

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022
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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

NON SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW



2022 SPRING SPORTS

WOMEN'S TENNIS

3/5	@DAVIDSON 1 P.M.	3/26	UNC WILMINGTON 12 P.M.
3/6	@NC STATE 5 P.M.	4/9	@JMU 11 A.M.
3/11	NC CENTRAL 2 P.M.	4/13	@UNC GREENSBORO 2:30 P.M.
3/13	MORGAN STATE 2 P.M.	4/16	EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY 11 A.M.
3/15	@CHARLESTON 1:30 P.M.	4/23	@WILLIAM & MARY 12 P.M.
3/16	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN 12 P.M.		

MEN'S TENNIS

3/5	@FURMAN 2 P.M.	3/30	NC WESLEYAN 6 P.M.
3/6	@WOFFORD 1 P.M.	4/2	METHODIST 1 P.M.
3/13	MORGAN STATE 2 P.M.	4/5	@JMU 2:30 P.M.
3/15	@COASTAL CAROLINA 2 P.M.	4/8	VCU 2:30 P.M.
3/25	CHARLOTTE 2:30 P.M.	4/10	@NC STATE 5 P.M.
3/27	@CLEMSON 4 P.M.	4/13	RADFORD 3 P.M.
3/30	DAVIDSON 2 P.M.	4/14	@UNC GREENSBORO 6 P.M.

WOMEN'S TRACK

3/4-6	ECAC INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS	4/22-23	VIRGINIA CHALLENGE CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
3/11-12	NCAA INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA	4/23	PHOENIX INVITATIONAL ELON
3/18-19	49ER CLASSIC CHARLOTTE	4/29-30	CHARLOTTE INVITE CHARLOTTE
3/18-19	BOB DAVIDSON INVITE HIGH POINT	5/6-7	CAA CHAMPIONSHIP BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
3/24-26	RALEIGH RELAYS RALEIGH	5/14-15	ECAC OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA
4/1-2	VERTKLASSE MEETING HIGH POINT	5/14-15	MOUNT OLIVE LAST CHANCE MOUNT OLIVE, NORTH CAROLINA
4/7-9	DUKE INVITE DURHAM	5/26-28	NCAA EAST PRELIMINARIES BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA
4/16	MEET OF CHAMPIONS HIGH POINT	6/8-11	NCAA OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS EUGENE, OREGON

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

3/2	CAMPBELL 7 P.M.	3/30	WILLIAM & MARY 7 P.M.
3/5	@FURMAN 2 P.M.	4/2	@TOWSON 12 P.M.
3/12	@VCU 3 P.M.	4/9	@JMU 1 P.M.
3/16	HIGH POINT 5 P.M.	4/16	DELAWARE 12 P.M.
3/23	@VIRGINIA TECH 4 P.M.	4/23	DREXEL 12 P.M.
3/26	WINTHROP 1 P.M.	4/30	@HOFSTRA 12 P.M.



OLIVIA ARCHER

MARGARET STEPHAN

EVENTS AND GAMES

BASEBALL

3/4-6	TOLEDO 4 P.M. 2 P.M. 12 P.M.	4/12	EAST CAROLINA 6 P.M.
3/8	NOTRE DAME 4 P.M.	4/15-16	UNC ASHEVILLE 5 P.M. 12 P.M. 3:30 P.M.
3/9	TBD	4/19	HIGH POINT 6 P.M.
3/11-13	UNC GREENSBORO 4 P.M. 2 P.M. 2 P.M.	4/22-24	CHARLESTON 6 P.M. 4 P.M. 1:30 P.M.
3/15	NC STATE 4 P.M.	4/26	@TBD
3/18-20	WEST POINT 4 P.M. 2 P.M. 1 P.M.	4/29-5/1	@UNC WILMINGTON 6 P.M. 4 P.M. 1 P.M.
3/23	@EAST CAROLINA 6:30 P.M.	5/3	TBD
3/25-27	HOFSTRA 6 P.M. 2 P.M. 1 P.M.	5/6-8	@DELAWARE 7 P.M. 3 P.M. 1 P.M.
3/29	@HIGH POINT 6 P.M.	5/10	NORTH CAROLINA A&T 6 P.M.
4/1-3	@JMU 6 P.M. 4 P.M. 1 P.M.	5/13-15	TOWSON 6 P.M. 6 P.M. 1 P.M.
4/5	WAKE FOREST 6 P.M.	5/19-21	WILLIAM & MARY 6 P.M. 6 P.M. 4 P.M.
4/8-10	@NORTHEASTERN 2 P.M. 1 P.M. 1 P.M.	5/25-28	CAA TOURNAMENT TBD



