300%,” Book said. “If you look at the outlook for employment, it is where the employment growth is.”

Book also said in the past, the

community has expressed the need for more S.T.E.M. programs, which is something Elon made sure to incorporate in its new strategic plan.

The planning committee sees its School of Engineering as a way to compete with established engineering schools such as North Carolina State University. President Book said the challenge for this new school is that “Elon is starting an Engineering program 100 years later than NC State. The disadvantage is that if you want to interact with an alum, we don’t have any engineering alums.”


According to President Book, one advantage of Elon’s plan for the new engineering school is the focus on the future. She explains the university has plans to create much more future-oriented, innovative spaces than what other universities have to offer.

“We require all of our engineering students to take entrepreneurship and to study abroad. That’s a global thinker,” Book said

# LEARN



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Feb. 20

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH TRIVIA NIGHT WITH COLONNADES, EAST AND HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS**

**WHERE:** The Oak House  
**WHEN:** 8 P.M.

Go for a rousing night of trivia centered around black history of Elon University and the United States. Gift cards will be awarded to the winning teams.

Feb. 21

**BLACKOUT**

**WHERE:** The Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education – Moseley 221  
**WHEN:** 4 P.M.

A celebratory gathering highlighting black LGBTQIA individuals and culture.

Feb. 24

**KHYATI Y. JOSHI, “WHITE CHRISTIAN PRIVILEGE: THE ILLUSION OF RELIGIOUS EQUITY IN AMERICA”**

**WHERE:** McBride Gathering Space, Numen Lumen Pavilion  
**WHEN:** 5:30 P.M.

Khyati Y. Joshi will speak about the connections between Christian privilege and white supremacy.




Feb. 25

**“COMMUNION” – BLACK HISTORY MONTH DANCE PERFORMANCE**

**WHERE:** McCrary Theatre  
**WHEN:** 7:30 P.M.

Sharing voices, space and ideas, “Communion” seeks to build community through black art and movement.



Feb. 26

**DEEP: THE 1994 CRIME BILL AND THE BLACK COMMUNITY. THE REAL STORY.**

**WHERE:** Moseley 215  
**WHEN:** 5:30 P.M.

This program explores the lived impacts of the Crime Bill on crime, justice and communities of color.

Feb. 27

**MUSLIM COOL: RACE, RELIGION AND HIP HOP IN THE UNITED STATES**

**WHERE:** LaRose Digital Theatre  
**WHEN:** 7 P.M.

Su’ad Abdul Khabeer will offer a lecture and performance exploring the intersection of race, religion and popular culture.



# CAMPUS DEMOGRAPHICS DIVERSIFY

# AS BLACK ENROLLMENT STAGNATES

While diversity at Elon increases, black student enrollment remains similar

**Mackenzie Wilkes**  
Politics Editor | @macwilkes

Glenda Phillips-Hightower was the first black student to attend Elon in 1963, and Eugene Perry was the first black student to graduate in 1969.

Now, freshman Trinity Battle is one of 342 black undergraduate students at Elon in the 2019-20 academic year.

Adorned on the wall at the top of the stairs to the second floor of Moseley Center — just steps from the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education — are portraits of Phillips-Hightower and Perry to commemorate the experiences of black students at Elon. Battle said these portraits remind her of that history.

“I pass them every time I go to the CREDE, so it’s really nice to be able to look at them and be like, ‘I’m here because of them,’” she said.

The university has enrolled between 260 and 346, black students a year for roughly two decades.

While black student enrollment has remained steady, the number of students of color — which includes both black and other minority students — has increased.

“BECAUSE EVEN BEYOND FEBRUARY, WE’RE STILL BLACK. WE’RE STILL HAPPY ABOUT THAT. WE’RE STILL CELEBRATING EACH OTHER.

**TRINITY BATTLE**  
FRESHMAN

One of the university’s goals in the 2030 strategic plan, Boldy Elon, is to “expand and diversify admissions” by recruiting from a wide range of races and ethnic groups in the U.S. and abroad.

The plan, however, does not specify what this recruitment looks like.

Elon’s black history began with Phillips-Hightower in 1963 and Perry in 1969, and a decade later, Bryan Colson was elected the first black president of the Student Government Association and became the first black editor-in-chief of The Pendulum.

