

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020  
VOLUME 50, EDITION 11  
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

# THE PENDULUM



## ELON CANS COMPOSTING DUE TO PANDEMIC PRECAUTIONS

As the pandemic changes daily operations on campus, Elon’s Office of Sustainability is finding new ways to continue operations

Samantha Hess | Elon News Network

WALKING AROUND CAMPUS, THE effect of the pandemic on environmental waste is evident. Trash cans and compost bins outside of dining halls overflow with coffee cups and to-go boxes.

Elon junior Grace Contino worked as the sustainability intern for Elon Dining last school year when her internship was cut short due to the pandemic.

“It’s really discouraging to see all these to-go containers piled up in the trash cans

around campus,” Contino said. “We had just started pushing the green, reusable to-go containers last year. Now they’ve had to take them away, and they make the argument that it’s for health reasons, but I kind of think it’s just an excuse.”

Only single-use containers are being used on campus this semester, as well as in the dining halls, as an effort to minimize the risk of transmitting COVID-19. Post-consumer compostable waste, such as used to-go boxes, is not currently being composted this fall semester due

to challenges coming from COVID-19, according to the Elon sustainability website. In a sample stream of waste at the beginning of the semester, the higher volume of compostable waste also led to an increase in non-compostable contaminants. As a result, composting post-consumer waste has been put on hold.

See **SUSTAINABILITY** | pg. 4

LANEY DANIELS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon junior Grace Contino is disappointed with changes made to sustainable efforts at Elon as a result of COVID-19. The green reusable to-go boxes pushed as a sustainable change last year are now forgotten, as single use containers become the safer option.

## COVID-19 spikes cause anxiety, ire among students

New restrictions implemented following spikes in COVID-19 cases among students

Grace Terry  
Managing Editor | @gfterry9

Only a floor separates Elon University sophomore Chris Anderson and his friends. However, he said he feels like he cannot go visit them without breaking Elon’s “new mitigation measures” to prevent the spread COVID-19.

One of these restrictions include limiting informal social gatherings to five

people or less, according to an email to the Elon community from Jeff Stein, chair of the Ready & Resilient committee. This comes after two spikes in COVID-19 case numbers on Friday, Oct. 24, and Saturday, Oct. 25 — in the last five day, cases have totaled.

The university is also testing 5,000 students over the next week. These restrictions are being combined with measures already in place under a social hiatus — the second one implemented this year — which began Oct. 23. These restrictions include grab-and-go dining and suspending practice for high-risk club sports.

“I think it is kinda stupid,” Anderson said. “I can’t even go downstairs and hang

out with my friends, and then I see a ton of people at Paulie’s.”

Anger is what senior Kyra Letsinger felt after seeing the spike in the school’s COVID-19 case numbers. She said most of that anger was directed at the Elon administration.

“I was upset. Not just sad, but angry at everybody that caused it to happen, especially in the school, to be honest,” Letsinger said.

Her opinion differs from Anderson’s in that she is frustrated because she never thought students should have returned to campus here in the first place.

See **REACTION** | pg. 5



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

Elon University has started “expanded testing” for all undergraduates. They are aiming to include 5,000 students by the end of this week. Students Letsinger and Miljanic wish that student’s voices were heard more when decisions are being made about them.



**NEWS • PAGE 6**  
Clusters reach neighborhoods



**LIFESTYLE • PAGE 8**  
The recognition of LGBTQIA history month



**SPORTS • PAGE 15**  
Football team works for upcoming spring season

# THE PENDULUM

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News Director of Elon Local News

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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.

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## CORRECTIONS

In the last edition of the Pendulum, in the story about Life@Elon, Kathryn Bennett, the program coordinator for Life@Elon, had her last name spelled incorrectly. Elon News Network regrets this error.

## COMIC

### HALLOWEEN MASKS



COMIC SAMS - SAM POROZOK

## SCAN FOR AN ANSWER KEY TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

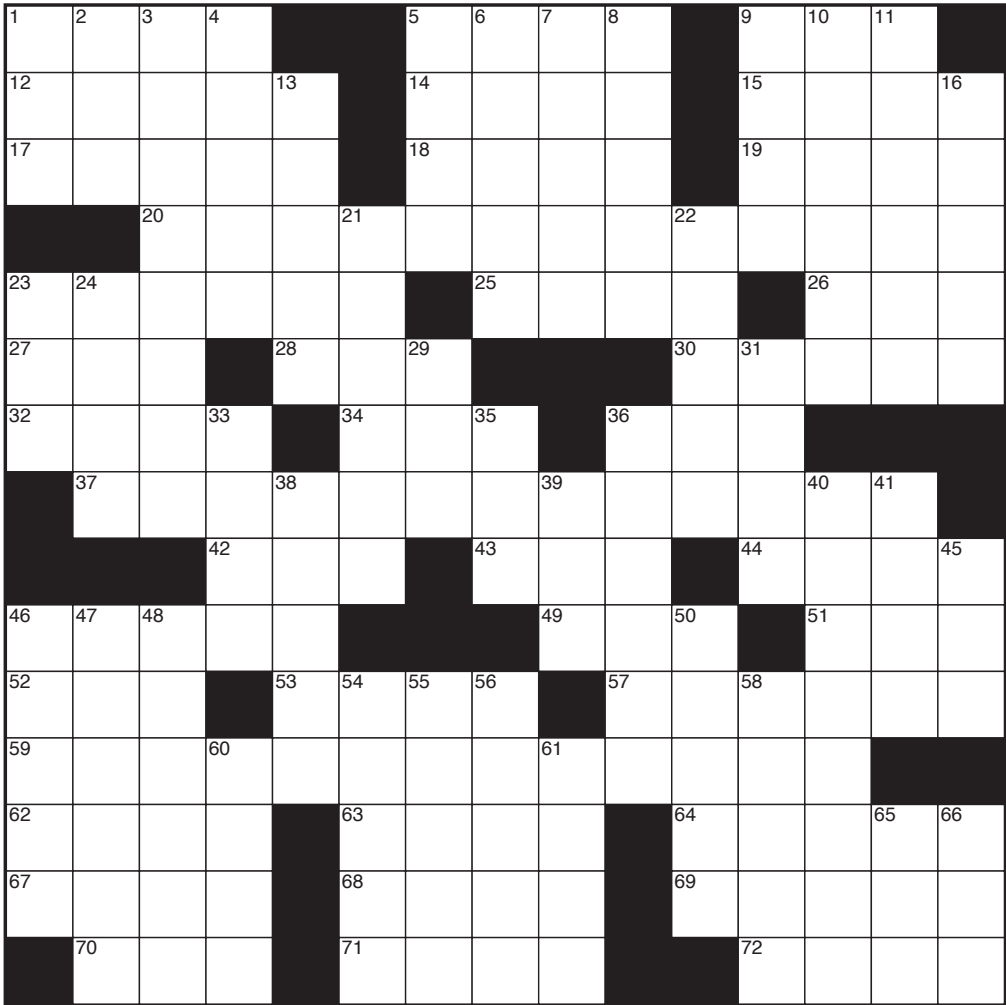


1. Open your phone camera
2. Focus on the QR code
3. Click the pop-up link

## CROSSWORD

### Fly Away!

By Thomas Denome



### ACROSS

- 1 Mama counterpart  
5 Spunky  
9 \_\_\_\_\_, Will and Mike (Linebacker positions)  
12 Immobile  
14 Watercolor?  
15 Stanford mascot?  
17 Word before plane or pants  
18 Pipes create one, perhaps  
19 Mideast regional power  
20 Might be found migrating  
23 Medieval science word with a bacterial disease named after it  
25 Mexican money  
26 Programming language or math game  
27 A dad might make one  
28 Flee  
30 Aye-aye \_\_\_\_\_!  
32 From a distance  
34 Catch  
36 One might ask a dog to do it  
37 What 20 and 59 cross may do  
42 French not  
43 La Brea \_\_\_\_\_ Pits  
44 Birthplace of Shakespeare, Stratford-upon-\_\_\_\_\_  
46 Red Sea crosser  
49 After nine  
51 Wedding vow  
52 A play is comprised of several, typically  
53 > or <  
57 Hay, perhaps  
59 Corpse congregator  
62 Molding material  
63 Extinct Indian Ocean avian  
64 Ones less than ones  
67 Ceremonial Maori dance  
68 Capital of Latvia  
69 Pedestal support  
70 Soak  
71 Yemani port  
72 Of a beaver, perhaps

### DOWN

- 1 Insta post  
2 Pundit Navarro  
3 Kept to oneself  
4 Hamlet's therefore  
5 The way  
6 Add to one's arsenal  
7 Russian money  
8 Measures of 50 grams in China  
9 The straw does it to the drink  
10 Utter  
11 Childish insult  
13 Word that follows skin or print  
16 Groundskeeper Willie quote: "You just made a \_\_\_\_\_ for life!"  
21 Derogatory term for some alcoholics  
22 Halley's, e.g.  
23 Tax expert  
24 Puff's counterpart  
29 Freedom fighter Turner  
31 Turkish honorific  
33 Knot-tier  
35 Spam spewer  
36 Lacking  
38 Hindu class system  
39 Slangy term for a gun

- 40 Criminal's bane  
41 One might have done it in a car or on a horse  
45 Neither's partner  
46 What winning enough of 66 across will win you  
47 Relating to vision  
48 Line of planks on a boat  
50 Not verbs  
54 Mythical Greek beat  
55 Dodge  
56 Push  
58 Sag  
60 Myanmar currency  
61 What a shark might take?  
65 New speaker of English (abbr.)  
66 Tennis game subdivision



A group of Alamance County residents hold a Black Lives Matter flag as they march through the Ballpark community on Oct. 24. The residents march for racial justice in light of injustices seen throughout the country.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



FRANCES O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pumpkins sit outside of Jackson Residence Hall on Tuesday, Oct 27.



