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THE PENDULUM

For News, Opinions,
Lifestyle, see insert

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2017 FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

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TOP SPORTS GAMES

In their fourth year in the Colonial Athletic Association, Elon University looks to compete for



FOOTBALL

Elon University is facing a stacked schedule this fall. Five of the Phoenix's opponents this year are ranked in the top 25 in the FCS coaches poll. Even the team's lone FBS opponent was tabbed as the best in their conference, as Toledo topped the Mid-American Conference media poll. No matter how you slice it, Elon is staring down the barrel of a tough schedule. The most winnable game of the season will likely come in Week 9 when the Phoenix takes on Rhode Island University on the road. The Rams tied Elon at the bottom

STACKED SEASON

Five of the Phoenix's opponents this year are ranked in the top 25 in the FCS coaches poll.

of the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) standings last year with a 2-9 record and are predicted to finish last this season. The Phoenix will play its best opponent Nov. 18, when it travels to James Madison University to take on last year's FCS national champions. In their past three matchups against the Dukes, Elon was outscored 173-41, so there isn't much reason to expect a Phoenix victory. But JMU is a fun-to-watch team stacked with talent.

Above: Senior defensive back Chris Blair snags an interception against Villanova Oct. 1, 2016.

VOLLEYBALL

Elon University's best volleyball matches this year will likely come in tournament play. Between Sept. 8-9, Alumni Gym will host the Phoenix Classic. Elon, North Carolina Central University, Charleston Southern University and Norfolk State University will play a round robin

CONFERENCE PLAY

Between Sept. 8-9, Alumni Gym will host the Phoenix Classic.

in Elon across two days, providing the Phoenix with a solid warm-up slate before conference play as well as a number of winnable games. In conference play, Elon will take on Hofstra University twice, once at home on Nov. 3, and once on Oct. 6 in Hempstead, New York. The Pride was picked to finish second in the CAA and have a roster featuring two all-conference selections.

Left: Elon University junior and women's volleyball outside hitter Kam Terry attacks the ball against Radford Sept. 14, 2016.



FOR 2017-2018

COMPILED BY ALEX HAGER | WEB PRODUCER
PHOTOS BY JACK HARTMANN | PHOTOGRAPHER

more conference championships with stronger schedules.



CROSS COUNTRY

Both of Elon University's cross country teams have a slate of entertaining invitationals this fall, and both squads will see North Carolina State University twice. The Wolfpack will be at the Adidas XC Challenge in Cary Oct. 15 and the Three Stripe Invitational on Nov. 4, right before the NCAA Southeast Regional Championships. NC State's women finished at No. 2 in last year's national rankings, and the men ended the season at No. 17.

Left: Reigning two-time CAA champion and junior Nick Ciolkowski and the Elon University cross country team compete in the Elon Invitational Sept. 10, 2016.

MEN'S SOCCER

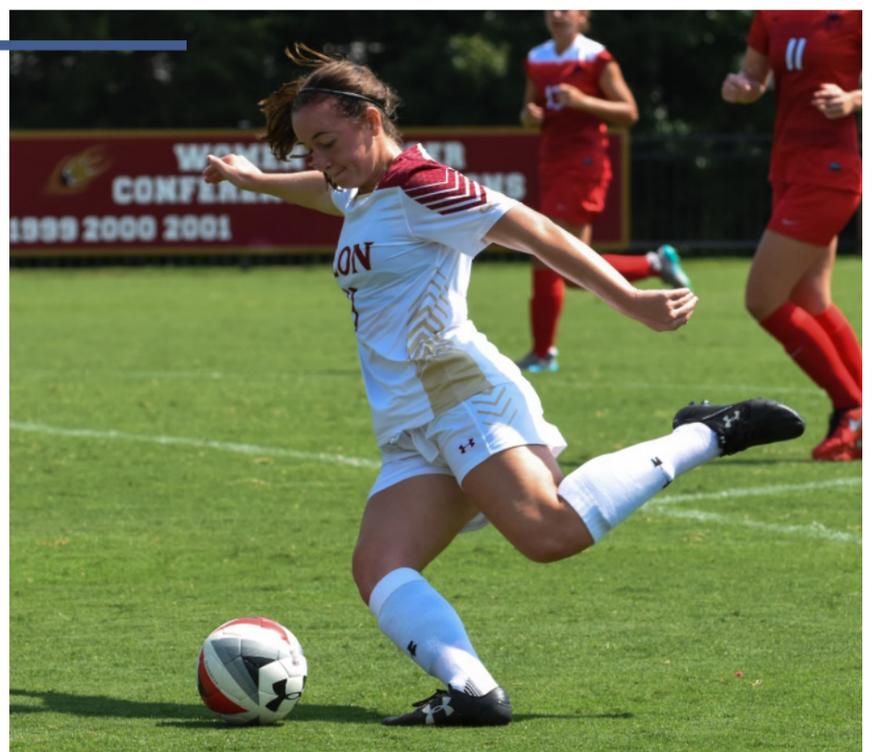
The Phoenix has a history of playing marquee Atlantic Coast Conference opponents, and this year is no exception. A game on the road at Duke University and home matches against North Carolina State University and Wake Forest University are on its schedule. The team will face its first test against a ranked team Sept. 12 on the road at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Their top game of the year will likely come on Oct. 17 when Wake Forest comes to Elon. The Demon Deacons are ranked No. 2 in the nation by the United Soccer Coaches (USC), and will be visiting Rudd Field at a pivotal point in the late season. The Phoenix should be in top form, though, having played CAA favorite William & Mary University earlier that week.

Below: Elon University junior and men's soccer forward Jaiden Fortune blasts a shot against William & Mary University Oct. 12, 2016.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Similar to the men's team, the Elon University women's soccer team will also be welcoming an Atlantic Coast Conference opponent to Rudd Field. The North Carolina State University Wolfpack, who polled at No. 25 in the UCS preseason rankings, will be in Elon on Sept. 3. In terms of conference play, the Phoenix has an interesting home stretch in early October, as William & Mary University and Northeastern University come to town for back-to-back matches on Oct. 5 and Oct. 8, respectively. The Huskies were picked to finish best in the CAA, and the Tribe received votes in the national preseason poll.

Right: Elon University senior and women's soccer forward Sydney Schilling lines up a shot against Davidson Sept. 15, 2016.



FRESH START

CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR
New head coach Curt
Cignetti addresses his
team at practice.

“

WE'RE JUST FOCUSED IN ON DOING THINGS BETTER EVERY DAY AND I SEE PROGRESS. I THINK THE STAFF HAS DONE A GREAT JOB DEVELOPING THESE GUYS.

CURT CIGNETTI
FOOTBALL HEAD COACH

As new season approaches, Elon looks to impress a physical presence

Miles Garrett
Contributor | @MilesGarrett

When the Elon University football team took to the practice field Aug. 19, there was a hint of

COACHING EXPERIENCE

Cignetti coached at the University of Alabama from 2007-2010 under legendary head coach Nick Saban.

rustiness as the start of fall classes loomed ahead.

But first year head coach Curt Cignetti wasn't using it as an excuse.

Plenty of yelling and up-downs ensued and the young 2017 Phoenix team was back on its usual pace set

under a new coach.

Following a disappointing 2016 campaign and the departure of former head coach Rich Skrosky, Elon begins a new era this season. New coaches, new quarterbacks, even a new logo on the helmet will all make their debut at 7 p.m. Thursday against the University of Toledo. With the youth present on the roster, Cignetti understands the team is a work in progress. But that hasn't stopped his daily expectations of improving from the last practice.

"I'm really confident that we'll improve daily and weekly and become a much more competitive team," Cignetti said. "We're just focused in on doing things better every day and I see progress. I think the staff has done a great job developing these guys."

In the spring, Cignetti set an early tone that some fans on the sidelines were able to see firsthand.

Midway through the team's

spring scrimmage, the new head coach summoned his players to take a knee. After berating them for their effort, Cignetti told the team to run 20 40-yard sprints.

It's all part of a new mentality emphasizing toughness and pushing players past their comfort zones. For those unfamiliar with him, the new Phoenix coach is known to have quite the pedigree.

He coached at the University of Alabama from 2007-2010 under legendary head coach Nick Saban. There, he specialized on the offensive side of the ball — specifically wide receivers that included National Football League and Atlanta Falcon superstar Julio Jones.

Seven years later, Cignetti is now revitalizing an Elon offense which averaged only 11.3 points per game last season. The offensive facelift will include two new players at quarterback. Last year it was juniors Connor Christensen and Daniel Thompson. This year it will be freshmen Davis Cheek and Jalen Greene.

A starter between the two has yet to be announced as Cignetti said both will split reps against Toledo.

But the young guns will have some experience behind them in the backfield with some familiar faces.

One of those faces in the backfield is last year's leading rusher sophomore DeSean McNair. The tailback says he's been impressed with what the new coaching staff has brought to the team.

"Cignetti brought the passion for football and the will to want to win," McNair said. "I think it's translated and we've become a lot better team since he's arrived. We have a recurring motto for our team this year that's, 'Be fast, be relentless, be physical and finish every play.' You can expect to see relentless football play this year."