While enrollment numbers of black students remain consistent, black student life continues to expand. Battle lives in the African Diaspora Living Learning Community that was created a

year ago. She said living there helped her adjust to life on a predominantly white campus.

“I live on the floor. I’m always in the CREDE. I am just always injecting myself in situations where there will be people who look like me or relate to me on that level,” she said.

The university does have a plan to continue enrolling racially and ethnically diverse students — including black students.

Vice President for Enrollment Greg Zaiser said that university enrollment efforts include presenting at diverse high schools and college fairs, sending “diversity brochure(s)” promoting Elon resources such as the CREDE and working with community-based organizations that support students from under-represented communities.

### BLACK STUDENT POPULATION

342

The number of black students that are currently enrolled at Elon

Currently, there are 342 black students on campus, an increase from 260 in 2002-03, but the percentage of black students compared to the student population is lower.

This means that even though the university is enrolling more students, only a small portion of those students are black.

Zaiser said the university is seeking a class size of 1,725 for the 2020-2021 academic year and is looking to increase the number of ALANAM students, which includes African-American/Black, Latino/Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, Alaskan Native and multiracial students.

There is no projected enrollment specifically for black students next school year, but Zaiser said the university wants to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of ALANAM students from the class of 2023’s 18%.

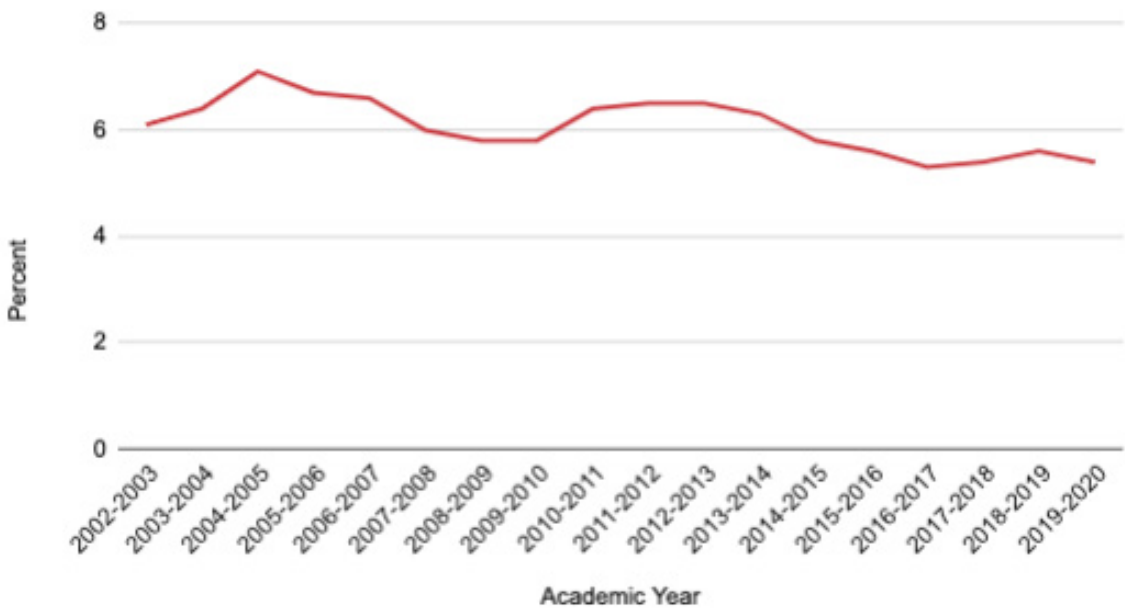
As the number of students of color increases, so does the percentage of black faculty. Over the past decade, the university has seen an increase in full-time black faculty from 5.5% in 2010-11 to 7.2% in the current academic year.

Elon’s African & African-American Studies program was established in 1994 under K. Wilhelmina Boyd, and the first independent major in African & African-American Studies was designed by Sowande’ Mustakeem ’00.