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alamance County resident and university custodian Alice Pinnix holds a Black Lives Matter poster during the march for racial justice on Oct. 24 through the Ballpark community.



ELLIS CHANDLER | SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Katrina the lion rests in her enclosure at the Animal Park at the Conservators Center in Burlington on Oct. 26.

# Elon’s sustainability efforts are hindered by COVID-19

## SUSTAINABILITY | from cover

Post-consumer compostable waste, such as used to-go boxes, is not currently being composted this fall semester due to challenges coming from COVID-19. In a sample stream of waste at the beginning of the semester, the higher volume of compostable waste led to an increase in non-compostable contaminants. As a result, composting post-consumer waste has been put on hold.

While reusable containers are one way to mitigate environmental waste, many stores and restaurants — Elon Dining included — are not accepting reusable bags or containers due to transmission risks. Kelly Harer, assistant director of sustainability at Elon, said she agrees there are ways to focus more on cleanliness with reusables, but also finds importance in recognizing how certain priorities have shifted.

“The CDC has guidelines for disinfecting all of these reusables, so there is a way to reduce and reuse,” Harer said. “We should be doing that if we’re able to, but again, we’re all going through this. We will definitely move on from this. I think at that point it will be really important to say we did all these things for safety and we know we needed to do it.”

Harer said she struggled to maintain her focus on sustainable practices throughout the pandemic. Many of the Office of Sustainability’s events have had to be moved online, like Campus Sustainability week events and Eco-Rep information sessions in Elon 101 classes. To maintain a sense of normalcy, Harer has pushed for outdoor and physically distanced meetings in order to create a physical connection with the environment.

“I have consciously spent this semester focusing on mental health,” Harer said. “There’s a lot of research that shows if you’re able to get outside, it’s great for your mental health. The events we have been hosting, and that we’re hosting this week, are outdoors.”

A 2015 study by Harvard Health Publishing showed spending time in a natural outdoor environment can lower activity in the prefrontal cortex, often associated with repetitive negative thoughts. Additionally, those who have most recently experienced traumatic stress were seen to have the biggest mental health boost, which could connect to the heightened anxiety surrounding COVID-19.

Harer is integrating being outdoors

“

I THINK DURING QUARANTINE, PEOPLE HAD MORE TIME TO THINK ABOUT HOW THEY WERE LIVING. PEOPLE ARE NOTICING WHAT THEY DO AT HOME AND HOW MUCH FOOD WASTE THEY CREATE, HOW MUCH PLASTIC THEY MIGHT GENERATE FROM TAKEOUT OR ORDERING ONLINE.

GRACE CONTINO  
ELON JUNIOR

with mental health and sustainability discussions to encourage a focus on students’ personal well-being. On Monday, Oct. 19, the Office of Sustainability held an eco-grief session at Loy Farm, focusing on sharing grief and struggles with the growing environmental crisis.

Contino attended this session and said during the spring, finding a balance between focusing on her own mental health throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and maintaining sustainable practices was a struggle. While people have gone outside more as a result of being stuck inside the house, they are also using more single-use plastic than before, according to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

While this is one of the main ways waste is increasing on campus, Contino said there are ways in which people are becoming more aware of their environmental habits.

“I think during quarantine, people had more time to think about how they were living,” Contino said. “People are noticing what they do at home and how much food waste they create, how much plastic they might generate from takeout or ordering online. But people are also driving less, which is more environmentally sustainable.”

Contino also speaks on sustainable

land use, and recalls moments from the beginning of the pandemic when native animals would roam the empty streets of cities they used to occupy. These moments that occurred as a result of COVID-19 really gave a different perspective to how we view the world and the way we use its resources, Contino said.

Elon University has had to make many changes on campus specifically, but there are other sustainability initiatives unaffected by the pandemic.

The university has a carbon neutrality goal set for 2037 and to track this process, the Office of Sustainability does yearly greenhouse gas inventories. This is done at the beginning of every summer, and Harer expects this upcoming summer’s reports to be lower than before due to decreased operations on campus. Of greenhouse gas emissions reported at Elon, 25% come

from air travel emissions from study abroad, the majority of which have been canceled this year.

With bigger sustainability operations on campus maintaining regularity, landfill waste production is the main issue contributing to a greater environmental threat on campus. Harer said she wants to give students grace in this period though, as the pandemic contributes to excess stress and anxiety for students.

“I am okay with focusing on mental health as long as we need. I think that’s really important. I think that’s an important part of sustainability that people are missing out on,” Harer said. “We’re in a lot of converging crises, and so being able to do outdoor events, seeing classes being held outside are all really good to me and I hope they continue.”



GRAPHIC BY TED THOMAS

# Elon students’ concerns about new restrictions

REACTION | from cover

Letsinger tested positive for COVID-19 this summer and she said her experience was “horrible.” She shared her thoughts on having the semester in-person with Vice President for Student Life Jon Dooley.

“The school knew that this was going to happen and there was no way for them to say that they hadn’t,” Letsinger said. “So many people told them it was, including me. I told Jon Dooley, ‘I have been through this’ and people aren’t going to deal well with it. It is going to be awful.”

Letsinger believes that through their emails, the university is blaming students for the spike in cases.

“There’s just always this idea that, ‘we trust our students’ and then they turn right back around and they’re like, ‘we are ashamed of the student body for not following safety procedures,’” Letsinger said.

Letsinger said she found a part of one of Stein’s emails was “patronizing.”

“These numbers are extremely concerning and show how isolated cases spread through social contact can impact entire groups,” Stein wrote in the email Letsinger was referencing to. “There are important lessons to learn here: If you are in a social or residential group, NOW is the time to reflect on the nature of your shared activities. Wearing a mask, physically distancing, and limiting contacts are the best tools to mitigate virus spread.”

However, Letsinger does think students are also to blame as well.

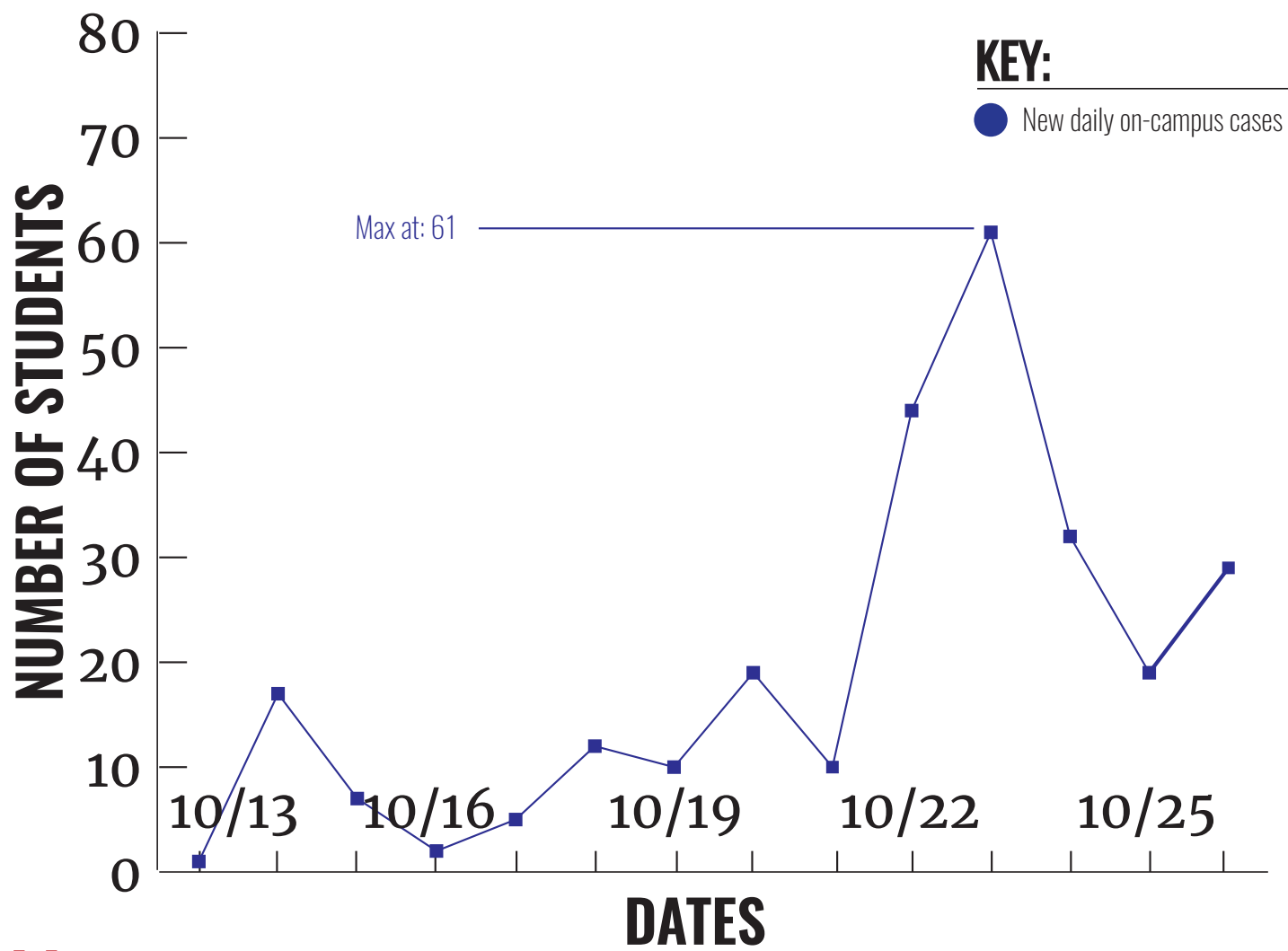
“I’m angry at my peers for not caring,” Letsinger said.