McNair joins junior Malcolm Summers as the veterans at running back. Both of whom will likely be



The Elon team practices ahead of their season opener against Toledo University Aug. 31. Coach Curt Cignetti has emphasized toughness.

the workforce of an offense with two freshmen competing for the starting role at quarterback.

On the defensive side of the football there's nowhere to go but up.

A unit that gave up a whopping 30.7 points per game is looking for improvement. Senior defensive back and three-year starter Chris Blair says he's already seen drastic changes from this team compared to last year.

"Our heartbeat," he said of what has improved the most this offseason. "That relentless, that tough, play in and play out. You're going to see eleven guys doing their job."

Honored as the team's most outstanding defensive player, Blair said the transition from coach Skrosky to coach Cignetti went smoothly. Typically at the college and professional ranks, new head coaches bring staffs that make transitions difficult with new schemes and dif-

ferent ways of communicating to the players.

That was sorted out quickly in the spring and over summer.

According to Blair and McNair, summer workouts brought the team closer together as the players found ways to push through their own comfort zone in an offseason that was different from years prior.

"It was a lot more intense and it was a lot more based on becoming better football players," McNair said. "[The fans] can expect a much improved offense as a whole."

"It's a totally different program than they're used to," Cignetti said. "We're in a good place."

With a full spring and summer behind them, the 2017 Elon football team is more prepared than it was four months ago. A schedule that includes six top-25 FCS teams doesn't spell an easy first year under this new coaching staff, but

like the hint of rustiness on a Saturday practice, Cignetti isn't using it as an excuse.

"We're in game week now, and school is getting ready to start so now they have to be able to manage and balance academics and football," he said. "We have to be mature about that and do a good job."

As for the players, Chris Blair isn't prepared to make his last season another disappointing run. All those on this year's roster have never experienced a winning season. In fact, no team has posted a winning record since 2010.

Cignetti's staff is ready to change that record, whether it's this year or next. Those in attendance at home games will see a much different Elon team.

"I expect the fans will see good football," Blair said. "We just want to bring that excitement back to Rhodes Stadium."



SETTING UP FOR A NEW SEASON

ASHLEY KING | FILE PHOTO
The volleyball team huddles after securing a point during a match last season.

Volleyball looks to break string of difficulty in conference play

Erik Webb
Sports Director | @ErikWebbElon

Elon University's volleyball team started their season last week with some new faces on the court.

The team welcomes six new players to the squad, replacing the six players they lost from last year. The new class of signees features middle blocker Courtney Carpenter, outside hitter Julia Crabtree, middle blocker Natalie Cummins, setter Kodi Garcia, outside hitter Madi Genaway and defensive specialist Bella Seman.

"We've definitely seen players step up," said head coach Mary Tendler. "They've done a great job. They're very organized. I'm really proud of their efforts there. We have some underclassmen stepping up and taking charge. We have leaders at each position."

The team got off to a hot start, winning two of their first three matches at the Charlotte Invitational. The Phoenix defeated Southern Utah University 3-1, lost to Belmont University 0-3 and beat the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in a tight match 3-2.

"We had a strong opening weekend, which built a positive team mentality," said senior captain Sydney Busa. "Getting to play in matches for the first time exposed some things that we did really well, and others that we need to work on. Going

forward, we are excited to continue to push ourselves and to compete every day in practice and compete on match days."

The volleyball schedule features 14 home matches inside Alumni Gym in its 46th and final year hosting the program. Beginning next season, the team will play their matches in the Schar Center, a 5,400 seat convocation center currently under construction next to Hunt Softball Park.

The team comes off an 18-15 record last season. The



I THINK WE'RE AN AGGRESSIVE TEAM. WE TAKE SOME BIG SWINGS AND ARE VERY AGGRESSIVE WITH THE BALL SO WE SHOULD BE FUN TO WATCH.

MARY TENDLER
VOLLEYBALL HEAD COACH

Phoenix struggled in Colonial Athletic Association games, only winning four of the 16 in-conference games.

Elon's schedule includes four tournaments between Aug. 25 and Sept. 16. The maroon and gold will host the Phoenix Classic Sept. 8-9, but will not open up conference play until later in the month.

"We're always looking forward to conference play," Tendler said. "We look forward to that first weekend."

The first in-conference weekend will feature four home matches for the Phoenix. Opponents include Tow-

son University, Delaware University, James Madison University and William & Mary University before the team takes the road to face Hofstra University and Northeastern University.

"We were close with a lot of the CAA teams last year," Tendler said. "Getting a chance to play them again is something they're looking forward to. The players will be very motivated for those."

Once conference play commences, the Phoenix welcomes all eight CAA rivals to Alumni Gym and will travel to all eight schools during the 16-match in-conference schedule. The team will head to the CAA tournament after regular season play concludes, which will be contested at JMU in Harrisonburg, Virginia after the Dukes won the tournament last year.

This is head coach Mary Tendler's 15th season with the Phoenix. She enters this season with a career record of 216-239 (.475). Tendler said her team is confident and ready for the rest of the season.

"I think we're an aggressive team," she said. "We take some big swings and are very aggressive with the ball so we should be fun to watch. We'll have a different look, but it's kind of exciting in a way."

The team is captained by senior outside hitter Sydney Busa and senior middle blocker Michelle Klein. The two are the only seniors on the team and will have to use their experience to lead the Phoenix as two of the three returning starters for the team.

Busa was named a Pre-season All-CAA honorable



Senior captain and outside hitter Sydney Busa leaps to hit a ball over the net during a match.

mention for the second time in her career in August. This follows her Third Team All-CAA recognition at the end of last season after playing 108 sets across 30 matches and making 22 starts during the 2016 season. She finished the year with an impressive 305 kills, 293 digs and 43 blocks.

Klein played in 31 of Elon's 33 matches last season, and started in 30 of them.

She ended the season with 213 kills, 109 blocks and 60 digs, capturing a CAA Defensive Player of the Week on Sept. 12, 2016.

"It is nice to see the leadership," Tendler said. "It's nice to see the different personalities come out of the players. We had a productive spring season and that rolled out onto our preseason."

"This season I'm most excited to make a statement

in the CAA," Busa said. The Phoenix will look to improve upon 18 wins from last season as the 2017 year continues. "After playing in this conference for three years, we have a good understanding of the teams and the competition. We have our goal set for what we want to accomplish, and everyone has bought into it, working hard each day to better themselves and better the team."



TOLEDO

Aug. 31
7 P.M.
Away

FURMAN

Sept. 9
1 P.M.
Away

**CHARLESTON
SOUTHERN**

Sept. 16
6 P.M.
Home

RICHMOND

Sept. 23
6 P.M.
Away

ALBANY

Sept. 30
2 P.M.
Home

**2017 FOOTBALL
SCHEDULE**

ENN



FOOTBALL DULE

CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

**WILLIAM &
MARY**

Oct. 7
2 P.M.
Home

**RHODE
ISLAND**

Oct. 21
Noon
Away

VILLANOVA

Oct. 28
3:30 P.M.
Away

TOWSON

Nov. 4
2 P.M.
Home

**NEW
HAMPSHIRE**

Nov. 11
2 P.M.
Away

**JAMES
MADISON**

Nov. 18
Noon
Home



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

NEW COACH, NEW MINDSET, MORE WINS

Men's soccer team looks to bounce back after a disappointing season

Emmanuel Morgan
Managing Editor | @EMorgan704

Elon University men's soccer forward Elijah Agu said there's no other way to explain it — the pieces just didn't fall into place last year.

Sure, the stats paint the grim picture of the Phoenix's fall from grace. In 2015, the men's squad darted to a NCCA tournament birth off a 14-win season. And at one point, they were ranked as high as the No. 8 team in the nation. Last year, though, they dipped. The team only won seven games and were bounced from the Colonial Athletic Association conference tournament in the first round. But Agu, one of the team's unquestioned leaders, said declining numbers aren't the main culprit for their woes.

The Phoenix never gelled together, Agu said.

"There's not really specific things to point to," said Agu, who led the team in goals last year with 11. "A lot of it was we had an individual mindset last year and we needed to work more collectively."

But that all changed in February. After third-year head coach Chris Little resigned that month to become the Seattle Sounders FC Academy's Director of Coaching, Marc Reeves left Radford University, where he coached men's soccer for seven years, to replace him. And from there, things were different. The attitude in the locker room changed. Everyone, from coaches to players, adopted a unified mindset of togetherness. And with a squad Reeves called "truly talented," he said his team is ready to return to their winning ways.

"We want to focus on competition," Reeves said. "We want to maximize our full potential and hold people accountable."

Reeves said he has the utmost respect for Little, saying he created a "world-class program" where players excelled on and off the field. But amid added pressure off the heels of an unexpectedly successful season, Reeves said, "Things might not have gone as they wanted." So Reeves did what he could to be a breath of fresh air. And Agu said it's working. When Agu first met him, he knew things would be a little bit different. So far, he said it's been beneficial.

"He's a very driven coach," Agu said. "He knows what he wants and the expectations of his players are clear. As a whole, I feel our team has bonded more."

Hearing those words, especially from Agu, should be reassuring for Reeves. The senior from Cary will be the motor propelling the Phoenix to their goals. He made the preseason All-CAA team after finishing top three in the league last year in goals, points (23), points per game (1.35), goals per game (0.65) and game winning goals (4). After working with Agu in the spring and summer, Reeves said he can see his demeanor changing. He's fixed his punctuality problems, he's more competitive in practice and his emotions are more controlled. Reeves said he expects a big year from him, saying his individual accolades are a product of the team around him.