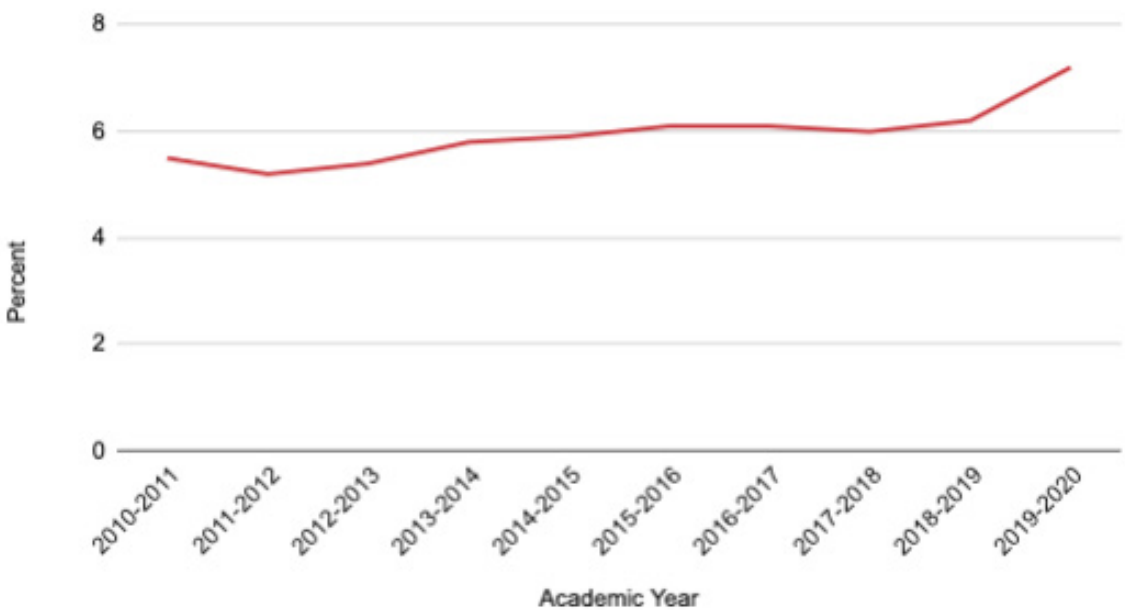
While Battle said she loves connecting with black students over shared history during the month of February, being black at Elon goes beyond the month.

“Because even beyond February, we’re still black,” she said. “We’re still happy about that. We’re still celebrating each other.”

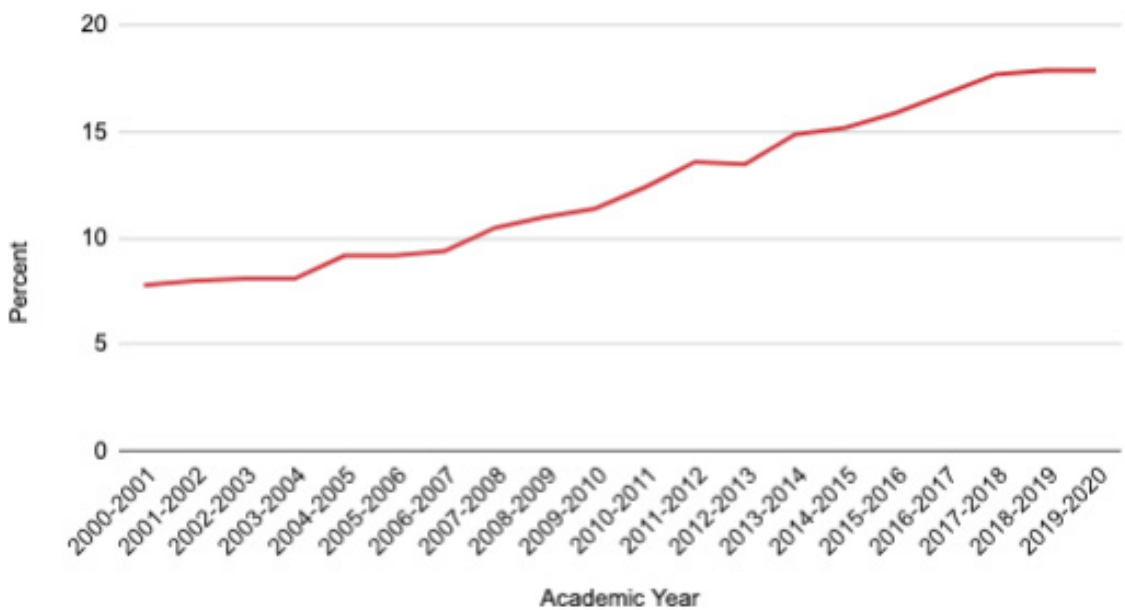
Percentage of Black Students Enrolled at Elon