ALEX IADISERNIA

WOMEN'S GOLF

3/7-8	RIVER LANDING CLASSIC WALLACE, NORTH CAROLINA
3/20-22	BAMA BEACH BASH GULF SHORES, ALABAMA
4/3-5	MIMOSA HILLS INTERCOLLEGIATE MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA
4/15-17	CAA CHAMPIONSHIP SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA

MEN'S GOLF

3/7-8	DONALD ROSS COLLEGIATE CLASSIC SOUTHERN PINES, NORTH CAROLINA
3/12-13	FOREST CREEK COLLEGIATE PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA
4/2-3	IRISH CREEK INTERCOLLEGIATE KANNAPOLIS, NORTH CAROLINA
4/11-12	WOFFORD INTERCOLLEGIATE SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
4/24-26	CAA CHAMPIONSHIP ST. HELENA ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA

SOFTBALL

3/4	MICHIGAN STATE 1:30 P.M.
3/5	DETROIT MERCY 12 P.M.
3/5	MICHIGAN STATE 2:30 P.M.
3/6	DETROIT MERCY 12 P.M.
3/6	EAST CAROLINA 2:30 P.M.
3/9	NC CENTRAL 5 P.M.

SPARTAN CLASSIC - GREENSBORO NC

3/12	DELAWARE STATE 9:30 A.M.
3/12	SAINT FRANCIS 2:30 P.M.
3/13	SAINT FRANCIS 9 A.M.
3/13	MICHIGAN STATE 11:30 A.M.

3/16	@EAST CAROLINA 2 P.M. 4 P.M.
3/19-20	UNC GREENSBORO 1 P.M. 3 P.M. @1 P.M.
3/26-27	HOFSTRA 1 P.M. 3 P.M. 1 P.M.
4/2-3	@DELAWARE 12 P.M. 2 P.M. 1 P.M.
4/6	NORTH CAROLINA A&T 5:30 P.M.
4/9-10	CHARLESTON 12 P.M. 2:30 P.M. 1 P.M.
4/16-17	DREXEL 12 P.M. 2:30 P.M. 1 P.M.
4/23-24	@TOWSON 12 P.M. 2:30 P.M. 1 P.M.
4/30-5/1	@UNC WILMINGTON 12 P.M. 2:30 P.M. 12 P.M.
5/6-7	JMU 3:00 P.M. 5:00 P.M. 1:00 P.M.
5/11-13	CAA CHAMPIONSHIPS



JACOB KISAMORE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore first baseman Cole Reynolds stands in the on-deck circle during Elon's season opener against Fairfield University. Elon lost 6-3.

Cole Reynolds played for the Burlington Sock Puppets after strong freshman season with Elon

Caleigh Lawlor
Elon News Network | @caleighlawlor

Sophomore pitcher and first baseman Cole Reynolds was recruited to play for the Burlington Sock Puppets this past summer after a successful 2020-21 season with the Elon baseball team.

General manager for the Sock Puppets Anderson Rathbun said Reynolds showed potential in his freshman season that piqued the Sock Puppet's interest.

"I mean just the overall potential that Cole has," Rathbun said. "He's got a big body, big frame and he really plays up to a strength, so we were excited to sign Cole for his athletic ability and just overall baseball acumen."

For the Sock Puppets, Reynolds played as a pitcher. While there, he learned new ways to look at the game from coaches and teammates.

"I got to learn a lot more," Reynolds said. "A lot of new things from different perspectives from other players and how they go about things and learn some new stuff from different coaches and try to learn off,

benefit off of that."

Reynolds said he enjoyed playing for the Sock Puppets, and playing for them helped him to better understand the game.

"It was a lot of fun," Reynolds said, "We had a good trainer that worked here, so she took care of my arm. Made a lot of new friends from far places and build a relationship with them and just learn more about the game."

Reynolds said that he is seeking to be consistent with his execution every time he steps onto the field, which is something that he learned from the Sock Puppets.

"Just keep being the same guy. Don't let anything. Don't let little things affect how you play and have good body language throughout the game," Reynolds said.