"Individual people succeed when the team succeeds," Reeves said. "Elijah made 11 goals last year, which is impressive. He has quick feet, he's fast and he can finish around the goal in a variety of ways. And now I can see him trying really hard to fix

the little habits."

Agu's skillset resembles what the Phoenix wants to execute in terms of X's and O's. Reeves said his team will focus on attacking the net, making sure they are set up in the defensive backfield and use their speed to create offense. And they have the ideal squad for that. Their roster is deep. They have nine juniors and three seniors, and Reeves expects his nine sophomores to play significant minutes. That cushion is reassuring to Reeves, especially considering the schedule he inherited.

Elon is playing two Top-25 teams including Wake Forest University (2) and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (15). Their CAA opponents is competitive as well. The Phoenix played a scoreless tie against Fordham University last week and the brunt of their schedule begins in September after a six-day break between games versus Central Florida University — who Elon defeated 1-0 last week — and Presbyterian University. Reeves said he's excited, saying throwing the Phoenix into the fire early will be a great litmus test for them.

"The CAA is a very competitive league," Reeves said. "We have to play every game prepared, focused and hopefully the results will show."

And that's all Reeves said he can expect. As the season approaches, he said he thinks his team will be up for the challenge. And hopefully, he said the Phoenix will be able to put the pieces back together.

"We're not looking backward, we're only looking forward," Reeves said. "Elon has a great environment and we have all the tools we need to succeed. With some added support from our fans, I think it'll be a great year."



JACK HARTMANN | PHOTOGRAPHER

ELIJAH AGU - BY THE NUMBERS

Last year, Agu made the preseason All-CAA team after finishing top three in the league last year in goals, points, points per game, goals per game and game winning goals.

23

Number of points scored

17

Games played

1011

Minutes played

4

Game winning goals

17

Shots on goal

Top: New coach, Marc Reeves, prepares his team for the upcoming season, Aug. 24, 2017.

Bottom: Elijah Agu battles a contender in Elon's match against Detroit Mercy Sept. 4, 2016.



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR
Amanda Lasater lines up a shot during a scrimmage match against her fellow teammates earlier this month.

KICKING OFF THE NEW SEASON

Incoming wave of midfielders may prove crucial to team's success

Roman Costa
Contributor | @elonnewsnetwork

After fighting for an overall record of 7-9-3 last season, the Elon University Women's soccer team is prepped and ready to kick off the 2017 campaign with a bang.

Head coach Chris Neal will be hoping to set the tone early before Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) play begins mid-September.

NEW ADDITIONS

Elon Women's Soccer team added ten incoming freshmen while having only eleven upperclassmen in total.

the third match to the University of North Carolina at Greensboro by a score of 2-1.

One major question surrounding this year's squad is its youth: the Phoenix added ten incoming freshmen while having only eleven upperclassmen in total. The team will look to its five remaining seniors for leadership while the new members become comfortable with all the new faces and surroundings. The talented players from the class

of 2021 made the move to Elon from all over the world. Midfielder Reena Wichmann joins the Phoenix from Bremen, Germany, while midfielder Hailey Tucker makes the trek from Spokane, Washington and midfielder Ashley Rumley hops on board from the neighboring city of Greensboro.

For many first-year collegiate athletes, the transition from high school sports to the NCAA can be a challenge, but for Elon's freshman striker Meredith Christopher, nerves have taken a backseat to her eye for goal. Christopher netted four times in the team's first two games of the season and added an assist for good measure, earning her the title of CAA Player of the Week in her first week as a Phoenix. The savvy forward opened her goalscoring account with a hat trick inside 15 minutes of the season-opener, making it a dream debut for the South Carolina native. She went on to knock in the first goal against North Florida, and though the opponents equalized just eight minutes later, the Phoenix was able to get the win thanks to a go-ahead goal by Susannah Anderson at the stroke of half time.

The Phoenix will look to quickly solve whatever problems led to its six-match skid at the tail-end of last season which saw it close out the campaign on a 0-4-2 slide. Coach Neal's women were able to secure a 4-4-1 record in nonconference play last season, and will undoubtedly be looking to improve upon that mark this year, as the squad will have a total of ten competitive matches before CAA action gets underway

at Rudd Field against the University of North Carolina at Wilmington on September 21. The Phoenix will hope to better its results against the highly-competitive sides they will battle in the CAA. Last season's 2-5-2 CAA record was an improvement from the prior season, when the Phoenix struggled to a 1-7-1 record in conference play.

In order to accomplish these goals, it will be important for Neal's experienced back line — which is largely comprised of upperclassmen — to serve as leaders for the rest of the squad as they look to better the team's five goal differential from last season. But the lack of depth in Elon's defense is a cause for concern. The Phoenix have only six defenders in the team, and selecting a fit, prepared back line for each game may prove a daunting task for coach Neal as the season progresses. This makes the decision to forego recruiting defensive reinforcements a strange one, but Elon's newly strengthened midfield and talented front line just might be enough to cover for its shallow arsenal of defensive weapons.

The Phoenix will also need players to step up and fill the boots left vacant by last year's graduating seniors. Former Elon defender Erin Tanhauser — who was among those to hang up the maroon jersey last fall — was the joint-leader in goals (4) last year with current junior forward Tori Baliatico. This season, Meredith Christopher managed to eclipse last year's goal record inside two matches; Christopher's flying start has all the marks of a successful career with Elon, and fellow mem-



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR
Jenny Riemer battles a defender as she fights for the ball during the scrimmage.

bers of the Phoenix community will be hoping she can continue her impressive run of form.

Last year, five of Elon's seven graduating players were midfielders, so it comes as no real surprise that the coaching staff wasted no time recruiting fresh talent that can be deployed in the midfield. This year, eight of Elon's ten freshmen prefer to play in the midfield, which will give coach Neal plenty of options in the middle of the park week in and week out when picking matchday squads. Now, with more players who can command the pace of play, the Phoenix will look to have more fluidity in its attacks and more stability on the defensive end, while having the ability to press teams higher up the pitch.

All in all, Elon's fresh crop of talent should be enough for the team to see improvement from last sea-

SEASON RECORD

3-1

The women's soccer team had a 3-1 season record in 2017

son. Thanks to the class of 2021, the Phoenix seem to have found new life in attack and in the midfield. Its biggest challenge may prove to be staying fresh on the defensive end, as the team's lack of depth in the back appears to be a weakness on paper. In coach Neal's tenth season at the helm of Elon's women's soccer, he will be looking to continue steering the program in the right direction and developing the incredible student-athletes who continue to move throughout the Elon community.



Women's cross country runners race on their home course at the beginning of last season.

JACK HARTMANN | PHOTOGRAPHER

Chasing down *new goals*



COURTESY OF ELON

Head coach Kevin Jermyn joins the Phoenix at the helm of the cross country program.

New cross country coach sets high standards for his team and the program

Erik Webb
Sports Director | @ErikWebbElon

With the cross country season starting soon, Elon University's new cross country head coach wants to elevate the program to places it hasn't gone before.

On July 13, Athletic Director Dave Blank announced Kevin Jermyn would take the helm of the cross country program as head coach. And since then, Jermyn has been thinking about his plan for the upcoming year.

"I wouldn't lie to you ... the goal is seriously to see if we can get our women to the national champi-

onships in cross country," Jermyn said. "Only thing that you probably don't know is how quickly that is going to happen.

"One of the things I'm most excited about is doing things that haven't been done yet. I think the previous coaches here have done a really nice job making the program systematically better and better and better and providing better experiences for the student athletes."

A former Atlantic Coast Conference and NCAA Southeast Region Coach of the Year, Jermyn looks to bring his skill set to Elon and help the team succeed.

"I feel good in my skill set to be able to develop people to get to that

level," Jermyn said. "I'm pretty used to coaching a lot of runners that have competed at high levels that bring some accolades or baggage with them."

One runner on the Elon men's team has been racking up the accolades. Junior Nick Ciolkowski is the two-time reigning Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) individual champion, but nothing is slowing him down from capturing a third title in front of a home crowd.

After the home opener on Sept. 2, the cross country teams have a tough schedule this fall, including some high-level invitationals. The Phoenix will be at the Paul Short Run at the end of September and the NCAA Pre-National meet in the middle of October. Later in the month of October, Elon will host the CAA cross country championships for the first time on Saturday, Oct. 28. And while the familiarity of the course is something different to him, he's not complaining.

"I've never been at a school that has had its own cross country course, so I'm thrilled to have our home course and be able to host meets — especially the championship," he said.

"I'd be lying if I didn't get a little more amped up for the championship races," Jermyn said. "Looking at conference, regionals and at the

NCAA finals. I coach to dream big and chase big dreams. I want people thinking about the NCAA finals."

Jermyn said he is confident in Nick and the rest of his team to reach the NCAA finals, but he wants to accomplish something smaller first.

"[The men's team] is excited to try and move up from third to second [in the CAA]. It might sound like a small jump, but it would be a pretty big jump since they've been pretty static for the past couple of years," he said. "I think our men's team is more excited — or at least they conveyed in me — they seem to be a little more charged up, rejuvenated and have a higher level of passion than before."