Percentage of Black Faculty at Elon



Percentage of Students of Color at Elon





# DIVERSIFYING GREEK LIFE ON CAMPUS

Historically black greek organizations challenge campus stereotypes

**Quinn Corrigan**  
Elon News Network | @quinn\_corrigan

In recent years, the National Pan-Hellenic Council developed a larger presence on Elon University's campus.

According to the the Elon University website, NPHC was founded in the 1930s at Howard University as a space for African-American students to participate in greek life.

In the 2018-19 Elon Fact Book it was stated that only 5.6% of the student body identifies as African-American. Elon didn't introduce its first NPHC chapter to campus until the late 90s. There are now nearly 70 students throughout the seven different chapters on campus.

Of the seven chapters, there are four fraternities: Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi and Phi Beta Sigma, and three sororities: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta and Zeta Phi Beta.

Delta Sigma Theta was the first historically black greek organization to open on Elon's campus in 1981, and seven others followed after it. Most of the chapters at Elon have been successful with membership, excluding Sigma Gamma Rho sorority which closed in 2002 due to lack of members.

Assistant Director of Student Involvement for Fraternity and Sorority Leadership Development, Jarrod Rudd said Elon does not intend to bring back Sigma Gamma Rho. Instead, Rudd said,



Quinn Corrigan | Staff Photographer  
Jarrod Rudd, assistant director of student involvement for fraternity and sorority leadership development, speaks at the "More Than Just a Step Show: Black Greek Lettered Organizations" event on Monday, Feb. 17.

the university wants to focus on growing the membership numbers for the organizations that are already on campus.

"Once we get organizations we already have more exposure and we can look at adding the additional two," Rudd said.

According to Rudd, he believes the 2,600 students on campus involved in greek life find unique opportunities, allowing them to build relationships with members of other chapters.

"The size of our community gives members of all organizations the opportunity to meet such a wide variety of people and have these amazing experiences," Rudd said.

One of the differences between NPHC organizations and other greek organizations on campus is the focus on uplifting the community, Rudd said.

For members of NPHC, Rudd said there is a major emphasis put on what they can do directly within the community.

Rudd said each council takes the time to directly work with the community aside from raising money for their philanthropies.

Along with focusing on their individual philanthropies and chapter goals, Rudd said there is also a great deal of collaboration within the NPHC community.

Every month, members of NPHC have "town hall" meetings where all seven councils come together and talk about what is going well and what they can fix.

This spring they are hosting a NPHC celebration week which will consist of several events celebrating the work they have done on campus throughout the year.

For students wanting to get involved in fraternities and sororities on campus Rudd encourages them not to be caught up in stereotypes and high numbers of involvement.

"Think about your own values, and how they match a certain organization, rather than changing them to fit one," Rudd said.

## MAKE HEADLINES

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- Advertising/Sales
- Web





Venessa Corbett, surrounded by Elon University’s women’s basketball team and President Connie Book in Schar Center on Sunday, Feb. 16., as she receives a plaque commemorating her accomplishments on the team.

# THE PHOENIX SENDS ITS FIRST FEMALE JERSEY INTO THE RAFTERS

Venessa Corbett is the first female athlete to have her jersey retired

**Colby Cook**  
Elon News Network | @cook\_colby20

As Venessa Corbett stepped onto the hardwood in Elon’s Schar Center shortly after her 60th birthday, she was greeted by the same raucous cheering, the unmistakable smell of popcorn and the bright shining lights that illuminated her Elon hall of fame basketball career in Alumni Gym.

Only this time, she wasn’t strapping on her high-tops. She was standing in the middle of the court as a pioneer in Elon women’s sports. She would become the first ever female Phoenix athlete to have her jersey retired.