Rathbun said that Reynolds was a good person to look up to in the community because of his outlook on the game.

"I really think he just has a mature outlook on what playing a sport, especially at this level and hopefully the next level really means," Rathbun said. "It's not just about being an athlete, but it's really being a role model within the community and I really think Cole did a great job grasping that and coming into that role specifically off the field this past summer."

Reynolds batted a .239 with a .352 slugging average with the Sock Puppets, which was

slightly below his .292 with a .444 slugging average he batted with the Phoenix last spring.

“

I REALLY THINK HE JUST HAS A MATURE OUTLOOK ON WHAT PLAYING A SPORT REALLY MEANS. IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT BEING AN ATHLETE, BUT IT'S REALLY BEING A ROLE MODEL WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

ANDERSON RATHBUN
GENERAL MANAGER FOR THE SOCK PUPPETS

Reynolds won baseball's top newcomer award at the Elon athletics awards banquet in 2021. This season, Elon head coach Mike Kennedy said that a goal for Reynolds is to decrease his strikeouts.

"I think as a result of that, he's starting to get more hits in our inner squads and getting balls in play and we need them, there's no question," Kennedy said. "He knows that he's gonna be a two way guy for us, but offensively, he needs to be a middle of the order type hitter for us. And hopefully he's on his way to be that type of player."

Reynolds is looking to improve his pitching and overall field work this season.

"Mainly my pitching, not so much hitting," he said, "Just throwing strikes and being efficient with my pitches and just getting stronger and more athletic."

As regular season play starts up, Reynolds said he is looking to pitch more.

Through seven games this season, Reynolds has just one hit in 18 at-bats and is yet to make a pitching appearance. Elon will next play against Toledo on March 4.

BY THE NUMBERS

.239

was how much Reynolds batted with a .352 slugging average with the Sock Puppets, slightly below his .292 with a .444 slugging average he batted for Elon last spring.

Softball team works with freshman leaders this year

Freshmen playing key roles for the softball team

Arianna Tristani
Elon News Network

With seven out of 22 players on Elon University's softball team being freshmen, new players have been put in leadership roles this season, according to head coach Kathy Bocock.

After losing three of its best players from last season — Mekayla Frazier, Kenna Quinn and Ally Repko — Elon has turned to freshmen early in the season to play big roles with the team, something the Phoenix has not traditionally done.

She said she has had relationships with all freshmen since they were young, especially noting the Burlington resident Isley Duggins, who Bocock has been working with since she was seven years old.

Each of the freshmen consistently attended one of her offseason camps, which invite high school players to train with Elon's softball team. Bocock said attending these camps made the

players stand out in the recruiting process.

"All seven are very talented in their own way," Bocock said. "They have seven different personalities, and that's what makes it fun to watch too."

Taylor Cherry, who has 30 strikeouts and a 4.6 earned runs against average in six pitching appearances this season, emphasized how comfortable she was with this team immediately.

Cherry said the team's four upperclassmen pitchers have helped her become more confident early in the season.

"Softball is all about communication and the upperclassmen on this team have shown me how important that is especially in the circle," Cherry said.

Duggins, who played softball at Southern Alamance High School, said though the older players made her feel comfortable too, she was happy to have six other freshmen teammates as she joined the team.

"The girls are genuinely the nicest and are very inclusive," Duggins said. "I didn't really know the girls well, so it was really nice right away to see the

older girls telling Taylor and I when pitching that they have our backs. Coming from upperclassmen that really means a lot."

For Duggins, the most important part about transitioning from high school to college softball is staying focused on yourself rather than what the batters are doing.

"I've always tried not to focus on the batter, which I think has carried over here and helped me a lot," Duggins said. "Pitching is all mental and going in with a strong mentality is key. Taking things pitch-by-pitch and focusing on you and the catcher."

Bocock said the team's freshmen have earned the trust and respect of the coaching staff and their teammates, praising their respect and positive attitude. She added their growing confidence and hard work in practice also played a large role in building trust, which she believes will help the team's performance this season.

"The more confident you can be, that helps everybody be confident," Bocock said. "Opportunities are not being given to them. They are all earning every bit of it."



JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR

Elon freshman Taylor Cherry throws the softball during the game on Feb. 11. Elon won the game against Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis 5-2.