"The team has great leadership, so that is making the transition for me that much easier," Jermyn said. "Every great team that I have been on had great leaders. I know I can't do this without great leaders, so I feel blessed to have the upperclassmen on the team and they have that passion and interest to give to others."

Jermyn and the Elon cross country teams look to conquer their goals Sept. 2. For the men, the goal is simple — bump up from third to second in the conference. For the women, Jermyn said he is confident and believes they can capture Elon's first CAA championship.

The men's cross country team chase down their opponents during the Phoenix Invitational last year.



JACK HARTMANN | PHOTOGRAPHER

Ciolkowski sets eyes on **THIRD TITLE**

The ambitious junior's goals extend beyond the CAA championships

Erik Webb

Sports Director | @ErikWebbElon

It wouldn't be surprising if Nick Ciolkowski grew complacent looking at the season.

The junior cross country runner is the two-time reigning Colonial Athletic Association individual conference champion. But going into this season, he's still aiming to capture the title, and he's more confident than ever from his unique offseason regime.

"Another guy on the team and I spent the summer altitude training in Colorado," Ciolkowski said. "He and I are feeling pretty great right now coming off that. I know a lot of the other guys on the team have put in a lot of summer mileage, so I'm pretty excited for what we can do this year."

New head coach Kevin Jermyn is also encouraged by his star runner's work ethic. Having his best athletes be one of his hardest working is a solid standard for the rest

of the team, he said.

"[He's] more fit than he's ever been," Jermyn said. "He seems hungry. I know that Nick is pretty fired up to go out there and see if he can win a third title and do it in front of a home crowd."

Jermyn said that he is confident in Ciolkowski's ability to do just that.

"Nick has a really good head on his shoulders. I know he's really excited to go out there and go for a third title. But to be clear I think his sights are beyond that to really break through to the national level and make it to the national championships."

Outside of competing in the conference, Ciolkowski's vision is much larger. His goal is to run in the NCAA tournament. And because of his offseason, he feels he can.

"This season, the big goal is qualifying for nationals," Ciolkowski said. "That is the big driving force all the way. Obviously I'd love to pick up another win at the individual level at the CAAs, but I'd like to see [the team] finish second...that's another big goal."

Last season, the Elon men's team finished in third

place behind Northeastern University as William & Mary University cruised to a win for the 17th consecutive year. Ciolkowski clocked a quick time of 25:08.10 in the 8K race, nearly 13 seconds faster than the runner-up.

And when it comes to individual goals, Ciolkowski is following in the footsteps of another great Elon runner. Luis Vargas is the only Elon runner to qualify for the national championships in Eugene, Oregon, where he earned First-Team All-American honors in 2015. Vargas also holds the school record when he ran the league meet with a time of 24:11.37.

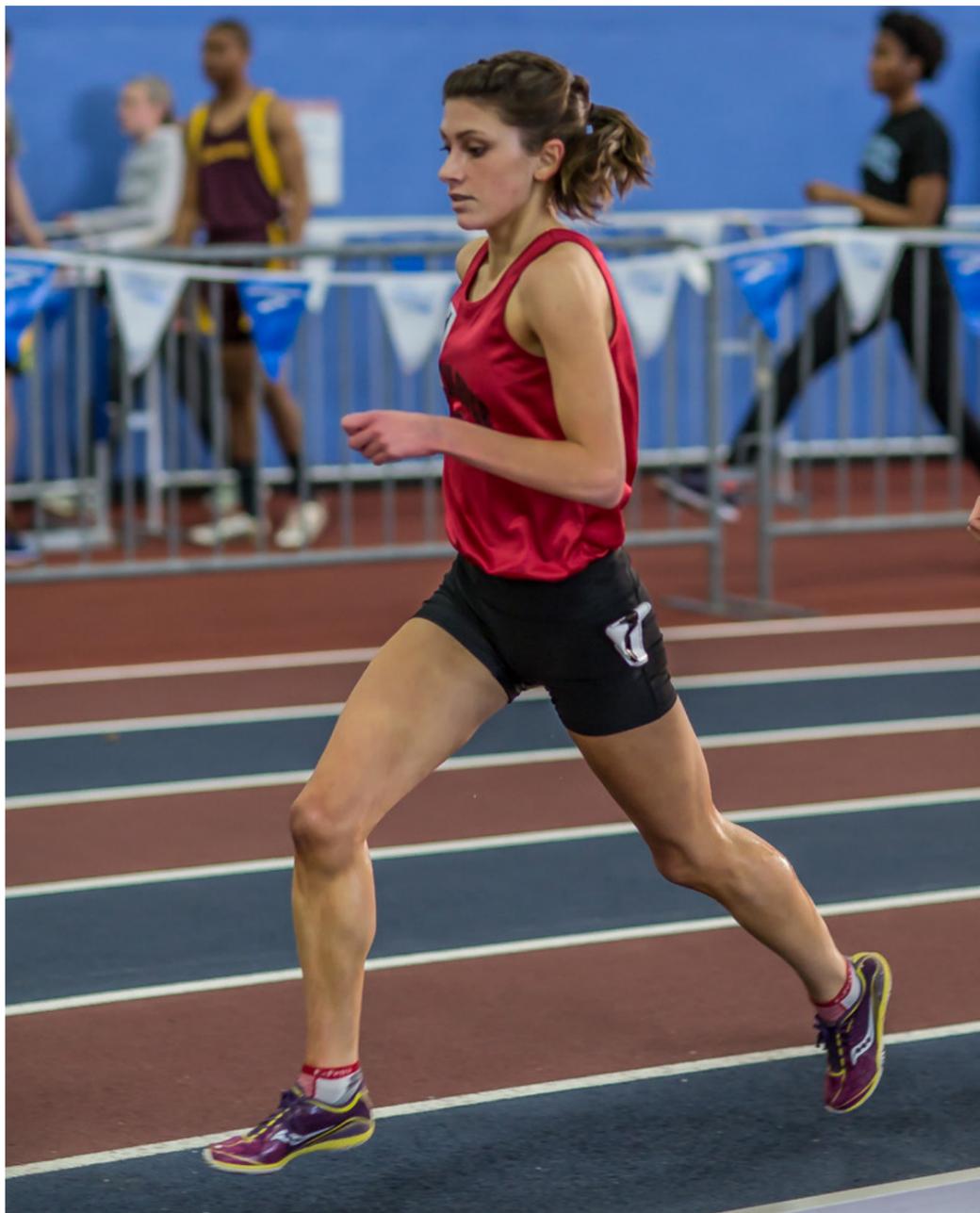
Ciolkowski looks to chase down that time and be the second Elon runner to advance to Eugene.

"He's pretty fortunate that somebody else has laid the path that was really high level," Jermyn said. "He's still chasing after them. I think there is still room to grow."

"I feel like there isn't too much pressure. I feel like [Ciolkowski] hasn't gotten to where he wants to be...he's just that good."



Junior cross country runner Nick Ciolkowski said he hopes to qualify for the NCAA tournament along with winning another Colonial Athletic Association conference championship. JACK HARTMANN | PHOTOGRAPHER



COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

Sophomore Molly Offstein was struck by a car in March and is now home in Baltimore recovering from her traumatic brain injury.

The path to **recovery**

As Molly Offstein recovers, the women's cross country team will continue to show support

Erik Webb

Sports Director | @ErikWebbElon

Ahead of the cross country season, one runner will be missing from the starting line.

Molly Offstein was struck by a car in March while running. The accident inflicted Offstein with a traumatic brain injury and the runner has since been battling to regain basic movement in her body.

After five months in the hospital, Offstein returned to her hometown of Frostburg, Maryland in August, but her father says there is still a "long, long, long road ahead."

In a Facebook post, Evan Offstein, Molly's father, said that though she may look awake in photos, her consciousness is sporadic at best and she relies on 10 different medications daily to function.

"I don't think there's anything that can equip a family to deal with this, but I think it has brought us closer in many ways," Evan told Elon News Network in a phone interview. "There's a big lesson here everyone needs to take out of this — and that is don't take a moment for granted."

New cross country head coach Kevin Jermyn said that it's difficult

to understand the tragedy and challenges Molly faces.

"It's difficult when you aren't there," he said. "I feel like I have empathy of these circumstances. But to be honest, I was never a young person going through that in college so I can never really understand the challenge and hopefully just hear them out."

Since the accident, there has been an outpouring of support from the Elon community, Molly's friends and family, as well as people around the country following her progress on a public Facebook page called "Show Us Your Shoes," dedicated to showing "support, love, prayer and healing thoughts for Molly Offstein and her family."

A GoFundMe page was also set up to help with medical costs and has raised almost \$52,000 since the accident for the Offstein family.

"To me, it's remarkable," Evan said. "The Elon community seems pretty strong. Even five months after the accident, they seem engaged. Even though Baltimore is not close to Elon, Elon kids continue to come by and give her their best."

"Even in this state, Molly seems to continue to make a difference as I get FB messages from people saying that they are running, eating better, losing weight, and getting healthy as a result of seeing Molly's lifestyle," he wrote.