The university has identified eight total clusters. Five of those were greek life organizations and the remaining were in on-campus housing. One of the clusters found has been tied to an event, according to Dan Anderson, a member of the Ready & Resilient committee and vice president of university communications. Anderson

Letsinger supports the current social hiatus, but according to her “it doesn’t feel” like we are on one. One of her worries were events happening around campus.

“I don’t know how intensely things are going to be enforced,” Letsinger said referring to neighbor activities.

## Number of daily coronavirus cases among students, staff and faculty



“

THERE'S JUST ALWAYS THIS IDEA THAT WE TRUST OUR STUDENTS AND THEN THEY TURN RIGHT BACK AROUND AND THEY'RE LIKE, 'WE ARE ASHAMED OF THE STUDENT BODY FOR NOT FOLLOWING SAFETY PROCEDURES.

KYRA LETSINGER  
SENIOR

She is worried about activities on campus because off campus she believes “things aren’t being enforced.” The university has not increased enforcement measures off campus since the announcement of the social hiatus.

“We’re not going to make sure anything happens,” Anderson said. “We’re asking people to comply with this.”

Sophomore Stephanie Miljanic thinks activities like outdoor movie nights should be happening.

Miljanic is involved in planning a movie night on Global Neighborhood’s quad, which is scheduled to take place on Oct. 29. They intend to show the movie Hocus Pocus and have provided like individually wrapped popcorn bags. Currently, she is worried about it getting canceled.

Miljanic thinks not having events like these could cause students to party more.

“Making it so there are no activities whatsoever on campus, it’s kind of ridiculous,” Miljanic said. “This weekend, there was nothing going on, which kind of makes kids feel like they need to party.”

Miljanic instead feels as though the university should be doing more “fun” and “safe” activities.

“I would do a lot more social events, whether that be virtual or in-person,” Miljanic said. “A few weeks ago, when we first went into level three, there was a concert right outside Global, it was so much fun.”

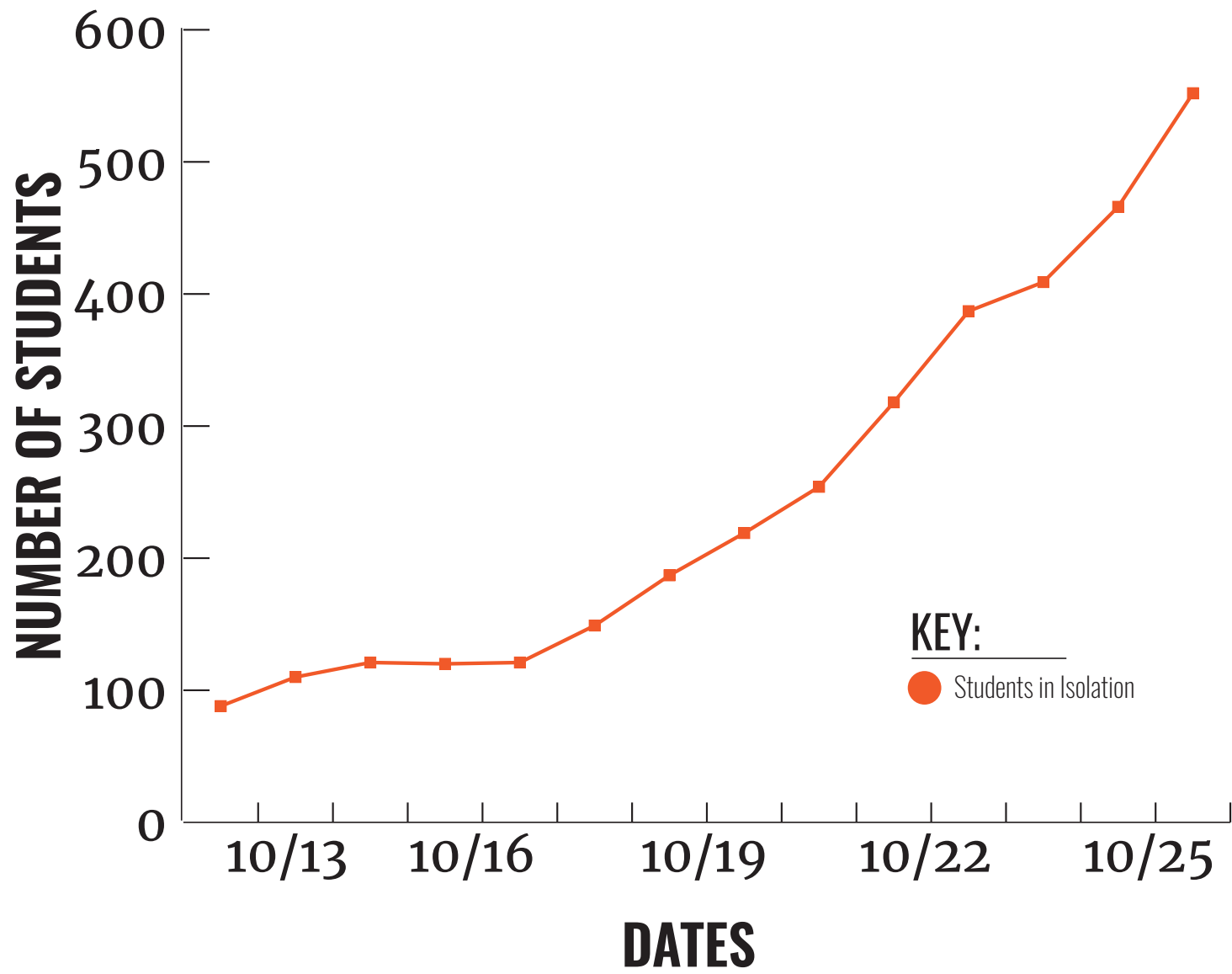
Since going into Level 3 — High Alert, events like the Election Day watch party on Nov. 3 in the Moseley Student Center have been canceled.

Both Letsinger and Miljanic wish student’s voices were included more in making decisions for students. Letsinger mentioned that she knew student body president Robbie Miley was part of the Ready and Resilient committee, but she hoped for more of a student voice.

“I wish there had been more student voices when these decisions were being made over the summer,” Letsinger said. “I know Robbie Miley was on the Ready and Resilient committee over the summer, but he was the only one. Have students in the room for those big decisions because we’re the ones who are having to go through everything.”

Margaret Faust and Isabel Gouveia contributed to the reporting of this story.

## Number of students in quarantine



# CONTACT TRACING CATCHES COVID-19 CLUSTERS

A LOOK AT WHEN CLUSTERS WERE IDENTIFIED



The latest clusters triggered the university to move up an alert level on the COVID-19 models

**Mackenzie Wilkes**  
Executive Director | @macwilkes

Within the past week, eight clusters have been identified by the Alamance County Health Department amongst Elon University students. Clusters of COVID-19 cases have been popping up in residence halls and greek organizations across campus.

Five fraternities and sororities and three freshman dorms all have had clusters.

152 cases have been linked to those eight clusters as of Oct. 27, according to university spokesperson Owen Covington.

“

WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT CASES AND CROSS-REFERENCING WITH MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS OR WITH RESIDENTIAL AREAS SO THAT WE CAN SEE WHERE THERE ARE PATTERNS THAT SHOW UP.

**DAN ANDERSON**  
VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services defines a cluster in a non-congregate living setting — such as colleges and universities — as five symptomatic or positive cases within a 14-day period that are likely to be linked.

The five greek organizations with

clusters have been identified as having a cluster in their organization because social gatherings that members of these organizations held determined the link in cases, according to Covington. But multiple cases within an organization without an epidemiological linkage would not be considered a cluster.

“The social gatherings that were part of these students’ membership in the organization that was determined to be the linkage,” Covington wrote. “Absent that epidemiological linkage, multiple cases would not have been identified as a cluster just by virtue of the students belonging to the same organization.”

The university is also tracking emerging clusters — when at least three cases are linked. For emerging clusters, the university has been conducting targeted testing. When the clusters in Sigma Sigma Sigma and Zeta Beta Tau were still considered emerging, the university tested the entirety of both organizations to identify any additional cases.

Although the health department is responsible for contact tracing and students who have tested positive are responsible for identifying close contacts which can be members of their organization. The university is also cross-referencing those who have reported positive cases and membership to organizations, according to Dan Anderson, vice president for university communications.

“We have been looking at cases and cross-referencing with membership in organizations or with residential areas so that we can see where there are patterns that show up,” Anderson said.

The spike in cases from these clusters triggered the university’s move two alert levels up on its model indicating the status of the pandemic at Elon. This isn’t the first time that clusters have triggered a change in alert levels. Three clusters among student-athletes triggered the model to move up from Level 1 to Level 3 in four days in late September.

The latest clusters and the previous ones both have all linked to social gatherings.