Junior Sibel Tanik plays singles during the team's match against Georgia State University on Feb. 19. Elon lost 4-2.

ABBY REED | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon women's tennis has won seven of eight matches with conference matches set to begin in two weeks

Jacob Kisamore
Sports Director | @jacobkisamore

When the Elon University women's tennis team plays a home match at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center, the sound of Elon players cheering on their teammates across the courts is always present, according to junior Sibel Tanik.

Whether reacting to an important shot or chanting to motivate a struggling player, Tanik said players try to be as vocal as possible on the court to show support for their teammates and psych out their opponents.

"We're all out there having our little battles, but it's a huge war," Tanik said. "It helps your teammate. It helps you because sometimes I'll lose a point and instead of getting mad, I'll yell, 'Let's go, Elon,' and then it releases something."

With eight players, women's tennis has

the smallest roster of Elon's varsity teams. Six players returned to the team from last season. Head coach Elizabeth Anderson said both the small roster and continuity have proved beneficial for the team this season.

"That's helped a lot because they already knew each other and have that chemistry," Anderson said. "They are very hungry and driven. They want to do well for themselves, for team and school."

Swinging into spring

Ten matches into its spring season, Elon holds a 7-3 record and has won seven of its last eight matches. Tanik attributed the recent success to the team's focus and depth.

"We are just such a deep team," Tanik said. "This team has done so well of locking into their particular match and not worrying about where they are on the lineup or who they're playing against."

After playing in the number two singles position for most of last season, Tanik has transitioned to be the team's number one singles player this season. Tanik holds a 4-2 singles record this season and earned her first Colonial Athletic Association Player of the Week Award for her performance against

Richmond University on Jan. 28. She said the accolade has inspired her to continue her strong play the rest of the season.

"Once you get a little taste of a good win, you just get kind of hungry and you're like, 'Wow, I want more,'" Tanik said.

Anderson said Tanik is a great leader and believes she has developed a more positive attitude on the court this season, which has helped her mentally in close matches.

"She's just very upbeat and into the team aspect," Anderson said. "She wants her teammates to do really well, works really hard and comes out with a lot of energy."

After using nine different doubles combinations last season, Elon has kept the same three doubles pairs for all of its matches this season. Tanik has played all her doubles matches with sophomore Lizette Reding and said the continuity of the pairings has helped bolster team chemistry.

"It gives you the chance to bond, get closer and then figure out certain patterns and plays that work best for your team," Tanik said.

Home court advantage

For the first time since 2019, Elon University will host the Colonial Athletic

Association Tournament at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center. The tournament will begin on April 28 and finish on May 1.

For Anderson, the focus for the rest of the regular season is building momentum for the tournament.

"We just want to be playing our best tennis when the conference tournament comes," Anderson said. "Even though we've had some really good matches, we've had some tougher matches. Those tougher matches are building us to become better for the tournament."

Tanik said she is excited to be able to play the tournament in front of her friends and family and hopes the home crowds will help propel the team to its first conference title since joining the CAA.

"Having home court advantage is just an unreal feeling," Tanik said. "We're all really excited to go out and compete and defend the house."

Elon will travel to play its next two matches against North Carolina State University and Davidson College on March 5 and 6. The next home match at Jimmy Powell Tennis Center will be against North Carolina Central University on March 11.

Men's tennis has eyes set on CAA Championship

Men's tennis looks to build on strong 2021 season with return of veteran leaders

Daniel Schulman
Elon News Network

The last time the Elon men's tennis team hosted the Colonial Athletic Association tournament in 2019, it won the championship for the first time since the school joined the conference in 2014. They will host the tournament again this spring.

After a strong season last year that ended in a 4-3 loss to William & Mary in the CAA Tournament semifinals, the Phoenix are excited to host the conference tournament once again with hopes of returning to the NCAA tournament.

"Our goal is to continue to improve and to be hitting our stride about a month or two from now," said men's tennis head coach Michael Leonard. "We feel like we're kind of moving in that direction."

The Phoenix have faced a difficult early season schedule, already taking on tough opponents

such as Liberty University, with a 20-7 record last season and Duke University, with a 7-3 record this season. Leonard said although Elon lost those matches, it can help the athletes improve and win later in the season.

"It really puts you in adverse circumstances because you're not only playing a top team, but you also play them on their home court," Leonard said. "It can be very challenging, but it also teaches you how to deal with adversity. And if you can come through that, then later in the year it can really be an advantage."