CAROLINE BRENHAM | PHOTO EDITOR

A splash of **MORE SPIRIT**

SGA Executive President wants to emphasize athletic pride

Alex Hager
Web Producer | @ahager

Talk to just about any student at Elon University and they'll say they're proud to go here. Some will tell you how much they love the campus. Others will tell you they love their professors.

Very few students will mention Elon's athletic teams as a point of pride. Though students happily don the maroon and gold, enthusiasm for Elon's NCAA Division I athletics programs seem to be in short supply on campus.

But where some might see a flaw, one Elon student leader sees an opportunity. SGA Executive President and senior Morgan Bodenarain won her position last spring off her campaign promising to increase school athletic spirit. Now in her first full semester as president, Bodenarain is poised to follow through on her campaign promise by collaborating with SGA, Elon athletic department's marketing team and the Phoenix Phanatics student fan club.

"When I started working on my campaign, I wanted to focus on were things that not only I was passionate about — like inclusivity and civic engagement — but I wanted to work on things based off of what students were saying that they cared about and what they're worrying about," she said. "And one of the main things I kept hearing over and over again was school spirit."

Bodenarain said Elon students "define their pride in different ways," but that pride doesn't necessarily show a unified sense of school spirit. Last year, she launched the #OnePhoenix cam-

paign, an attempt at highlighting students' pride through social media. The campaign is designed to help students find unity by sharing the things they love about their school.

When #OnePhoenix launched, it was meant to transcend sports pride and show all of the different reasons students were proud to be part of the Elon community. But now Bodenarain is turning her focus to athletics, unveiling the first part of her plan during this fall's football season.

It all starts with tailgates, Bodenarain said.

"My vision for the future is a full Bank of America Drive so you literally can't even walk," Bodenarain said. "That's how many people are there. Similar to homecoming, but every single game. Similar to family weekend, but every single game."

Bodenarain thinks the time before the game is a valuable window to create excitement. Her first step is to create a welcoming environment for everybody. In the past, she said some students may not have felt there was a place for them at tailgates. But with a new SGA tailgate tent and individual tents for each residential neighborhood, she hopes students feel they have a place to gather with their friends.

"I think people want to go where their friends are," Bodenarain said. "So if their friends and their organizations are not at the tailgate, then they're not going to be there. I think it's about moving those cohorts to the games."

Some features of the tailgates planned for the fall include live music, free food and giveaways of prizes such as gift cards for those who go the extra mile with their game-day outfits. Bodenarain hopes that if students are hooked in by those incentives, their friends will follow and attendance numbers will snowball.

While a successful tailgate would provide a fun pregame at-



ALEX SIMON | FILE PHOTO

Top: Fans cheer during an exciting play at a basketball game

Left: The Elon's women's basketball team roars after winning the CAA Championship and qualifying for the NCAA Tournament

MORGAN BORDENARIAN'S GOALS

1. Increase School Spirit in Campus
2. Keep a lively atmosphere before and after games
3. Introduce themes in games
4. Work with Elon's Phoenix Phanatics to a maintain lively atmosphere throughout games



HAVING SCHOOL SPIRIT IS A BIG PART OF WHAT MAKES AN ELON STUDENT, AND WE ARE GOING TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO ESPECIALLY SHOW THAT TO INCOMING FRESHMEN STUDENTS.

DUSTIN FARRIS
PHOENIX PHANATICS PRESIDENT

need our support in order to play well."

And both Farris and Bodenarain agree that the best place to start is by focusing on freshmen.

"Having school spirit is a big part of what makes an Elon student an Elon student," Farris said. "And we're going to do what we can to especially show that to incoming freshmen students. Being active and involving campus is a great way to just meet new people."

mosphere, getting people to go to the game and stay there presents a separate set of challenges. Bodenarain and the athletics department have plans for that, too.

"Another thing we're working on is themes for all the games," Bodenarain said. "We're hoping that when students look out, especially whatever team is playing, they look out and see that sea of maroon, that sea of white, that sea of black, so they kind of have that unity."

Just as Bodenarain is planning to increase spirit before the game, Phoenix Phanatics President and senior Dustin Farris will work to keep up the energy inside the game. Phoenix Phanatics is a stu-

dent fan group known for bringing the loudest and most enthusiastic support section in Rhodes Stadium and Alumni Gym. By going all out with their outfits and leading the crowd in chants, Phoenix Phanatics members embody the spirit that Bodenarain and other leaders are looking for. Farris sees a greater importance to turning out and cheering on the Phoenix during games.

"I think doing well goes hand-in-hand with having people who support you," Farris said. "Like all of us, when we were incoming freshmen, we needed a support system around us, whether it was other students, other professors or our parents. Our athletic teams

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2017
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM



BLACK MEN OF DISTINCTION



ELON

PHOTO COURTESY OF @BLACKMENOFFE Instagram

The newly established student group kicked off with an Instagram account used to highlight men at Elon.

Uplifting black males on campus

Senior Alonzo Cee hopes to create a better support system for black males at Elon.

Diego Pineda

Contributor | @Diego_Pineda19

The recent police shootings, current political climate and protests such as the one Charlottesville, Virginia have led senior Alonzo Cee to combat the negative stereotypes aimed at black males.

GETTING THEIR NAME

The name "Black Men of Distinction" stems from the 10 men starting the campaign as well as the target audience who are distinct because of their skin color.

While interning and doing research at the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. headquarters this summer, Cee realized of the lack of support systems for black males on college campuses.

"The books I was reading and researched talked about that there needs to be support groups specifically targeted for black men in order to make them feel like they have some worth, have that connection and have that bond," Cee said.

Cee's research focused on African-American men on college campuses and he came across the subject of support systems in predominantly white college campuses. After reading about support systems, he says he had an aha moment thinking about the impact black men have on college campuses.

"The thing I reflected on was what support systems we have here at Elon for black men," Cee said. "What I realized is that if you aren't in a black fraternity or a sports team where a good amount of members aren't POCs [people of color] or black, you aren't going to have a support group."

See **DISTINCTION** | pg. 5

MOLDY MOVE-IN

Park Place residents experience mold after summer away from campus

JACKIE PASCALE | Executive Director | @jackie_pascale



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALLIE DIETZ

WHEN ELON UNIVERSITY SENIOR Allie Dietz returned to her Park Place apartment, she expected to find her belongings the way she left them. Instead, they were blanketed in a gray-colored mold.

"It's insane," Dietz said. "[It's] literally everywhere."

Five Park Place apartments are experiencing humidity issues, according to University Communications. This leads to a large presence of Aspergillus molds, which are the most common type of fungi in the environment. Fifteen students have been displaced from their apartments, which opened less than a year ago. Junior Briya Ware said she experienced a similar issue when she moved into her apartment in June.

"I'm on five medications, and so I'm super sensitive to that," Ware said. "The first night I came here, I didn't even sleep here. It was too hot, I couldn't even breathe."

Extreme humidity and lack of circulation are common complaints among Park Place residents. Bathrooms collecting moisture that contribute to mildew is an example of this. Ware and her roommates said it can be dangerously slippery. When calling maintenance to correct issues, Ware said the response disappointed them.

"We don't always get our requests fulfilled. We put a request in for our air," Ware said. "I did when I first got here, and no one came and fixed it."

MarQuita Barker, senior associate director of Residence Life, said the

Top: Senior Allie Dietz's shoes were covered in mold after returning to her Park Place apartment Aug. 23

Above left: Dietz's stove was completely rusted over because the room was moisture heavy.

Above middle: Kitchen appliances and the top of her refrigerator had spots of mold.

Above right: A Physical Plant worker came to scrub the mold off of Dietz's shoes.

WHO TO CONTACT

If mold or mildew is already present in an apartment, call Physical Plant at (336) 278-5555 or send in a work order on the Elon FixIt website

See **MILDEW** | pg. 5



NEWS • PAGE 5

SGA, IFC, others organize to combat racial tension



SPORTS • SECTION A

The Fall Sports Preview covers what to know about the upcoming season

THE PENDULUM

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

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

AUGUST 30
The Great Cape Escape 'Jump Start'
5:30 P.M.
Gerald Francis Center

'What's Happened Over The Summer?' panel discussion
7 P.M.
McKinnon Hall

AUGUST 31
Student Employment Fair
3:30 P.M.
McKinnon Hall

SEPTEMBER 2
Elon University Cross Country opener
8:30 A.M.
Elon South Campus

Elon University Men's Soccer vs Presbyterian
7 P.M.
Rudd Field

SEPTEMBER 4
'The Unseen Labor of Elon's Working Class' panel discussion
9:25 A.M.
Whitley Auditorium

Voter Registration Assistance Drop-In Session
3 P.M.
Moseley Center, Rm 230

Reception for Biennial Studio Art Faculty Exhibition
5:30 P.M.
Arts West, Gallery 406

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.