According to data from NCDHHS, there have been 175 clusters at colleges and universities in North Carolina since May 22 resulting in 1,959 positive cases of COVID-19 associated with those clusters. In August, the number of clusters at higher education facilities peaked with over 500 cases.

ACTIVE CASES OF CORONAVIRUS THAT HAVE BEEN TIED TO CLUSTERS AS OF OCTOBER 27, 2020



active coronavirus case not connected to a cluster

active coronavirus case connected to a cluster

# Transfer students integrate themselves into campus life

The Transfer Student Union and other campus resources help transition transfer students to Elon

**Genevieve Smith**  
Elon News Network

For transfer students like Elon University sophomore Morgan Mebane, coming to campus this August was just like being a freshman all over again. Mebane and her peers were excited to start their new college experience and get involved at Elon. And while this transition has not been easy thanks to the pandemic, transfer students across campus have felt incredibly welcomed and prepared by the school.

Thousands of students came back to Elon this semester excited to return to their home away from home. However, some — like Mebane — did not arrive to familiar faces or a recognizable campus, but were enthusiastic to start a fresh experience at Elon.

During this fall, 54 transfer students began their journey on Elon’s campus. They — like freshmen — had to learn how to navigate the challenges of meeting friends and integrating themselves into Elon’s campus during a pandemic.

Rebecca Krylow — the director of academic advising in the Koenigsberger Learning Center — helps each year’s crop of transfer students acclimate to their new environment.

While she normally meets with students in person to give them resources, Krylow created virtual academic workshops for the students throughout the summer and into orientation on a variety of topics, including mastering midterms and

registering for classes. These workshops provide transfer students with some Elon basics to ease their transition in their first semester on campus.

After reaching out to the students every few weeks during quarantine, Krylow said she was incredibly pleased to have a group of really engaged transfer students this year. While they are experiencing



TRANSFERRING IS AN OVERWHELMING PROCESS, BUT IT’S IMPORTANT TO MEET NEW PEOPLE AND TRY NEW THINGS.

**KYRA FANELLI**  
SOPHOMORE TRANSFER STUDENT

unprecedented barriers through this transfer, Krylow said they are just as willing to socialize and make connections with their peers as other students on campus.

Krylow said the pandemic brought some challenges to her position, but she believes what she was able to accomplish virtually with these students was just as meaningful.

“I really hope they are having a positive experience,” Krylow said. “I want it to be a steady presence so that they know they have a professional service.”

Mebane said her transition this semester was very smooth and she appreciated the

opportunities, organizations and faculty members like Krylow have given to transfer students across campus.

“There is always someone reaching out to me, making sure I’m doing well,” Mebane said.

She also said the Transfer Student Union has made her transition to Elon increasingly easy as it helps other transfer students really become an active student throughout the school. While almost nothing seems certain during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Transfer Student Union provided her with connections and more opportunities to mingle with other students, a place of comfort for her.

“[I] felt like I was a freshman again, but it wasn’t that hard to find new people,” Mebane said. “Stay true to yourself: that’s the best piece of advice I could give.”

Another transfer student, sophomore Kyra Fanelli, also emphasized the impact the Transfer Student Union had on her first few weeks on campus. She said it was nice to rely on an organization like this when socializing is more difficult than usual because of the pandemic.

Fanelli said her transition to Elon was “as smooth as it could be.” She said being a transfer student during the pandemic certainly had its adversities, but Fanelli found the school was incredibly welcoming and gave the students a lot of communications over the summer to prepare for their first semester. And while she described this as overwhelming, Fanelli said Elon made it as easy as they could for these students.

“Keep an open mind and get as involved as possible,” Fanelli said about what helped ease her transition. “Transferring is an overwhelming process, but it’s important to meet new people and try new things.”

## TRANSFER STUDENT APPLICATION LIST

- ☐ Completed application and nonrefundable \$60 fee
- ☐ The Student Conduct Form, which must be completed by the deans of all colleges attended verifying eligibility.
- ☐ Official transcripts from all two-year and four-year colleges/universities attended
- ☐ A final official high school transcript
- ☐ Applicants who are applying for Acting, Dance Performance & Choreography, Music Theatre and Theatrical Design & Technology must have their applications submitted by January 10. These programs require an audition and are only eligible for fall applications.

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# LIFESTYLE



## GLC GIVES STUDENTS SPACE FOR COMMUNITY *in-person and virtually*

The center serves as a place for students to meet other members of the Elon LGBTQIA community

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

WHEN A STUDENT WALKS into the Gender and LGBTQIA Center, they are greeted by friendly faces. The small, cozy space in Moseley Center is decorated with pride flags, and there are stickers and buttons on a table to the right, each one celebrating a different identity within the LGBTQIA community. But for junior Mac Lengyel, who uses they/them pronouns, the GLC is not just an office upstairs in Moseley. It is the reason they came out in college.

“The reason I decided to come out was because I had support for the first time in my life that wasn’t fleeting,” Lengyel said. “It was structured and it was there, and I knew it was going to be there for as long as I needed it to be.”

The GLC serves as a space both in-person and virtually for LGBTQIA students to explore their identities and learn about the LGBTQIA community. The goal of the center is to advocate for students on campus and support and educate the Elon community about sexuality and gender.

The community is what drew Lengyel to work in the GLC. As a student worker for the PACE program — which guarantees on-campus employment for all four years of college — Lengyel applied to work at the GLC. When Lengyel was called in for an interview, they fell in love with the space.

“I walked into the space and I was like, ‘this is kind of where I need to be. This is where I need to do my work,’” Lengyel said.

Despite many of the center’s events being held virtually for safety, director Luis Garay — who uses they/them pronouns — said social media has given the GLC a channel to reach students with, whether it is through an infographic, podcast or promoting the GLC’s events and student resources like the Lavender Circle, a LGBTQIA support group that meets virtually on Tuesdays. GLC training and presentations are also online this semester.

“We’ve become experts on not only podcasting, podcast hosting, but Zoom and presentations and Kahoot,” Garay said. “All of these things that we weren’t really using before, but we had to be adaptable, like so many other offices.”

Through a mix of virtual and in-person events, the GLC is still able to celebrate gender and sexuality on campus. Senior and events team member Paige Wilson is co-coordinating this year’s Ace and Intersex Awareness Week, an initiative to

help showcase these identities, and provide education and resources. Being part of this initiative has not only helped the Elon community learn more about the two identities, but Wilson said she too was able to learn, as well.

“I’m glad that we’re able to broadcast and spotlight some of these other identities that maybe some people feel like they hold but feel like they can’t express because it’s not in the first four letters,” Wilson said.

Wilson said part of her job at the GLC involves being around people who share similar identities to her, something she did not have before she began working there.

“To be around the space and to be with people who actually come from your community, it is a really nice feeling,” Wilson said.

Co-coordinator of Ace and Intersex Awareness Week Rachel Coughlin said her work in the GLC also allowed her to find community in a new way. Coughlin is a freshman student assistant who also works on the GLC newsletter, which is sent out every other week and covers topics such as queer news and music. Growing up in an area where she was the only queer person, her only exposure to the LGBTQIA community was herself, Coughlin said.

“When I came to Elon and met other people they were like, ‘oh yeah all my friends back home were queer, and I was like ‘really?’” Coughlin said. “I’ve never had that, and that’s no shade. I love my friends, but I

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I WALKED INTO THE SPACE AND I WAS LIKE, ‘THIS IS KIND OF WHERE I NEED TO BE. THIS IS WHERE I NEED TO DO MY WORK.

**MAC LENGYEL**  
JUNIOR

just wanted more exposure to other people who weren’t like me and are like me.”

As a freshman starting college in a pandemic, Coughlin said the GLC has also provided her a lot of support. Whether it is her supervisors checking in on her each day at work to seeing a familiar face in the office, Coughlin said the friendly environment of the GLC motivates her.

Junior Ailene Woznicki helped coordinate this year’s Take Back the Night event, a joint effort between the Center for Inclusive



KYRA O'CONNOR | ENTERPRISE STORY COORDINATOR

The GLC’s Pride Swag Giveaway, hosted as a grab-and-go on Oct. 16, was an event to celebrate National Coming Out Week.

Excellence and the GLC. The event is part of Survivor’s Week, an initiative to support and advocate for survivors of gender-based violence. Woznicki, who began working at the GLC after attending the GLC’s escalation training for a class project, serves as a gender-based violence coordinator and a member of the presentations and training team.

Despite the virtual nature of the event, Woznicki said Take Back the Night was still able to facilitate great discussion and support for those in attendance.

“It was really difficult to figure out how we were going to do that with COVID,” Woznicki said. “But we had a great turnout, upwards of 40 people, which is crazy, especially right now, with something on Zoom.”

Woznicki started working at the GLC just before classes transitioned to remote learning last March. Despite not being in-person for the majority of her time at the GLC, she said the community is still one of her favorite parts of working there.

“It’s just having a home base, of feeling like there’s a place where I can talk about certain struggles or experiences I’m having that my other friends may not relate to,” Woznicki said. “The more I get to know everybody in there, the more I love them.”

Garay, who is also new to the GLC and has been in their position as director for 13 months, said COVID-19 has pushed the GLC to be more intentional about building relationships and community.

“So much of our work is relational; so much of Elon is relational and about seeing each other and holding space with one another,” Garay said. “It’s about shifting things to virtual, but also being intentional, too and also managing our own expectations

to say people may be Zoomed out.”

Whether in-person or in a pandemic, the GLC has been able to continue to help students dream, which Garay said is one of the most inspiring parts of their job.