Corbett holds single-season school records in points with 698 in 1979-80, 23.1 average points per game in 1978-79, 143 free throws made in 1980-81 and 15.3 rebounds per game in 1978-79. She is also Elon’s women’s basketball’s leading scorer with 2,430 points. Ali Ford, who played at Elon from 2009-13, is second all-time with 2,020 points. Corbett was named an All-American in back-to-back seasons, 1980 and 1981.

“I’m really honored,” Corbett said. “The biggest thing is to still be here to see the event, and that’s the biggest honor [to have] my family here, my friends here and my teammates.”

Corbett’s jersey retirement comes on a very special day, as the game was the designated “Play4Kay” game, in which schools across the country celebrate former inaugural coach Kay

Yow. Though Yow was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1987, she continued to mentor young women in both the college and olympic ranks for years, having an immeasurable impact on young women while fighting a deadly disease. Yow’s determination and valor lead to the creation of the Kay Yow Cancer Fund. Players often don pink apparel in support of women with breast cancer.

The jersey retirement was extra special for Corbett, who was honored at halftime with other survivors because she too is a survivor of breast cancer.

Corbett picked the day for her jersey to be retired but didn’t quite know how impactful it would be.

“When I picked the day, I had no idea it was the Play-for-Kay game,” Corbett said. “I was looking at a day that would kind of coincide with me turning 60 the first of the month, so everything just kind of took off.”

Corbett continued to be a force in the community after basketball, serving as a community detention officer and being an advocate in the fight against breast cancer.

“When you get out in the community, and especially as a survivor, other people see you out there. They are aware that you can overcome,” Corbett said. “They see that you know, at one level, you’re performing in basketball, but as well, you go through the same trials and tribulation like normal people. We can do this. We can battle, we can finish the battle.”

Corbett has made history in what looks to be a long line of talented Elon women’s jerseys being retired and forever cemented

in Phoenix history. She said she thinks the Phoenix program is trending in the right direction.

Elon women’s basketball has produced quite the storied history. The program began its inaugural season in 1971 under Yow, who went on to become one of the most influential figures in women’s sports. She left the Phoenix in 1975 to become the head coach of the North Carolina State Wolfpack. Yow amassed a 737-344 record with Elon and NC State and reached the NCAA Final Four in 1997-98 with the Wolfpack.

Elon has continued its history of storied coaches, including Corbett’s coach Mary Jackson and current head coach and University of North Carolina playing legend Charlotte Smith.

“Coach Smith has a great vision,” Corbett said. “I just think [the program] has no other choice but to go forward — you know, she has great leadership, she has great vision. I look forward to coach Smith and whatever players she brings will have that same vision. And I think that’s what she goes out and recruits: people that have our same vision and the love for the game.”



Venessa Corbett, Elon University’s women’s basketball’s all-time leading scorer, is the first woman to have her jersey retired by the Phoenix.



# Coaching the NEXT GENERATION of leaders

Head coach Charlotte Smith strives to be like the role models she once looked up to

Caitlin Rundle  
Elon News Network | @caitlinr\_21

The first time Charlotte Smith saw an African American female in a position of power was during her days at UNC Chapel Hill, where she attended a Nike All-American camp. Now, Smith is working to be what she saw all those years ago — a role model for young women

For the last nine years, Smith has been the head coach for Elon University's women's basketball team. This spring, President Connie Book released "Boldly Elon," the university's next strategic plan. One of its focuses is bringing more diversity to campus.

## A TOP-SCORER

Smith holds the fifth all-time scoring record with UNC. She is also just one of two UNC women's basketball players to have their jersey retired.

Smith is the only black head coach in Elon's athletic department. She is also one

of four female head coaches of the 16 sports recognized by Elon Athletics.

Smith said it is still important for aspiring female African American athletes to have the opportunity to lead. She said it can help athletes dream as she did, and achieve seemingly unachievable goals.

"Sometimes, if you don't see it, you can't imagine it," Smith said. "We're probably one of the conferences that have a greater representation of African American head coaches. The representation is important in terms of people understanding that the opportunity is there."

Smith encourages her team to take every opportunity they have



ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

Head coach Charlotte Smith watches her team play Wake Forest University in Schar Center on Monday, Nov. 25. The Phoenix lost to the Demon Deacons 57-69.

at Elon.