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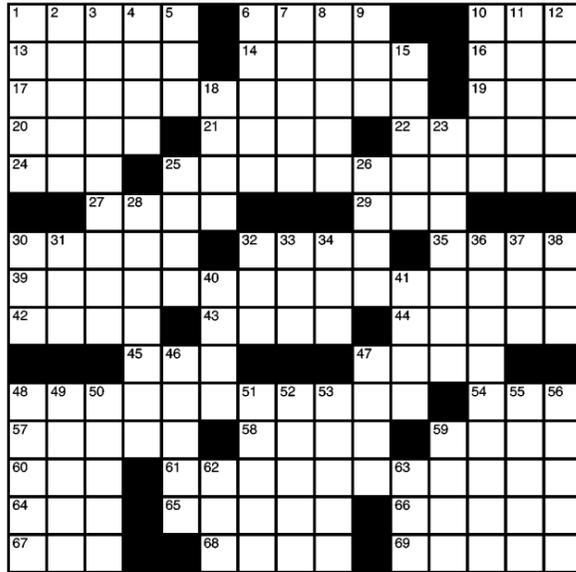
GAMES

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Brigantine's pair
 - 6 Necklace globule
 - 10 Touch gently
 - 13 Sneezing sound
 - 14 Grade for exceptional work
 - 16 "Gross!"
 - 17 Student's all-nighter
 - 19 Links figure
 - 20 Trek on a trail
 - 21 Lots
 - 22 Martini garnish
 - 24 Keats' "___ on Indolence"
 - 25 Dessert with a caramelized top
 - 27 Verbal
 - 29 Former "Inside the NFL" host Dawson
 - 30 Correctional
 - 32 Issuer of bulls
 - 35 Bridge support
 - 39 Course of study that may include forensics
 - 42 Trail
 - 43 Sports figures
 - 44 ___ fit: tantrum
 - 45 Tie-ending qtrs.
 - 47 Boot
 - 48 Like a mid-17th century English government
 - 54 Letter after upsilon
 - 57 "Spider-Man: Homecoming" actress Marisa
 - 58 Je t'___: French "I love you"
 - 59 Cookware material
 - 60 Bygone U.K. record label
 - 61 Car's impact-absorbing structural feature
 - 64 Suitable
 - 65 Comic/writer/activist Izzard
 - 66 Solitary sort
 - 67 Ed.'s acquisitions
 - 68 Italian wine region
 - 69 Latin clarifier

- DOWN**
- 1 Virile
 - 2 Bitterly pungent
 - 3 Seal the deal
 - 4 Heavy reading?
 - 5 Signal of distress
 - 6 Moisten while roasting
 - 7 ___ salts
 - 8 Dress named for a letter
 - 9 Electronic music's Daft Punk, e.g.
 - 10 Dilation target
 - 11 Tequila source
 - 12 Red billiard ball
 - 15 [Bo-ring!]
 - 18 Rank between marquis and viscount
 - 23 ___ fringe: fanatical extremists
 - 25 Colombian city
 - 26 ___ cheese
 - 28 Make emphatically, as a point
 - 30 Angel dust, for short
 - 31 Significant stretch
 - 32 Sketchbook, e.g.
 - 33 ___ Navy: discount retailer
 - 34 Comfy lounging wear



By Jacob Stulberg

8/30/17

Friday's Puzzle Solved



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8/30/17

- 36 Like aggressive investments
- 37 IV units
- 38 "Listen up!"
- 40 Body part with a bridge
- 41 It's just over a foot
- 46 ___-baked potatoes
- 47 Film critic Pauline
- 48 Third-stringers
- 49 Escapades
- 50 Passes over
- 51 Praises highly
- 52 Maximum
- 53 Macao Science Center designer
- 55 Sharpens
- 56 Like noble gases
- 59 Polo maker that's a Polo rival
- 62 Nutritional abbr.
- 63 Philanthropist Broad

NEWS BRIEFS

Football player's felony charge of peeping dropped

According to court records, the felony charge against Elon University sophomore Marcus Willoughby has been dropped on account of insufficient evidence.

Willoughby was charged May 22 following the charges of sophomores Khalil Moore and Jeremiah Bridges in April for secretly filming a woman from a laptop computer with the intent to create a pornographic video in the Danieley Neighborhood.

All three students were removed from the Elon football team roster following the charges, but since his case was dropped, Willoughby has been returned to the team.

Molly Offstein is home, continues treatment, therapy

Elon University cross country runner Molly Offstein went home Aug. 15 after spending just more than five months in the hospital.

Offstein suffered a traumatic brain injury after being struck by a car while jogging near campus the morning of March 6.

According to police, the car had a green light and was traveling below the speed limit. No charges have been filed.

According to her father, Evan Offstein, her condition has improved since March, but there is still a "long, long, long road ahead." She relies on a feeding tube and 10 different medications daily, and her command following is still inconsistent, he said.

Offstein will continue treatment at home with the help of her family, nurses and a therapy dog named Toby.

Program prepares students, faculty for charity 5k

To prepare faculty and staff members for the The Great Cape Escape — a superhero-themed 5K/10K/Fun Run to raise money for Open Door Clinic of Alamance County — Faculty/Staff Wellness and the Elon Physician Assistant Studies Student Society have developed a four-week "Jump Start to The Great Cape Escape" program.

The program will begin Aug. 30 and include twice-weekly workouts. According to the E-Net article, it is designed for active individuals who regularly exercise.

The Great Cape Escape takes place at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23.

The Princeton Review ranks 'LGBTQ-Unfriendly' colleges

The Princeton Review has ranked 382 establishments of higher education in regards to their friendliness toward LGBTQIA identifying students through a recent survey.

The Princeton Review received responses from 137,000 students from the 382 schools. The top 20 schools were published.

College of the Ozarks, a private Christian school in Point Lookout, Motana was ranked as the worst of the schools for LGBTQIA students. Winston-Salem University in Winston-Salem was ranked at no. 12.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY - MEMORIAL TREE PLANTED



FILE PHOTO FROM ELON NEWS NETWORK

A tree was planted in memory of Elon University junior Trent Stetler in front of his freshman year dorm, Danieley K, four years ago, Aug. 31, 2013.

In January 2013, Burlington Police reported to the Elon Community that Stetler had committed suicide.

More than 40 students gathered to remember their classmate and friend at this event.

Students shared fond memories of their friend and teammate, as Stetler was a member of the Elon Men's rugby team.

"One of the challenges of the situation is not letting the loss overshadow what we gained," said Stetler's mother,

Denette Stetler

"When you drive by here in a week, 10 or 20 years later, remember all the late-night talks, the laughs and the love."

The event was planned by Nicholas Cianciara '14 and a group of Stetler's friends as a way to honor Stetler's memory and to help the community come to terms with the loss.

"I know that I can speak for more people than myself when I say that this has been a tough year," Cianciara wrote on the social media invitation to the community.

"I know that many people are still working to find some amount of closure."

REMEMBERED WITH A SMILE

Friends recounted cheerful memories of Stetler, including how he'd make people smile with the mantra of Finding Nemo's Dory's, "Just keep swimming."



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CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR
Freshmen roommates Junie Vargas, left, and Ava Naran, right, carry their belongings from their cars to Sloan Hall where their dorm room is located on Friday Aug. 25. Vargas is from Nicaragua and Naran is from Cary.



AJ MANDELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
President Leo Lambert smiles with sophomore Daniela Nasser at New Student Convocation Aug. 26. This was his last convocation as president.



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR
Freshman Peter Fortunato puts together his bed with his father, Lou Fortunato, in the Sloan Residence Hall on Friday Aug. 25.



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR
Freshmen roommates Taylor Foley and Catherine Buppert unpack their belongings in their new dorm room in the Carolina Residence Hall on Friday Aug. 25.



AJ MANDELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
A freshman picks up an acorn at Fall New Student Convocation Aug. 26.

MOLD | from cover

increased humidity is because of an over-chilled condenser on the roof of the building. A self-contained heating and air conditioning system equip each room, so there's no sharing of ductwork or air between rooms. Barker said it's still possible the moisture issue could affect other rooms. And being isolated to a few rooms doesn't minimize the damage. Mold and mildew covered items such as shoes, electronics and kitchen appliances when some residences returned.

Dietz said she immediately called Physical Plant and notified Residence Life after seeing the mildew. A cleaner came within a few hours attempting to scrub the physical damage off their belongings.

Residence Life and Physical Plant both brought in an outside contractor, First Call Cleaning and Restoration, to conduct air-tests and clean the apartments. The fifteen students displaced in the five apartments won't return until the problem is fixed. The outside contractor said the problem might take longer to fix than the predicted 10 days.

"They won't move back in until the experts say that it is safe for them to go back in," Barker said.

Barker said the cleaning and testing process will take a few days, and in the meantime, the residents have been relocated to other on-campus spaces. Dietz and her roommates were relocated to a College Station apartment. Residence Life told Dietz and her roommates they had very limited space for even just her apartment, let alone four others. "I just feel bad for the other people," Dietz said. "Because we got there first and brought it to their attention, we were lucky enough to get an apartment that we can stay together. But other people are in apartments with people that just had an open room."

Dietz said she's expecting to be in that apartment for at least



COURTESY OF ALLIE DIETZ

a month while her apartment is cleaned and tested. And in her last year of college, Dietz said this is a hiccup she didn't expect.

"It's a weird feeling — to feel lost, but I do," Dietz said. "I don't feel like I'm at home, which I normally do when I'm at Elon."

To assure that mold and mildew does not become a problem in other residences around Elon, students are reminded during the summer months to never set thermostats below 72 degrees, and not to prop exterior doors and keep windows closed while heating or cooling units are operating. This will cause condensation and may contribute to mold growth.