“That’s why I like to do the work that I like to do, because I like to be able to obviously do the administrator, advocacy and serve on institutional committees, but at the heart of what I do is also just letting students dream become a reality,” Garay said. “The GLC’s success has been able to continue its mission, supporting students and making those dreams become a reality.”

### LAVENDER CIRCLE

#### WHAT IS IT?

A LGBTQIA support group that meets virtually every other Tuesday

#### NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 11 a.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 11 a.m.

#### CONTACT

lgaray@elon.edu if interested and for the Zoom room information

# HIGHLIGHTING

## intersex and asexual identities

Elon celebrates intersex and asexuality to raise awareness about two dimensions in LGBTQIA experience

**Becca Chase**  
Elon News Network | @BeccaChase12

THE GENDER AND LGBTQIA Center is hosting Ace and Intersex Awareness Week from Oct. 26 to 30. The center will release a new podcast episode, post infographics to their social media and offer an opportunity for students to stream Intersexion: Finding a Place in a Two-Gendered World as part of Ace and Intersex Awareness Week.

Founded by activist Sara Beth Brooks in 2010, Asexual Awareness Week was established to promote awareness and understanding of the asexual — or “ace” — community. Intersex Awareness Day — which is on Oct. 26 — was created to highlight the first public demonstration by intersex people in North America and to call attention to issues faced by intersex people.

Paige Wilson — a student assistant and member of the events team at Elon’s Gender and LGBTQIA Center — is helping to plan Intersex and Asexual Awareness Week. In previous years, the GLC made postcards for each identity, and asexuality and intersex used to be on the same postcard. The GLC decided to separate the postcards this year to better reflect the clear distinction between asexuality — which is a type of sexual orientation — and intersex — which is a gender identity.

“The GLC is trying to do the most they can with their virtual resources, so that no identity feels like they’re being overlooked,” Wilson said.

Wilson said that the first 50 people to sign up using a Google Form will be able to receive a voucher to buy Intersexion on



Resources Elon’s Gender & LGBTQIA Center offer to the university. More information about each resource listed can be found with the QR code below or [elon.edu/u/glc](http://elon.edu/u/glc).

Amazon. To support the overall awareness efforts, the GLC will launch a podcast hosted by junior Mac Lengyel, events team member and GLC student assistant, who will explore the topic of intersex and Jamie Wire, the GLC’s graduate apprentice, who will be talking about their asexual experience.

Director of the Gender and LGBTQIA Center Luis Garay — who uses they/them pronouns — said that they want every LGBTQIA student at Elon to know about the GLC and to take advantage of its services, but in reality, a lot of LGBTQIA students do not know about the GLC or may not reach out.

“I just want you to know, whether it’s myself, Becca — who’s our assistant director — or Jamie — our grad apprentice — that the GLC is here should [students] ever need

it for anything,” Garay said. “Ultimately, my hope is the presence of a center like the GLC lets LGBTQIA students know that there’s an office here for them.”

Wilson said the GLC’s goal this year “was to make both identities heard and seen.” She spoke about factors that she felt that people may not understand or know about asexuality and intersex.

“A lot of people think that people who identify as asexual are just not interested in having any sort of relationships, whether it be romantic or emotional, which is not true. Asexuality itself is a spectrum,” Wilson said. “It really just depends on the individual person.”

This year’s awareness campaign likewise aims to dispel misconceptions about intersex people.

“Many people commonly think that there are just male and female sexes out there,” Wilson said. “There’s a whole entire intersex community. There are some sexes that do not fit the stereotypical male-female spectrum that society has made. Rather, sex is a spectrum.”

Wilson said that she wants students to benefit from the availability of a space dedicated to supporting their identities, regardless of where they are on the journey of exploring where they may be on the asexual or intersex spectrum.

Organizers hope this week’s events will serve to eliminate blind spots among the Elon community regarding these important, but sometimes less well-known aspects of the LGBTQIA experience.

“I’m glad that we are able to broadcast and spotlight some of these other identities that some people hold but feel like they can’t express,” Wilson said.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GLC



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

OR VISIT  
[WWW.ELON.EDU/U/GLC/](http://WWW.ELON.EDU/U/GLC/)

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN LGBTQIA SUPPORT GROUPS

<h4>STUDENT GROUPS</h4> <div><p><b>Spectrum</b> <i>Elon’s Queer-Straight Student Alliance</i></p><p><b>EFFECT</b> <i>Elon feminists for equality, change and transformation</i></p><p><b>SPARKS</b> <i>Group of peer health educators advocating healthy life choices</i></p><p><b>I Am That Girl</b> <i>Elon’s chapter that works to help women within the community and realize self worth</i></p></div>	<h4>FACULTY/STAFF GROUPS</h4> <div><p><b>LGBTQIA Advisory Committee</b> <i>Group of faculty, staff and students is charged with keeping an eye on the LGBTQIA community members</i></p><p><b>LGBTQIA Employee Resource Group</b> <i>Group for faculty, staff and administrators to discuss LGBTQIA hot topics in the workplace</i></p><p><b>Sexual Assault &amp; Gender Issues Committee</b> <i>Group that advises administrators on necessary policy changes related to LGBTQIA topics</i></p><p><b>Women’s Forum at Elon</b> <i>Group serves as a resource for faculty and staff women and trans women</i></p></div>	<h4>COMMUNITY GROUPS</h4> <div><p><b>Alamance Pride</b> <i>Nonprofit organization serving the LGBTQ communities of Alamance County</i></p><p><b>PFLAG Alamance</b> <i>Provides support and educational materials to families to understand each other and creates an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity</i></p><p><b>The Queer Fish Center</b> <i>Provides LGBT teens a community to interact with others</i></p></div>
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# BEAST MODE CHAMPION

## SELECTED AS FALL MUSICAL



ILLUSTRATION BY CAROLINE RUNDER



FRANCES O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sayo Oni stars as Eddie Green in Elon's fall musical, *Beast Mode Champion*.

The newly created rock musical explores the toxic environment of WWE wrestling

**Cailey Cetani**  
Elon News Network

This year, the Elon University Performing Arts program has decided to perform the new musical “Beast Mode Champion.” Since the piece was just created, Elon is the first to perform it. The musical explores the toxic WWE environment through the story of three unlikely heroes. The show is made to investigate issues on masculinity, identity, ambition and performance in the form of a story about unexpected heroes navigating the world of professional wrestling to achieve their dreams.

Kirby Wahl, professor of performing arts and the director of the musical, decided to reach out to Elon alum Dan Gibson, composer of the musical, and an Elon musical theatre alum, to see if Elon could be the first school to perform the new piece created by Gibson. Since the piece was just created, Gibson allowed for Elon to perform it first since Broadway is closed till 2021.

The musical is being created into a film, and viewers will be able to view the performance virtually. It will have multiple elements ranging from animated fight scenes, to being up and close to the actors as though you are in the scene with them.

Wahl has been helping produce shows at Elon for 15 years, doing at least one show a year.

“It originated as an investigation of toxic masculinity,” Wahl said. “The vehicle for that investigation was the world of professional wrestling, which is always theatrical, highly entertaining, but also can be very abusive of the people who work in that industry.”

“

IT ORIGINATED AS AN INVESTIGATION OF TOXIC MASCULINITY. THE VEHICLE FOR THAT INVESTIGATION WAS THE WORLD OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING, WHICH IS ALWAYS THEATRICAL, HIGHLY ENTERTAINING, BUT ALSO CAN BE VERY ABUSIVE OF THE PEOPLE WHO WORK IN THAT INDUSTRY.

**KIRBY WAHL**  
DIRECTOR

The musical was created by two New York University Musical Theater graduates — Gibson and Alex Higgin-Houser — during their musical theater writing program at NYU. Gibson is on campus this year as a visiting professor.

Gibson is also the musical director for the three musicals being performed at Elon this year. Although Higgin-Houser, the writer of the musical, is not on campus, he attends multiple Zoom meetings during the course of the rehearsal process and is “here in spirit,” said Wahl.

The audition process consisted of multiple stages with small changes to the process to ensure the safety of all the individuals auditioning. For the first round, actors had to submit recordings of themselves performing monologues and songs. Callbacks moved to in-person auditions in a physically distanced manner in one of the dance studios. The acting portion of the audition was in the dance studio and the music auditions were outside the building.

Wahl said the company has taken every precaution they can to make sure every actor is safe and healthy during the whole entire process.

“Not only are they in large spaces and the actors were still masked, but after we’d been in the room for an hour, we went and used the other room and let the air turnover in the room we started in,” Wahl said. “We had a lot of protocols that seemed to give us a good degree of comfort and safety as we rehearsed.”

Rehearsal began late August and took place Monday to Friday. The company was able to utilize both the black box theater and the dance studio. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, the cast made sure to switch rooms every 55 minutes. This allowed for breaks for actors while maximizing rehearsal time. Even though there are only 10 performers, there are rarely scenes where all are present. The average amount of actors in a scene ranges from two to five performers.

JD Grant, a videographer and editor for *Beast Mode Champion*, speaks of how the coronavirus has allowed for the normal musical process to be challenged to be more creative and innovative.

“Despite everything going on in the world right now, it is pretty incredible, not just for our performing arts students, but [COVID] has kind of been a hidden blessing I guess ... it’s forced us to become more creative,” Grant says. “And it allows more students to get involved, whether it’s a health and safety manager, or just the communication school getting involved in helping with the production. So I think it’s really awesome that we can still put on a production.”