"I feel like it's my responsibility as an African American coach to first and foremost help my African American players understand the privilege that it is to be able to play at Elon University," Smith said. "I told them one day in practice, I said, 'Look around the room.' They just all look and you know, it's their normal. It's good that we're at a

point to where it is their normal. But we can't forget where we've come from."

Smith said she wishes the world could be like her team and not have color or race impact the way people treat each other. She said the "harsh reality" is that equality for all is still not the case, but she will continue to play her part in making that dream a reality one

day.

"One of the things I try to do as an African American coach is to help all of our players understand what a privilege it is to be in this position," Smith said.

Smith said she can't be sure of the effect she makes on her players. However, influencing her players is something she said she keeps in mind.

"Basketball is just the common denominator for us all, it brings us all together," Smith said. "Ultimately, my passion is to develop young women. That's what I'm passionate about. I don't care what color you are, my goal is to develop young women for a lifetime of success."

Smith said when the day comes for her to move on, and she looks back on her time as a coach at Elon, simply being a coach won't be what she remembers.

"If I don't feel like I'm making an impact, then I feel like it's worthless," Smith said. "The basketball will only bounce for so long. Most probably, 99.9% of [her players] will not go on to play professionally. My impact has to extend beyond the court."

Smith compared the maturation process of her players to the tradition of students receiving an acorn at convocation and a sapling at graduation.

She said she feels she is responsible for helping those acorns become saplings.

Smith said she is looking forward to the rest of the year and hopes to see her team in the conference tournament, which will be hosted by Elon this year.

"That would be a great wrap up to this season," Smith said. "The icing on the cake would be hosting an outstanding conference tournament and hopefully winning another championship to make this university and our Elon women's alumni proud."

## A PRO PLAYER

Smith was picked in the third round of the 1996 draft by the Colorado Xplosion in the American Basketball League.

“

IF I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'M MAKING AN IMPACT, THEN I FEEL LIKE IT'S WORTHLESS.

CHARLOTTE SMITH  
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

## BY THE NUMBERS

160-118

is Smith's overall record with the Phoenix as the team's head coach, as of Sunday, Feb 16.

2

CAA tournament championships have been won under Smith's leadership. She led the Phoenix to victory during the 2016-17 and 2017-18 season.



ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

Head coach Charlotte Smith shouts instructions to her players during Elon University's game against Wake Forest University on Monday, Nov. 25.



# PILATES STUDIO HOSTS NEW FITNESS CLASSES

Trained students stretch their abilities and lead opportunities for alternative exercise

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

On Tuesday afternoons, Elon University group exercise instructor Katie Kane is usually leading students through several apparatuses in the Needham Pilates Studio at the Koury Athletic Center.

“Pilates is all about lengthening your muscles. A lot of people think that it is the same thing as yoga but harder,” Kane said. “Essentially, Pilates is all about stretching while strengthening at the same time and focusing on that mind-body connection.”

The studio came to life through the work of Campus Recreation & Wellness and the Department of Performing Arts and was inspired by the direct benefits that Pilates provides to dancers.

As a dance major herself, alumna Alyssa Needham '19 said she has used Pilates as a technique to help improve her athletic capabilities throughout the years.

Following her graduation, her parents donated \$50,000 worth of Pilates equipment for the studio, which opened its doors on Nov. 1, 2019, during Homecoming Weekend.

Lauren Kearns, professor of dance and chairperson of the Department of Performing Arts, also said she has used Pilates as a

“  
PILATES IS ALL ABOUT STRETCHING WHILE STRENGTHENING AT THE SAME TIME AND FOCUSING ON THAT MIND-BODY CONNECTION.

**KATIE KANE**  
GROUP EXERCISE INSTRUCTOR

form of cross-training for years. As a certified instructor in the practice, she took on a big role in the actualization of the studio.

“The Pilates method has always held strong footing in the dance world, with dancers gravitating toward it as a means to rehabilitate injuries or to cross-train,” Kearns said.

Kane agreed with Kearns about the use of Pilates as a form of physical therapy.

“A lot of athletes will come to utilize machines because it’s low impact. The whole point is to relieve the excess muscle tension that we don’t need,” Kane said. “They come in and everything starts to feel better because they are lengthening, stretching, they’re engaging all of those muscles that help everything feel better.”