Elon still has to play some big name programs such as Clemson University and North Carolina State University on the road later on this spring. The Phoenix will also face conference rivals James Madison University in Harrisonburg and Virginia Commonwealth University in Elon at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center.

One of Elon's leaders this season is graduate student Kyle Frankel, who is from Oranjestad, Aruba. Frankel helped lead Elon to its first ever CAA Championship in 2019 and was named the tournament's

most outstanding performer, in addition to setting a program record of 21 dual-match singles wins as a sophomore.

Frankel, now in his fifth season at Elon, has worked his way up to one of the top two singles spots on the team and said he embraces the challenge it provides. He also plays doubles with senior Camilo Ponce, a native of Quito, Ecuador.

"Every school has a good number one especially and a good number two, so you're playing the best players at every school, which makes every match very challenging," Frankel said. "But I'm up for it, I prefer one matches because I feel like I'm getting better, I feel like I'm getting pushed ... I want to play against the best players."

Frankel is aware of the difficult early season schedule, but said he knows getting through it now will help both him and the team improve in the long run.

"I'm just trying to improve match by match," Frankel said. "I started off a little bit slow. I'm feeling better now — still not where I want to be — but working towards that. And each match hopefully will help me get to the



Senior Chung-Han Tsai prepares to serve against Gardner-Webb University on Feb. 26. Elon won 5-2.

ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

point where I want to get."

Improvement is the key to success for Frankel, Leonard and the rest of the team, as the Phoenix try to return to the NCAA tournament. The team is currently on a three-game winning streak.

They will have help from upperclassmen such as Nicholas Campbell, Nicholas Condos and Chung-Han Tsai. Leonard is also excited about the future of the three first-years on the team:

transfer student Daniel Martin and freshmen Esteban Penagos and Joseph Dougherty.

While it will be a difficult journey for the Phoenix, Leonard said he believes the best is yet to come.

"I think they're all still hungry and still looking to improve," Leonard said. "And so we're hoping that come mid-April, our best tennis is ahead of us."

WOMEN'S GOLF TEAM PRIMED FOR FIRST CONFERENCE TITLE

Phoenix look to build off strong fall season this spring with mix of young and experienced talent

Liam Stephens
Elon News Network

The Elon University women's golf team returns to action this spring with the goal to capture its first Colonial Athletic Association conference championship.

Head coach Chris Dockrill said the team is already preparing to peak for the CAA Championship, which will take place from April 15 to 17 in Southport, North Carolina.

"The number one goal is to win the conference championship," Dockrill said. "Our goal every time we tee it up is to win. Those are always your goals."

Last year, the team entered the CAA Championship as the third seed and fell to James Madison University. Dockrill said he is looking forward to getting another opportunity to win the conference this spring.

"We do everything for our conference championships," Dockrill said. "That's the big match we're excited for."

The team's last time in action was in the fall, when the Phoenix competed in five events. The Phoenix placed second out of eight teams in the Elon Invitational, Elon's home tournament contested at Alamance Country Club. The team also won the Aggie Invitational on Oct. 5.

Every player on the team appeared in at least one tournament, which Dockrill said could help the younger players get some experience before their season this spring.

"At times we played really well, and at times we didn't play really well," Dockrill said. "The newer girls were a lot more up and down than hopefully in the spring."

Apple Ngamwong, a sophomore from Bangkok, Thailand, ranks among the CAA's best. In early March of last year, she won player of the week along with 2021 CAA all first team and the 2021 team MVP.

Dockrill said Ngamwong is recovering from back injuries she suffered at the end

of last year but expects her to be back in competitive shape early in the team's season.

"She's feeling good. She hasn't played as well as we've hoped," Dockrill said. "When she gets into competition it's a different game for her. I really don't have anything to worry about with her."

For graduate student Adel Vadkerti, who is entering her last season of collegiate golf, this is a final chance to finally capture a CAA championship title and an individual title.

Vadkerti was named to the All-CAA second team last season after tying for seventh at the CAA Championship in Greensboro. She said her chipping and approach putting is her strongest skill when she is in the heat of competition.

"Normally, I would say my short game is pretty good," Vadkerti said. "If my head is in the game, I can pretty much set my mind to it."