Wahl proposed for wrestling scenes to be illustrated as animation. Within a week he found an artist in Brooklyn who will be sketching out all of the fight scenes. To make sure the illustrations look like the actors, Wahl sent photos of each actor displaying multiple emotions, as well as the costume renderings, to help make sure the fight scenes

are as accurate as possible.

Grant says that filming posed some challenges including weather changes, a nontraditional set and finding the right angles.

“It’s a little bit different because it’s a mixture between a film set and a live musical production. There’s lots of chaos and lots of communication going on and it’s been really interesting to see just the way things are operating and it’s a good learning experience,” Grant says.

Initially, they intended to film scenes on the stage of McCray theater over nine days. This would involve actors individually performing their scenes and then editing the videos together to make it look like multiple actors were performing on the stage at the same time.

Two weeks ago however, Elon University said no one was permitted to sing indoors without a mask on. This led to the filming being moved outside. The musical has partnered up with Professor McMerty’s class in the School of Communications, who will help with the filming of the musical.

Professor McMerty is the executive producer of the musical. The class is

The musical will be filmed and released on November 20 and can be viewed for three weeks after. To access the film, go to the performing arts department website.

## BEAST MODE CHAMPION COMPANY LIST

### JULIAN

*Played by Braden Phillips*

Wrestler who never wanted to be a wrestler and follows his friend Eddie

### EDDIE

*Played by Sayo Oni*

Dreams of being a wrestler

### GEORGE

*Played by Oliver Davids*

Owner of the Monday Murder Show

### MEL

*Played by Mckenna Meeks*

George’s daughter and works with him on the show

### ANNOUNCER

*Played by Jaelyn Alexander*

### ENSEMBLE

*Brendan Coulter, Jack Morril, Kali Clougherty, Katie Brnjac and Stephanie Zaharis*



Elon University senior Braden Phillips filming Elon's fall musical “Beast Mode Champion” on Oct. 26.

FRANCES O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



# N.C. ZOOS IMPACTED BY COVID-19

In North Carolina, local zoos take precautions to keep guests, staff and animals safe

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

Elise Gammon '20 has the dream job of anyone passionate about animals. Gammon is an education associate at Animal Park at the Conservators Center in Burlington, and despite the COVID-19 pandemic, she said zoos still play an important role in educating humans about animals and sparking excitement in people when they see an exotic creature.

"We think that people will become more passionate about learning about and protecting animals if they've had a real-life connection with them," Gammon said.

Despite the overwhelming impact of the coronavirus, representatives from local zoos said that animal care must continue regardless of the status of the pandemic. The representatives said they hope to continue to educate the public while still following precautionary guidelines.

According to Gammon, the opportunity to look into an animal's eyes can be a powerful moment for some zoo visitors. She said that having a visual interaction with an animal drives greater appreciation for visitors.

"We would love people to care about tigers or want to protect tigers," Gammon said. "But if they really see one and can make eye contact with that animal and learn about it, they may be more driven to want to act more in order to protect that species."

Gammon said at Animal Park, she serves as the summer camp coordinator and director and believes initiatives like the APEX program support the park's mission through educating the public.

"I really agree that the mission is very true that most people are not as driven to care about causes that they can't somewhat experience, or have some memory to recall why they're invested in that cause," Gammon said. "I think that's a really big part of getting to see people even come to me or decide to donate or ask me for resources. That's definitely very rewarding to be able to even just have a kid know an extra fact about an animal when they go home."

**Functioning Amid COVID-19**

The North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro — which is the world's largest zoo — also dealt with the impact of COVID-19 and was closed for three months before reopening with limited capacity on June 15, according to public relations officer at the North Carolina Zoo Debbie Foster Fuchs.

Fuchs said that although the North Carolina Zoo has no relationship with the

Conservators Center, they too have felt the impact of COVID-19. She said that the zoo has adhered closely to recommendations by the Department of Health and Human Services, and have focused on cleaning high touch surfaces.

"Employees wear masks, especially at the ticket counters," Fuchs said. "Another thing we did was to try and make the zoo a one-way visit as much as possible, so people aren't passing each other."

In addition to increased cleaning and following protocols, Fuchs said that animal care has continued throughout the pandemic.

Gammon said that in the beginning of the pandemic, Animal Park took in a few lions from another facility. She said animals still have to find placement across the country.

"The zoological industry, it doesn't really stop for a pandemic, but we still [have] protocols regardless," Gammon said.

When new animals are brought to the park, that animal will be placed in quarantine and the people who can be around it would be limited, according to Gammon. She said that Animal Park wants to make sure the animals coming in do not have anything that could be contaminating to other animals or people working at or visiting the park.

Gammon said that prior to the coronavirus

“THE ZOOLOGICAL INDUSTRY, IT DOESN'T REALLY STOP FOR A PANDEMIC, BUT WE STILL [HAVE] PROTOCOLS REGARDLESS.”

**ELISE GAMMON**  
EDUCATION ASSOCIATE  
FOR ANIMAL PARK AT THE  
CONSERVATORS CENTER IN  
BURLINGTON

pandemic, those rules were already in place, therefore making it much easier for them to adapt to, and adjust as needed.

Alterations have also been made to the educational programs at the Animal Park, with opportunities to accommodate for in-person or virtual field trips.

"We offer virtual and in-person field trips, though the in-person ones are broken up into small groups and driven on site in smaller groups," Gammon said. "Luckily, most of those

students are students that have already been together; we're not exposing them to anyone new except for the one tour guide, [who] will maintain social distance and so will all of them."

Similar to Animal Park, the North Carolina Zoo also continues to offer virtual programs to promote education and animal awareness, according to Fuchs.

"We have a lot of community outreach programs [and] education programs that go into schools and obviously those had to stop," Fuchs said. "We had converted a lot of our in person programs to what we call virtual visit."

According to Fuchs, the virtual programs have become very popular and aid in promoting the zoo's mission to "protect wildlife, protect wild places, conserve the world and inspire others to do that as well."

School field trips at Animal Park are run similar to regular park tours, where tour guides are not just paying attention to the tour, but also focusing on physical distancing and all of the regulations, according to Gammon.

The internship program at the park for high school and college students has not been greatly impacted by COVID-19 because of its small size, Gammon said.

"We still have our interns right now since animal care still has to continue regardless of a pandemic," Gammon said. "We want to make sure that everyone has supervision and is making sure that they're doing everything correctly and safely. So for us, we've implemented all the CDC regulations when they're there with us."

**Animals and Quarantine**

The quarantine process for animals looks similar to that of people, according to Gammon. During this period, animals will not receive treats and will participate in enrichment activities, where they will be provided with smells. She said the animals enjoy having exciting things and like to smell new scents as well.

According to Gammon, the park emphasizes limiting animal exposure to only keepers bringing them their daily food. This minimizes the spread of germs to not only the zoo animals but other people as well.

"It's usually about a month of them in that quarantine, and we want to make sure that they're comfortable," Gammon said. "We want to find out if they want to be on the tour path [or] if they are more wanting to have their own space backstage. So kind of trying to learn the unique parts of each animal, you want to respect them as well."

Since March and the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and widespread quarantine, the animals have been in the same groups, according to Gammon.

"I don't believe anyone has changed who they live with for the time being, but since they don't leave the park or anything we're not

too worried about them exposing each other," Gammon said.

**Far left: Delilah, the giant rabbit, sits inside her cage.**

**Second from left: A serval cat relaxing outside.**

**Second from right: Avalon, one of the Conservators Center's two tigers, sleeping on at the Conservators Center in Burlington, on Oct. 27.**

**Far right: One of the center's five male lions, most of which sleep 20 hours a day, at the Conservators Center in Burlington, on Oct. 27.**

**Following CDC Rules and Regulations**

According to Gammon, Animal Park still values the importance of educating the community, and the team has taken measures to promote safety amongst the staff, visitors and animals as COVID-19 continues to spread across the state.

One factor that has become increasingly crucial is the following of CDC guidelines to ensure everyone is remaining safe and healthy.

The park is outdoors which aids in promoting physical distancing, according to Gammon. Additionally, the park is run solely on a tour guide basis, and group sizes can easily be minimized because of this.

"No one's just wandering around the park," Gammon said. "Each tour guide is able to tell people to maintain social distancing to try to make sure that people are keeping all procedures going accurately."

At Animal Park, safety has also been promoted amongst the staff and according to Gammon, many are working remotely to minimize the chance of being a close contact or spreading germs.

"We are all working to try to spread out in our office space as we come in," Gammon said. "A lot of people have chosen to work remotely, which has been great in a way to prevent too many people from being around."

As a result of the minimal number of staff members, there has not been any worry surrounding the possibility of large gatherings or office meetings.

Gammon said that in contrast to office staff, animal keepers work outdoors and independently, caring for the animals, but are still required to adhere to strict guidelines, as felines have been found to be able to contract COVID-19.

"We are very strict about all of our guests in the park wearing their masks," Gammon said.

Encouraged mask-wearing and guidelines extend to park volunteers and staff members as well, who must wear masks when preparing food for the animals to limit any sort of contamination or exposure, according to Gammon.

# PETS AND THE PANDEMIC



Although Burlington Animal Services decreased the rates of their operations, fostering has increased

**Anna Terry**  
Elon News Network | @atterry63

Rather than to connect friends and family, Burlington Animal Services is using online video chatting in a different way — to connect people and pets.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the doors to their shelter closed, but with hundreds of pets in need of homes, Burlington Animal Services continued adoptions through virtual and physically distanced methods. This meant holding Zoom calls with pets and potential adoption candidates.