If mold or mildew is already present, call Physical Plant at (336) 278-5555 or send in a work order on the Elon FixIt website at: <https://www.elon.edu/iser-vice/>

PREVENTING MOLD

1. Students with bath exhausts in their bathrooms should turn those on while showering
2. Students without an exhaust should keep the bathroom doors ajar and open windows immediately after showering
3. With winter coming up, students should make sure not to set room thermostats above 68 degrees.
4. After drying off, residents should leave their towels and floor mat out to dry properly so as to not let water sit on soft surfaces for long periods of time.
5. If mold is present, call the Physical Plant at (336)-278-5555 and avoid dealing with the situation.

“

THE FIRST NIGHT I CAME HERE, I DIDN'T EVEN SLEEP HERE. IT WAS TOO HOT, I COULDN'T EVEN BREATHE.

BRIYA WARE
JUNIOR

STUDENTS DISPLACED

15

15 students were displaced from their Park Place apartments, which opened less than a year ago.

The majority of senior Allie Dietz's shoes left in her apartment over the summer were covered in mold when she returned to campus.

Campus organizations unite against racial tension

Numerous groups met last spring to address racism on Elon University's campus

Junie Burke
Contributor | @burke_junie

In April, former president of the NC Mu chapter Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity and senior Owen Gaffney

THE INCIDENT

used a racial slur toward a black student, causing a campus-wide conversation regarding racial issues. Now the organizations are redefining their perspectives and working to increase inclusivity. Since last spring, students have voiced their concerns on the unfolding situation. To address this, SGA Executive President and senior

Morgan Bodenarain began outlining how to address racial tensions in a meeting last semester. And she said it all starts with cooperation.

"Student leaders across campus met last semester to talk about not just how we can end this problem, but also how we can address it as student leaders on this campus," Bodenarain said. "That is what I would like to see. So often the burden seems to fall on minority parts of this campus. They seem to shoulder most of the weight."

One of the organizations represented at the meeting included the Interfraternity Council, the overarching body that governs the eight fraternities on campus, including Sigma Phi Epsilon. Since the meeting, the organization expressed interest in working with the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education (CREDE) to establish further routes of education and inclusivity among their respective cohorts.

Current Executive President of Sigma Phi Epsilon and senior Walker Barnum spoke highly of the fraternity's relationship with the

“

EDUCATION IS FIRST AND FOREMOST. EDUCATING OUR MEMBERS SO THAT THEY MAY BE GENUINE GOOD MEMBERS OF SOCIETY, SO THAT THEY MAY FIGHT TENSIONS INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY.

WALKER BARNUM

EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON

CREDE. He said they have been in contact all summer and that he is excited to experiment with new ideas. Barnum said "a group of about 10-14 brothers" will work directly with the CREDE, including Gaffney, who has been a major advocate for this.

"We are officially partnering with the CREDE this year," he said. "They have brought in a model that works. It is a small group dynamic model where a group meets up week after week to establish trust and create dialogue. We believe that this is the first step in solving

the issue."

Director of the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Dean Tyrone Jean said, "Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity demonstrated a desire and commitment to engage in a sustained dialogue on the topic of race. The CREDE mutually shares this commitment as the experience will yield value to individual students, the chapter and Elon University."

Jean said the partnership was not created with the intention to punish Sigma Phi Epsilon, but rather for the purpose of education. And based on that model, Bar-

num said he has high hopes for this year.

"The relationship is still being established, and we are continuing to meet both our goals and theirs, and that will take time," Barnum said. "The hope is to continue this for the future so that we can grow together."

Bodenarain said these opportunities for dialogue may be the answer to dissolving any tensions.

"Sometimes there is a disconnect when some people don't feel responsible for things that happen on campus, because they think, 'It could never happen to me,'" she said.

And based on this momentum, Barnum said he is excited to continue this dialogue among these groups on campus.

"Education is first and foremost," Barnum said. "Educating our members so that they may be genuine good members of society, so that they may fight tensions internally and externally."

"We will continue to work with individuals and groups on campus who share our desire to make the world a better place."



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

STAFF EDITORIAL

We must do more than stand with Charlottesville

HOW WE SEE IT

It is important to stand in solidarity with victims of hate and oppression, but we must put actions behind our support.

Following the terrifying and tragic display of white supremacy at the University of Virginia and Charlottesville, Virginia earlier this month, many people and organizations across the nation pledged their solidarity with UVA and anyone affected by this tragedy.

This event struck a chord with many Americans, showing us all the reality of white supremacy, fascism, neo-Nazism and the remaining power of the Ku Klux Klan. It shed light on the viewpoints and hate that have been a part of our country for centuries.

President Leo M. Lambert addressed the Elon community Aug. 14 following the violence in Charlottesville in a statement.

“First and foremost, we must say in clear language: there is no place on our college campuses, in our com-

munities or in American society for white supremacy, racism, neo-Nazism, fascism or the wretched legacy of the Ku Klux Klan,” Lambert said in his statement. “In the face of such evil, our community chooses to drive out ignorance with education, hope, inclusion and respect.”

Lambert is right — these atrocities should not be on our or any other college campus. It is important to show our support, but we can and should be doing more.

UVA is less than 150 miles from Elon University. There are more than 95 monuments honoring the confederacy in North Carolina, according to state records. And according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, there are 31 hate groups in our state.

Elon is not much different than

UVA. The same events could have and still can happen here and many instances of racism already have.

There are likely many people in the surrounding area of our community, and in our community itself, who hold these beliefs which target and endanger minorities on our campus. Just because there are no people storming our campus with lit torches doesn't mean those ideas aren't present here. Elon needs to be prepared for events such as those in Charlottesville to happen here.

We need to go beyond words of solidarity and move toward actions of resistance. It is not enough to say that we will not allow these ideologies to thrive on our campus, we must prove it.

This responsibility lies just as much with our students as it does with our administration. The university and many student organizations have already put in place ways for students to stand against racism, but our students need to take advantage of them. To do this, students can attend town halls hosted by SGA, speakers

and events hosted by the CREDE, meetings with the Black Student Union and more. Outside our campus, students can engage by attending meetings of the Alamance County chapter of the NAACP. These meetings are typically filled with mostly people of color, but it is important for all people to engage in conversations and listen to different perspectives.

Elon's administration should also continue to make diversity and inclusion efforts a priority. We also should have a plan in place to protect our students in case anything like this were to ever happen on our campus.

It's easy to stand in solidarity with Charlottesville. It's easy to share articles on social media or to post about your remorse for the victims. But if there are no actions behind your words, change will not occur.

Have conversations with your friends who may hold different beliefs than you. Shop at minority owned businesses. Question microaggressions. We all can be doing more.

CAMPUS VOICES

Mental health awareness deserves greater priority



Haley Browne
Class of 2020

Similar to the experience of Hannah Baker in the popular Netflix series, “Thirteen Reasons Why,” many college students struggle with feelings of helplessness every day. Every year more than 1000 college students die from suicide. It is the third leading cause of death for people ages 15 to 24, according to a report by Emory University.

In an article titled, “Shedding stigma to stop suicides on college campuses,” by journalist Kelly Wallace of CNN, statistics are used to demonstrate that suicide rates on college campuses are at an all-time high. Wallace states that nearly eight deaths per 100,000 students are suicides. She also states that approximately 31 percent of students who sought counseling in the 2013-2014 school year stated that they had considered suicide at some point in their lives. That number was just 25 percent five years prior.

Transitioning into college is never easy, especially when the student lives out

of state. You no longer have anyone to hold your hand, or protect you. The transition from Massachusetts to North Carolina has been incredibly hard for me. I struggled every day with depression and anxiety, and had no idea where to go or what to do about it. For some reason, at college there tends to be a negative stigma associated with mental health and mental health services, and students push away from seeking the help they truly need.

But why? How can we as the Elon community decrease the rates of suicides and revoke this stigma about mental health?

As a new student at Elon, you are required to complete the two online courses for Alcohol Education and Haven to inform you on how to handle situations involving alcohol and/or sexual assault. First-year students are also required to take a one-credit class titled “Elon 101,” which helps students with the college transitioning process. Though

these online courses and “Elon 101” are very informative and helpful, there is no program for mental health.

After creating a survey and sharing it with my sorority sisters and the Elon class of 2020, I received amazing feedback about how students believe Elon could improve their mental health services.

Of the numerous students that took this survey, all of them said they themselves either struggle with anxiety or depression, or have a loved one who suffers. But approximately 30 percent of students admitted they did not want to seek help at Elon.

Roughly 65 percent of students surveyed said Elon does not do a good enough job promoting their counseling services along with their suicide/help hotlines. Out of the students that did seek help while struggling, many had comments about how unsuccessful their experience was.

While a few of the responses were positive, the vast

majority of them were negative. One anonymous student said, “I have depression and generalized anxiety disorder. I went to counseling services at the beginning of the year and they basically told me that they can't provide what I need for counseling. In addition, I didn't feel comfortable with the counselor I was assigned, but wasn't sure how to request another one. Because of this, I haven't gone back.”

Ninety-six percent of students that took the survey believe Elon needs to improve their counseling and mental health services. If this doesn't show that something needs to change, I'm not quite sure what does.