After training with Kearns over Winter Term, Kane and three other student instructors are now leading classes in this space. These classes give all students, regardless of dance experience, the opportunity to benefit from the studio.

“Dance majors will benefit from immediate application of the Pilates method to their technical and creative training,” Kearns said. “All students who participate in the classes will benefit from a system that places equal emphasis on physical improvement and overall mindfulness.”

Though there is no current

**COST OF CLASSES**

**\$20**

is the cost of a group exercise pass from the Campus Recreation & Wellness office.

**NEW EDITIONS**

**\$50,000**

is the cost of the Pilates equipment that was donated to the studio by the parents of Alyssa Needham '19.

requirement for taking a class, Elon group exercise instructors recommend taking 10 mat Pilates classes before getting into the studio. This way, classes can run a bit smoother as students will already have been exposed to some of the Pilates terminology used during classes.

“Having a little Pilates knowledge is super helpful in these classes,” Kane said.

Currently, each class allows a maximum of four people to enroll. However, as the instructors become more comfortable with the equipment throughout the semester, they said they hope classes will increase in size.

Students are eligible to participate in these classes after purchasing one of the \$20 exercise passes available in the Campus Recreation & Wellness. Students can then sign up for Pilates on Elon’s Fitness page through IMLeagues online or in-app. Classes are offered at varying times throughout the week.

As the program evolves, Kearns said her long-term goal for the studio is to “offer more experiential and theoretical equipment-based courses, ultimately leading toward offering certifications in Pilates for interested Elon students.”