With daily tasks at the shelter slowed due to the suspension of volunteer services, BAS needed extra help caring for the animals. This help was found in community members who were willing to open up their doors to the animals through fostering.

Director of Animal Services at the Burlington Animal Shelter Jessica Arias said that the number of pets taken into foster homes is heartwarming.

“We really had an outpouring of folks from the community that were interested in fostering. The number of pets that went from the shelter and to foster homes was incredible,” Arias said.

Rather than staying at the BAS facility, 90% of their animals are currently in foster

homes, whereas before coronavirus, Arias estimated that no more than 25-30% of their animals were in foster care.

This new opportunity to live in homes is a great change for rescue animals because they are getting full attention, which the shelter cannot provide due to the high volume of animals in their care.

“The pets not only get to stay in a real home environment, but they get the interaction 24/7 with a family and people,” Arias said.

Elon juniors Hope Friel and Melanie Hills started fostering Boots, a cat from the shelter, this September. Since they brought her home, Friel said they’ve seen health improvements in the cat.

“She’s become way more friendly. She also has gained a lot more weight. She was very skinny when we got her,” Friel said.

Under their care, not only have they been able to help Boots, but the cat has also helped bring the friends closer together.

“We hang out a lot more in the living room because Boots is there and everyone wants to hang out with her. She’s really fostered a much better environment,” Hills said.

This shift from in person to virtual means of communication has been the greatest change in the daily tasks of BAS.

**Having to shift**

“The biggest change and the one that’s most apparent is just not having the community at the center anymore. That means that we were getting a whole lot more communication through phone calls and email, and that’s created some



## BY THE NUMBERS

**70%**

of 54 dogs currently in Burlington Animal Services care are in foster homes

**91%**

of the 210 cats in Burlington Animal Services care are in foster homes

“

IF SOMEONE WANTS TO COME AND GET A DOG FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS TO TAKE FOR A WALK AND HAVE AN EXERCISE BUDDY THAT’S REALLY WONDERFUL FOR THEM TO BE ABLE TO DO. AND IT’S WONDERFUL FOR THE DOGS THAT ARE AT THE SHELTERS SO THEY CAN GET OUT.

**JESSICA ARIAS**  
DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL SERVICES AT THE BURLINGTON ANIMAL SHELTER

challenges for us,” Arias said. “It’s been an evolving process and we’ve kind of learned as we went along and I think that our agency’s better for it at the end.”

As another precaution to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the shelter started to limit their rescues to emergency cases only, to reduce the traffic coming into their facility. In 2019, monthly rescue intakes could be seen anywhere between 300-600 animals. Now in 2020, between the months of March and May rescue intakes were below 200, with a low of 91 rescues in April. Throughout the reopening of the state, monthly rescue rates from the shelter have risen again and are back to animal intake numbers seen in previous years.

The BAS is proud of the fact that they save an average of 90% of their animals from euthanasia each month; a rate that

ANNA TERRY | ELON NEWS NETWORK

**Left: A family gathers around their newly adopted cat at the Burlington Animal Services center Oct. 21. Burlington Animal Services rescues animals in need and provides pet adoption, and other services to the people of Alamance County.**

**Top-right: Burlington Animal Services rescue, Buster (right), has an outdoor meet and greet on Oct. 21, with a family potentially interested in adopting to see if he gets along with the dog they currently own.**

**Bottom- right: The sign outside the Burlington Animal Services Center on Oct. 21. The shelter has seen a large increase in the number of people fostering animals since the coronavirus pandemic hit.**

has not been easy to maintain while only rescuing animals in emergency situations for the months of March through May. During these times, the animals rescued usually had severe trauma and required humane euthanasia so the shelter did not have as many animals being adopted.

Although the shelter is currently not accepting volunteers, people interested in helping can sign up for the Dog Day Out program. This program allows people to email the shelter to take a dog out for a few hours to go on a walk at their local park, to their home, or to just spend the afternoon with them.

“If someone wants to come and get a dog for a couple of hours to take for a walk and have an exercise buddy, that’s really wonderful for them to be able to do. And it’s wonderful for the dogs that are at the shelters so they can get out,” Arias said.

BAS is also assisting community members who have recently lost their job or are in need of financial support during this time by providing them with pet food for their animals. This way, the animals can stay fed at home and not require the services of the shelter.

While donating their supplies to others, BAS has received fewer donations themselves, as a result of the economic decline in the country. However, the shelter has claimed five grants totaling over \$25,000 that have allowed them to continue their daily operations.

Right now the shelter has a list of items they are accepting as donations on their website as well as an Amazon wishlist. If people wish to donate monetarily, Burlington Animal Services accepts mail-in checks.

Until they can reopen their doors to the public once again, BAS will continue to do all they can to provide animals with safe homes while also keeping community members safe from the COVID-19.

“We look forward to the day, we can get back to normal and welcome folks back to the animal services center,” Arias said.



ANNA TERRY | ELON NEWS NETWORK  
**Burlington Animal Services employee holds rescue dog Buster to facilitate a safe pet meet-and-greet for a visiting family on Oct. 21.**

# EMPRESS works to charter first Asian-interest sorority on campus

EMPRESS aims to increase cultural awareness by working to establish Asian greek life on campus

**Jinger Callwood**  
Elon News Network

From doing community service work and celebrating the Lunar New Year to posting homemade boba recipes on their social media during quarantine, EMPRESS has introduced engaging initiatives to promote cultural awareness of the Asian community on Elon's campus.

Elon Maintaining Pan-Asian Respect, Equity and Social Service, EMPRESS, is a female-identifying Asian interest organization that works to strengthen the unity, leadership skills and solidarity within the Asian community at Elon. The organization started in 2019 with the intention of establishing the first Asian affiliated sorority at Elon University.

The idea of the organization was first conceived in 2017 and formally established in 2019. EMPRESS currently has twenty members along with faculty advisor Kiah Glen, the assistant director of the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education, and Associate Director of Student Involvement, Jordan King.

Club president and junior Alyssa Meritt said one of the reasons she took on a leadership role in the organization was to create a safe space and promote inclusivity within the Asian community. According to the Elon University 2019-2020 factbook, 2.4% of undergraduate students identify as Asian-American, which is 151 students out of 6,277 total undergraduates.

"There are a lot of diversity-based organizations on campus, but I personally feel like the Pan-Asian, Asian Pacific Islander community feel[s] very spread



The logo for EMPRESS, a club dedicated to establishing the first Asian-interest sorority at Elon University.

out, and not as connected as the other communities on campus," Meritt said. "One of our main initiatives is to recruit and unite the Asian community on campus."

Club secretary and sophomore Mei Soopper said the organization has made tremendous efforts toward completing this goal by working closely with the Elon Student Involvement Committee, as well as working to charter a sorority. The

organization declined to comment on which sorority they are working to charter and when that will occur.

"The fact that there is going to be an Asian sorority on campus, which was our primary goal, is something that we are very proud of, so that future Elon students will have a chance to call [it] home," Soopper said.

The club focuses on community service,

and has partnered with the international non-profit organization Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere in order to raise money and awareness for world hunger and poverty.

Due to restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, EMPRESS had to adapt to follow physical distancing protocols. Meritt said the club overcame obstacles related to the pandemic by adjusting aspects of the organization, such as meeting once a week on Zoom rather than in person.

"We had to sort of remake EMPRESS from what it was. COVID really hit us hard, but I think we bounced back pretty well," Meritt said. "We really don't want to be one of the organizations that might contribute to a cluster or any outbreak of COVID."

According to Meritt, to join the organization, applicants complete a written application process and go through a new member reveal where they introduce themselves and get to know current club members through Zoom.

"The real thing we were looking for was, I don't want a homogeneous group. College is incredible because you bring people from all different backgrounds and groups together, so that's what I want EMPRESS to be," Meritt said.

Club member and sophomore Alana Evora remembers learning about EMPRESS when she first got to Elon through a current member. Evora said that joining EMPRESS has allowed her to explore her Asian heritage.

"EMPRESS has made me very grounded, I feel like I have an outlet to explore different parts of my identity that I had never had that opportunity to do," Evora said.

To keep up with the events and get involved with the club, follow @euempress on Instagram.

THE ELON BITE

THE ELON BITE IS A COLUMN THAT REVIEWS RESTAURANTS AND FOOD VENDORS IN THE LOCAL AREA

# Peking House Chinese leaves me wanting less



**Jack Chambers**  
Senior

This week I got takeout from Peking House Chinese in Burlington near Target and I have to say, this is the first time I have been disappointed by one of the local restaurants. Now, I am not an expert in Chinese food, but my food was a big let-down.

I asked for my go-to Chinese order: General Tso's Chicken and fried dumplings. Now, I have not tried the best Chinese food in the world but I have had my fair share from different restaurants and I have to say I was seriously underwhelmed.

The dumplings, which when fried should be warm, crunchy clumps of dough with a savory meat filling inside, were soggy and bland. The dipping sauce did not help much either, as it was watery and under seasoned. Unlike steamed dumplings, which should be soft, plump and moist when you grab them with a chopstick, fried dumplings need more of a crust and a really meaty inside, which mine lacked. For these dumplings, I was extremely let down to say the least.