Toward the end of this survey, I focused more on how students think the Elon community can improve this flaw and how to educate incoming students. Seventy-seven percent of students think that having some form of mandatory session of suicide awareness and prevention education could

be beneficial to incoming first-year students.

How do we do this?

Fifty percent of students surveyed believe that suicide awareness and prevention education during the course of Elon 101 could be helpful to the new members of the Elon community.

By implementing some sort of suicide awareness/prevention education, Elon's students will be informed of the symptoms of anxiety and depression and how to properly identify if someone may be experiencing such symptoms. Also, by improving Elon's counseling services and further promoting them, we could provide students a safe place to turn to when feeling hopeless and alone.

So I am asking the community to help me implement a better suicide prevention and awareness education on our campus. Together we can eliminate this stigma, help those that are suffering and most importantly, save lives.

ONLINE:

Elon Hillel welcomes new interim director Betsy Polk

LIFESTYLE



I WANTED TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING THAT HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT AMONGST A DEMOGRAPHIC THAT ISN'T REALLY TALKED ABOUT.

ALONZO CEE
FOUNDER OF BLACKMEN OF DISTINCTION



COURTESY OF ALONZO CEE

DISTINCTION | from cover

This led him to create the Black Men of Distinction group which kicked off with an Instagram page (@blackmenofeu) earlier this month. Cee wants this group to transcend social or extracurricular activities on campus.

"I wanted to be a part of something that had a positive impact amongst a demographic that isn't really talked about," Cee said.

The group began as a social media campaign to spotlight and showcase 'black boy joy' and accomplishments black men achieve on Elon's campus.

"I want this to be something that really tells a story and captures different moments of different black men on campus," Cee said. "These posts can continue to live even after they're posted."

Cee wants the group to eventually become an organization specifically for black men where they are able to host events, panels and talk about subjects such as black manhood, identity and their roles on campus. He also wants to incorporate a mentor/mentee aspect to it.

To gain support from the entire scope of black men on campus, Cee contacted nine other black men from diverse areas to help start the group. Some of the members represent fine arts, arts and sciences, SGA, the Connections office and athletics, among others.

"If you were really to delve into each identity of the 10 of us, we're all black men," Cee said. "But we're all different, have different areas of expertise and different insights that we bring to the table."

The mission of the Black Men of Distinction group is to change the narrative of the negative stereotypes black males have.

"You don't really get to change the narrative until you actually have a force trying to do it," Cee said. "I think with the different spheres of influence that we have, the social media campaign and the support group we're trying to build up ... I think we have a

chance of doing it."

Kicking off the campaign

The first post on the Instagram page was captioned "Bringing Elon Black Boy Joy...Soon to come."

"Black boy joy is finding those moments that are joyful to a black man and really trying to show the positives of black manhood," Cee said.

Freshman Zion McKnight began following the page even before stepping foot on Elon's campus. For him, black boy joy means "being proud to be the black male that God created you to be."

McKnight began following the page after seeing the name and recognizing how it applied to him.

"I'm a black man and I'm now officially attending Elon University," McKnight said. "I felt like the page would post things that I could relate with."

According to Cee, who currently runs the Instagram account, the photos and statements used on the Instagram page are meant to be positive and uplift others.

The name "Black Men of Distinction" stems from the 10 men starting the campaign as well as the target audience who are distinct because of their skin color.

"We are set apart, but it's stereotypically done in a negative fashion," Cee said. "Coupling that with black boy joy and the pure fact of this movement we're also being distinct in our actions and in our influence that we have on campus."

Though ideas are still being decided in terms of how they will pick those who will be showcased on the page, Cee thinks direct message submissions could work as well as the spheres of influence of those leading the movement.

Looking Ahead

During this fall semester, the Black Men of Distinction will work under the Black Student Union and possibly in the spring become their own organization.



COURTESY OF ZION MCKNIGHT

Top: Alonzo Cee was inspired to start the group after working at the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Inc. headquarters this summer.

Left: Freshman Zion McKnight has felt welcomed by different groups on campus including Black Men of Distinction.

The group not only hopes to spotlight achievements of black men on campus, but also to be a support system for many — especially freshmen — beginning their journey at Elon.

During his first few days at Elon, McKnight felt welcomed by the different groups at Elon. When he visited the open house at the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education (CREDE) last Friday, he met some of the creators of the @blackmenofeu page.

"I just felt a vibe with them," McKnight said. "They were really optimistic and even referenced groups like the SMART program to join if I needed mentors or even just guidance."

McKnight believes it is a great idea to have programs meant specifically for people of color.

"I feel like they're essential because, for people of color who haven't found themselves yet or are looking for somewhere to belong, they'll have somewhere," McKnight said.

He's eager to get involved in these types of groups and, because of his interest in photography, hopes to promote his photography through the

@blackmenofeu page.

Besides becoming a support group for students, Cee also hopes to showcase faculty and staff throughout campus that identifies as black males. He wants to begin with the CREDE staff first and then work his way through different departments.

"I didn't just want to showcase what students do, I also wanted to showcase what administrators and faculty and staff do as well," Cee said. "These are opportunities to find not just peer mentors, but faculty and staff mentors as well."

Cee acknowledged that even faculty and staff on campus need that boost they can get from the group as well as be uplifted by the members. Though the Black Men of Distinction was his original idea, Cee hopes it becomes a movement that surpasses even him.

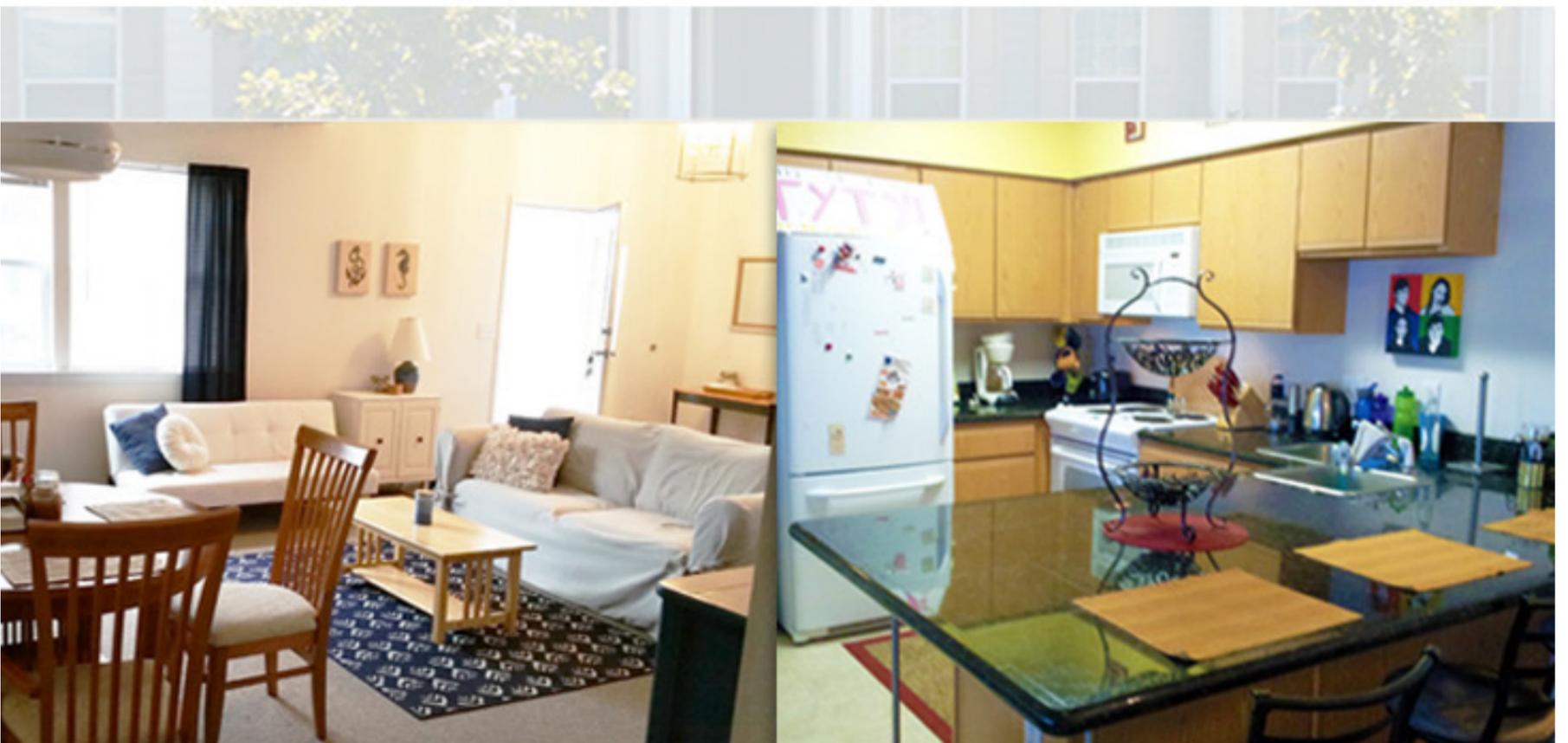
"I want this to be something positive for all black men here on this campus and something they can all take pride in," Cee said. "So the next person in charge of this program can actually hold this up high and be proud of it."



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