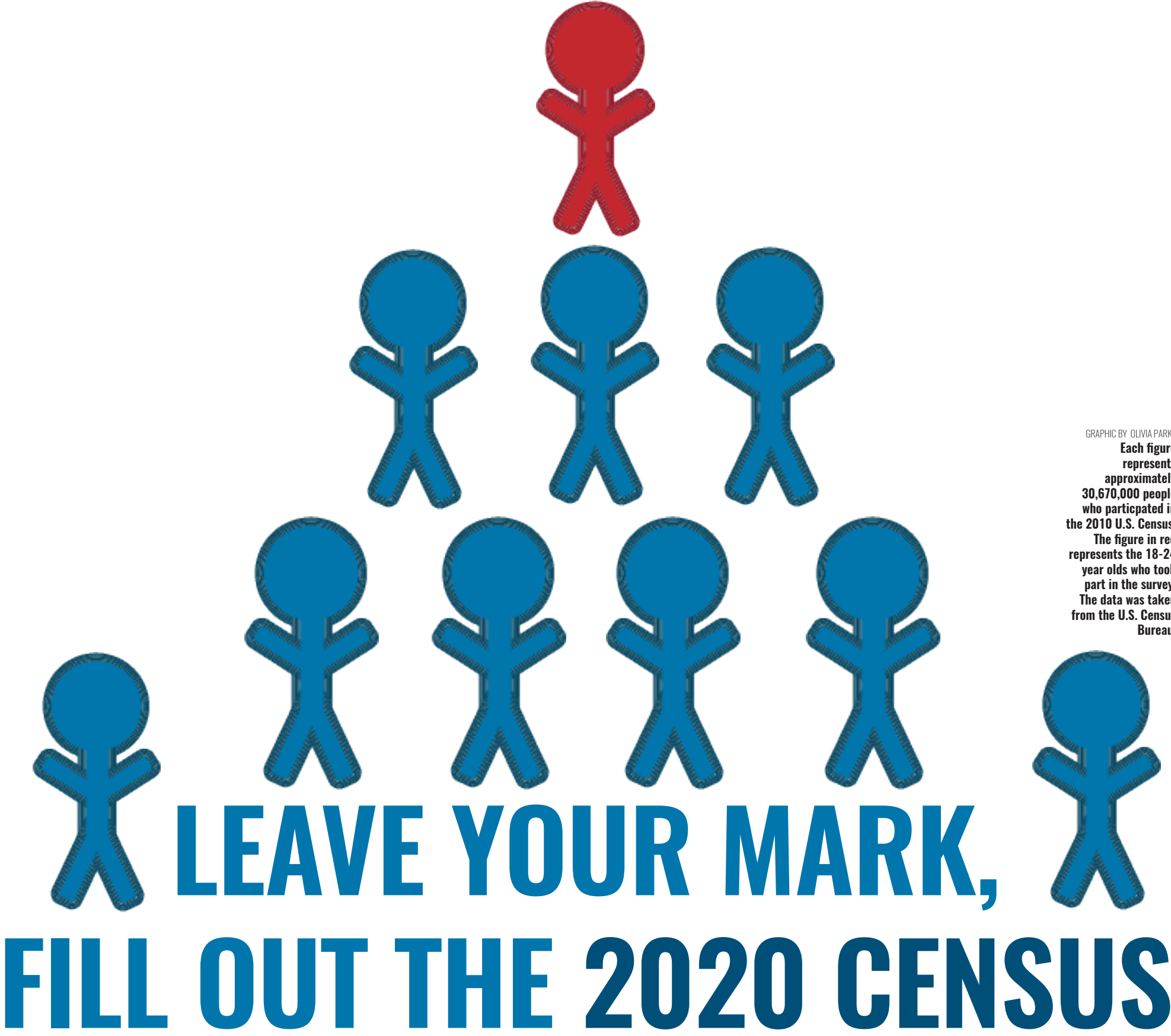


A group of students use new equipment in the Needham Pilates Studio at the Koury Athletic Center. Campus Recreation & Wellness denied Elon News Network’s request to take photos.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMPUS RECREATION & WELLNESS



# OPINIONS



GRAPHIC BY OLIVIA PARKS  
Each figure represents approximately 30,670,000 people who participated in the 2010 U.S. Census. The figure in red represents the 18-24 year olds who took part in the survey. The data was taken from the U.S. Census Bureau.

It's not worth losing up to \$100 over a fine, participate in the census this year



**Morgan Behrens**  
Contributor



**Louisa Sholar**  
Contributor

As we begin the new decade, it's easy to feel overwhelmed with local, state and national politics, especially during an election year. There is another consequential effort underway across the country that is essential to the student body: the 2020 U.S. Census.

Completing the census gives you a chance to identify yourself as an independent adult prior to college graduation. This matters for off-campus students, especially since the census seeks to count people where they are physically located on April 1, 2020. The census is mandatory, and thus, failure to complete it will result in a fine, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The most compelling reason for filling out the census is the material effects it will have on the lives of students and local community members. Each person counted in the census is worth approximately \$1,600 to \$2,000 in federal funding.

North Carolina can use this funding for education, subsidized student loans and input from municipal and county-level governments to improve local

communities. Securing an accurate count also means students have an additional opportunity to help our university and its surrounding area by making sure it has financial resources for future economic growth.

Census funding for Alamance County over the last 10 years contributed to the economic development in the area by bringing businesses to the community and creating the downtown areas of the town of Elon and Burlington.

At the federal level, the census helps allocate additional congressional representatives to states based on their population count. In 2020, North Carolina is projected to gain a congressional seat in the House of Representatives due to the population growth the state has experienced over the past decade. Your accurate reporting as students can help make historic and deserved alterations to state and national politics.

On a personal level, participating in the census helps create a culture of civic engagement on campus and encourages lifelong habits of interacting with one's community. For a campus that encourages its

BY THE NUMBERS

**308,745,538**

was the census total population as of 2010 according to the U.S. Department of Commerce Economics and Statistics Administration.

**30,672,088**

was the amount of 18 to 24 year olds in the 2010 census according to the U.S. Department of Commerce Economics and Statistics Administration.

students to become global citizens, this is one of the simplest and most effective ways to live out those beliefs.

Ultimately, the student body should step up provide accurate information and ensure they are counted in the 2020 census, for themselves and for Elon. There are too many important resources at stake to not participate. Receiving thousands of dollars in federal funding, a new voice in Congress and accurate national demographic data depends on your action. Let's act in the interest of our community and leave our mark. Make sure if you are an off-campus resident to complete the form that comes in your mail. Let's make sure #ElonCounts!

FILLING THE FORM

Census funding in Alamance County over the last 10 years has contributed to the economic development in the area by bringing in businesses and developing downtown Elon and Burlington