The General Tso's Chicken, a dish that typically uses chicken fried in cornstarch and seasoning with a tangy and spicy sauce, was also a disappointment. The first thing you notice when you open the container is that the chicken is so soggy and the crunch you want from a fried chicken dish is lost before you take your first bite. After the first bite, it got worse. The chicken was meaty but the sauce was so bland and sugary that there was not much else than a piece of chicken covered in a bland, sugary glaze. The dish was screaming for some acidity and heat to cut through the imposing

**JACK'S SCORE**

## 3.5 of 10

Every week the restaurant reviewed is given a score out of 10

rich, sweet sauce. If there was some vinegar in the sauce and some spicy pepper mixed in, it could have been much better overall, but I think the soggy texture of the chicken made it unsalvageable. If you do go to Peking House, try ordering sauce on the side.

Surprisingly, even the rice was subpar. The rice — despite its unique paper to-go container — was dry, undercooked and under seasoned. The rice was definitely unsalted which would have made it a tasteless mush, but because it was undercooked it was more of a bland, crunchy pile. As I ate it with the dumpling dipping sauce and excess sauce from the General Tso's, even that could not revive it. When I went in to bite a piece of chicken and rice together, I got the soggy meatiness of the chicken which I expected to be followed with some light, fluffy rice, but was met with a bland crispy mash of starch that was dry and unpleasant.

Given the experience I had with Peking House, I cannot in good conscience recommend it. It might scratch the itch for Chinese food, but I say you are better off looking elsewhere.

If you have a local restaurant you want to see reviewed, please send me an email of where to go and what to get at jchambers5@elon.edu.



General Tso's Chicken and fried dumplings from Peking House in Burlington, North Carolina.

# SPORTS



## MARCHING THROUGH A PANDEMIC

Elon sophomore Nic Hayes physically distances during marching band rehearsal on Wednesday, Aug. 19. The band has been given guidelines to safely practice, like all organizations on campus.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CLARA MUELLER

How the coronavirus pandemic has affected members of the Elon marching band this year

Ian Taylor  
Elon News Network

“It can be bittersweet ... and frustrating at some times.” This is how sophomore drum major Mallory Poff characterized her feelings about being a member of Elon’s marching band during a pandemic.

Marching band, like all other clubs and organizations on Elon’s campus, was given a series of guidelines by the administration in order to conduct operations safely and limit the spread of the coronavirus.

For the band, these guidelines led to shorter practices and practicing in small groups organized by instrument rather than as a whole, while remaining at least six feet apart. For example, the clarinet players would practice together for half an hour while the trombone players did the same on the other side of the field. Additionally, the band is not practicing drills — choreographed marches that take place at halftime shows — in order to maintain physical distancing.

“It is hard sometimes, because you can’t even high five people or hug people or have that sense of family,” Poff said when verbalizing the effects these changes have had on band members.

“With the freshmen, [creating a community is] harder because they’re quieter ... a little more uncomfortable ... and trying to learn their names with sunglasses, hats, and masks is very hard. I feel like there is a lack of community, which makes me feel bad,” Poff said when describing how she was attempting to help new band members integrate using her new role as drum major, the person who conducts the drum section of the band during performances.

Coronavirus restrictions have also left the marching band without events to perform at, due to the lack of a fall football season for the Phoenix. The annual band camp — an event during which all members of the band, including incoming freshmen, meet each other and form a community before the start of fall semester — was

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IT IS HARD SOMETIMES, BECAUSE YOU CAN’T EVEN HIGH FIVE PEOPLE OR HUG PEOPLE OR HAVE THAT SENSE OF FAMILY.

MALLORY POFF  
SOPHOMORE DRUM MAJOR



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLARA MUELLER

Fire of the Carolinas marching band members physically distance during their first practice on Wednesday, Aug. 19.

canceled.

“[Band members] love band camp, we think it’s so much fun,” Poff said, “even though it’s a lot of work, and it’s hot, and there are long hours but we love it because it’s the first time you meet everyone and you get a lot of work done.” The cancelation of this yearly tradition was not only hard on incoming freshmen, who were looking forward to making new connections and meeting new people, but on seniors as well.

When asked about how senior members of marching band were feeling about the changes COVID guidelines brought, Poff said, “[Senior’s] were bummed when band camp was canceled because it was going to be their last band camp and ... to not have ... those last football games, to not march a football show again ... it’s maybe nice to

have that time to look for jobs, look for graduate programs, and have more time to themselves ... it’s probably bittersweet.”

However, Poff is remaining optimistic. As an engineering major in many STEM courses, Poff said her classes tend to have a heavy workload which can feel overwhelming. She feels that band serves as an outlet she has used in the past to have fun, hang out with her friends, and take a break from academics.

“Having band makes this fall semester a little bit more normal because we have something that’s a continuance from previous semesters and it’s something that I really enjoy and is really fun for me, and is definitely an outlet to escape from everything going on and just do band for an hour and a half twice a week,” Poff said.

# Hope springs eternal for Elon football



The Phoenix running onto the field for their game against the Delaware Blue Hens in Rhodes Stadium on Aug. 17, 2019. While the Phoenix planned on having a fall season independent of the CAA, Elon Athletics ended up suspending all fall sports.

With its fall season postponed, the Phoenix now turns its attention to being prepared for a spring awakening

**Daniel Schulman**  
Elon News Network

Tristen Cox, a senior defensive lineman, had high expectations for his final season with the Elon Phoenix on the football field. Although the Colonial Athletic Association announced it was suspending fall sports due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Phoenix still planned on having a season in the autumn independent of the CAA. But, shortly after the decision was made, Elon Athletics opted to suspend all fall sports as well.

“I wasn’t that surprised with how everything else had been looking, like nationwide, with most colleges canceling their season. So I was a little upset at first, but wasn’t too surprised,” Cox said.

Just a few weeks later, the CAA announced that it would be playing on an adjusted schedule in the spring, which includes six conference games with the option for individual teams to schedule two out-of-conference games. Freshman linebacker C.J. Ford said he is looking forward to playing

next semester. “We’re excited for that. We’re just glad that we get to play football and the season is not completely canceled. [We’re ready to] suit up in the spring and get a few games in and compete for a championship,” Ford said.

Despite not knowing whether there will be a spring season, the team has been doing what it can to stay ready. On Oct. 17, the team started full team practices. The team uses individual water bottles for each player, as well as staggered meeting times, social distancing and mask wearing. The players have also been studying game film and working out in the weight room in smaller groups.

“In the weight room, we stay socially distanced. We always work out with our mask up,” Ford said. “We spray and we make sure everything is disinfected, then the next group comes in. We all have our own racks and workout, so we’ve been taking a lot of precautions to be able to be in the weight room and work out and do it safely.”

With the season being moved to the spring, Ford has had a different transition to the football program than previous freshmen. While he was disappointed about the postponement of the season, he said he has tried to keep a positive perspective on the benefits that the spring season provides. “Nobody knew that our year would be

like this with COVID and everything, but there’s some good things that can come out of it as a freshman at least as far as learning the defense and transitioning from high school to college,” Ford said. “So this time that we’ve had of getting pushed back, that could help freshmen as a positive way to look at it. It gives us a chance to learn more.” With all the precautions and physical distancing, team bonding is not the same as in the past. But Cox, who is seen as a team leader, feels the Phoenix still have been able to bond through football-related activities.

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[WE’RE READY TO] SUIT UP IN THE SPRING AND GET A FEW GAMES IN AND COMPETE FOR A CHAMPIONSHIP.

**C.J. FORD**  
FRESHMAN LINEBACKER

“We’re just making the most of the time that we have together in this building when everything’s safe,” Cox said. “I’m on the field making sure that everyone’s doing what they need to do. Building camaraderie that way and making sure that we’re on the same page will have the same goals and really just trying to bond when we can.” In North Carolina, stadiums that hold 10,000 seats are allowed to have fans at 7% capacity, which for Rhodes Stadium is just under 800 seats. It’s still unknown how many people Elon will allow at home games or if fans will be allowed in at all.

While Ford and Cox would like to be able to host fans, they’re just happy to be able to play the game that they love. “It’s definitely going to look and feel different, but it’s not going to change the game. We’re still going to go out there and do what we need to do on the field, but I’m still hoping that we can get people there,” Cox said. “We love fan support, and it means a lot to us seeing people come and watch the game. So they’ll feel a little different, but when push comes to shove, football is still going to be football even if there’s no one allowed to watch in-person.”

Ford added that the Phoenix’s goal is still the same: compete for a conference championship. “We still have a job to do, regardless of what fans are going to look like,” Ford said. “It would be nice to play in front of fans, but whatever they decide to do, as far as safety reasons, of course, we accept it. We’re just going to do the job that we have on the field.”

In addition to not knowing if there will be fans or not, there is also concern that some conference teams could potentially opt out of the spring season altogether. Towson University, a conference rival of Elon, recently announced that their football team will not participate in a spring season. Cox said he was disappointed by the decision as he was hoping to play them. He said the Towson game is always a lot of fun, but also understands the circumstances and respects their team’s decision.

While they’re still unsure as to who their opponents will be come spring time, Cox is confident that Elon’s football team will be ready to play. “Football’s football, no matter when it’s played,” he said. “Expectations don’t really change just because it may look a little different or be a different season. But still, we’re going to go out, have a great game plan in place, and try and compete the best we can.”



Elon University sophomore and defensive back Marcus Hillman and senior and defensive back Daniel Reid-Bennett tackle a Maine Black Bear in Rhodes Stadium on Saturday Nov. 9 2019. Despite having no fall season, the CAA announced on Sept. 30 that they will be playing on an adjusted schedule in the spring, which includes six conference games with the option for two out-of-conference games.

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