Vadkerti won the Leadership Award for the women's golf team last season. Dockrill said the five juniors and seniors on this year's team have played a critical role in mentoring the five freshmen and sophomores.

"Our upperclassmen really spent a lot of time with our younger group, and that's important," Dockrill said.

One of the players that Dockrill is most excited about for this season is freshman Andrea Asmundsdottir. She played in three tournaments in the fall, and Dockrill is impressed with how much she improved over the offseason.

"She went back home and really worked on her game," Dockrill said. "I think right now she's improved the most."

Elon will play three tournaments before the CAA Championship in April, including two in North Carolina and one in Alabama. Dockrill said he is excited to finally face competition.

"We just want to get over there and compete," Dockrill said. "We have a good schedule. The competition is good."

Elon's next scheduled tournament is the River Landing Classic in Wallace, North Carolina. The tournament will be hosted by the University of North Carolina-Wilmington and will take place from March 7 and 8.



ADDIE BUCCO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A member of the Elon University women's golf team takes a swing during a practice at the Worsley Golf Center.

A LOOK INSIDE ELON UNIVERSITY MEN'S GOLF

Practice and teamwork prove central to team's success

Trevor Boehm
Elon News Network

The Elon University men's golf team and head coach Don Hill are heading into the 2022 spring season with the goal of winning the program's first conference championship since 1994. After a strong fall campaign, the Phoenix hope to continue their momentum of positive results into the spring season.

In October 2021, Elon won its home tournament, the Phoenix Invitational, by beating a field of 13 college teams. Elon University men's golf closed out its fall campaign with a fifth place field at the Grandover Collegiate in Greensboro.

Among Elon's top performers in the fall season were sophomore Garrett Risner, junior Bronson Myers, senior Will Frodigh, sophomore Pedro Rabadan Arbuties, graduate student Max Ferrari, freshman Matt Doyle and freshman Juan Callejo Roper. According to Hill, this mixture of underclassmen and upperclassmen has been crucial to the success of the team this past fall and will contribute to the success

of the Phoenix in their spring campaign.

Risner said the senior leadership of the team has been important for the team — especially the underclassmen — as it prepares for its spring campaign.

"They have done a great job making us feel comfortable," Risner said. "Showed us how to get better, what it is like to be a college teammate and anything we ever needed we would ask them."

Risner and Hill both stressed the importance of teamwork in achieving their season goal of winning Elon's first-ever Colonial Athletic Association title. If the Phoenix win, they will also get an automatic bid to the NCAA Division I men's golf championship in May.

"We have the best team we probably have ever had here," Risner said. "We have a great team chemistry, and we have a lot of guys who can play. So we are working toward that as a team."

Hill believes the key to winning lies in consistent practice, which has been the focus in the time between the team's fall and spring seasons.

"We want to win a conference championship," Hill said. "That starts with each member of the team pushing each other to get better each day."

Risner said the team is intent on putting in the work in training and preparation to



ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Pedro Rabadan hits a tee shot during a practice at Alamance Country Club.

help guide success in future tournaments. He said he feels confident in his skill and expects to improve on his performance as a freshman.

"I am looking to get my first college win this semester," Risner said. "I feel a lot more prepared and comfortable to do that

now, having gained experience from the fall season."

Elon's next match will be the Donald Ross Collegiate Classic in Southern Pines, North Carolina. The CAA Championship will be from April 24 through April 26.

Close to home: Lauryn Carlton shares throwing success locally



Junior thrower on Elon’s track and field team Lauryn Carlton deadlifts in the Alumni Field House during a lifting session with the throwing team on Feb. 24.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The junior has placed personal records in discus, shot put and hammer, including a CAA Championship

Nyah Phengsitthy
Managing Editor | @nyahphengsitthy

It all started with joining a football team in the third grade for Lauryn Carlton. The strength Carlton built up from the sport followed her throughout high school as she continued to be successful on the field. But when she received a phone call from Elon track and field coach Laura Iguane during her junior year, she didn’t know that football would lead her to be on another field — throwing discus, shot put and hammer in track and field.

“She actually saw me throwing in high school, and she saw potential. ... My form was not that good in high school. I just kind of muscled it out there,” Carlton said. “But she saw potential.”

The junior grew up in Burlington and attended Western Alamance High School — just a few miles from Elon University’s campus. Carlton said she’d anticipated that if she continued with a sport in college, it would be soccer — not football or track and field. But when she accepted Elon’s offer, she didn’t realize that she would continue to share her strength and success with her hometown.

Carlton was named a Colonial Athletic Association champion in spring 2021 when she reached her personal best record of 45.36 meters in the discus throw. That same year was filled with other personal records — hammer throw with a toss of 49.51 meters at the VertKlasse Meeting, season-best throw of 13.02 meters in shot put at the James Madison University Invitational and first place in the shot put at the Wendy’s Teal Seahawk Invitational with a throw of 12.82 meters.

Now in her spring 2022 season, Carlton said she is trying to reach new personal records.

“This year, I’m looking to score points for the team so we can get a conference ring.

I personally don’t really care what I place, I more so care if I get better personally,” Carlton said.

Iguane, who has worked with many athletes in the past, also has personal throwing experience. A native of Latvia, Iguane was the Latvian National Champion in both the discus and hammer. She still holds the Latvia national record in the hammer, and in 2021, she represented her home country in the hammer throw at the Olympic games in Tokyo. Her throwing experience has allowed her to become closer to Carlton as a coach.

“

THIS YEAR, I’M
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CONFERENCE RING. I
PERSONALLY DON’T
REALLY CARE WHAT
I PLACE, I MORE SO
CARE IF I GET BETTER
PERSONALLY.

LAURYN CARLTON
JUNIOR

“I like working with her, and I recruited her. She works hard, and she dedicates her time. She wants to get better, and she doesn’t have the attitude of, ‘Oh well, whatever happens, happens.’” Iguane said. “She really puts in time and effort and thought into what we want to accomplish.”

Working with Carlton for three years now, Iguane said that coaching Carlton goes beyond guiding her on the field.

“When I come across an athlete on campus, or for track and field specifically, I look for certain qualities, and one is



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Carlton finishes a lift during strength training session on Feb. 24. A Burlington native, Carlton practices in the facilities just miles away from her home.

coachability. She has a great coachability,” Iguane said. “The other one’s dedication. She’s dedicated to the process of succeeding individually and with the team.”

A recent success so far this year comes from the JDL DMR Invitational in February 2022, where she was second in the throws with a toss of 17.69 meters. She was also a runner-up in the shot put at her throw of 13.41 meters. Carlton said she hopes to place in the top three at the championship, or just score points for the team if at all possible.

As she continues to work hard, especially in the fields and facilities close to home, Carlton said it’s all about how she can move forward — even when it’s easy to compare herself to other athletes in the sport.

“In track and field in general, you kind of know what you’re going to place already, just because it’s so cut and dry. You know everybody else’s personal records. You know how they’ve been throwing, it’s not really subjective at all,” Carlton said. “It’s like they’re better than I am, but can I move up? And so we’ll see what happens this year.”

DISCUS THROW

45.36

meters is the distance of Carlton’s personal best record in the discus throw.

HAMMER THROW

49.51

meters is the distance of Carlton’s outdoor personal record in the hammer throw.

SHOT PUT

13.02

meters is the distance of Carlton’s season best throw in the shot put last spring.

Elon women's lacrosse SENIOR CAPTAIN taking on new leadership role



ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior midfielder Gillian Curran runs down field with the ball during Elon's game against Duke University on Feb. 13. Elon lost 25-5.

As Gillian Curran enters her final season at Elon, she prepares to lead her team to a conference championship

Audrey Bartlett
Elon News Network

When Elon University's women's lacrosse team takes the field this season, it will be led by senior captain Gillian Curran.

Over the past three years, Curran has scored 30 goals and 50 total points in 35 games. She saw significant playing time as soon as she arrived at Elon, starting all 18 of Elon's games as a freshman, and every game since. In her junior year, she ranked ninth in the Colonial Athletic Association in assists and draw controls per game, and fourth on the team in goals scored — including four hat tricks over the course of the season.

After being part of the team for the past three years, Curran said she is ready to take on a more prominent role as a captain of the team as it makes a push to win conference this year.

Curran credited much of her on-field success to a strong relationship with head coach Josh Hexter.

"Josh's always been very supportive of me," Curran said. "He knows how to push me and what ways to motivate me, so that has been very beneficial."

Curran said she's also learned a lot about what it takes to be a leader on the field from some of last year's seniors, giving a lot of credit to them for pushing her to become a better player and teammate.

Now, Curran is in a position to pass along her experience to some of the newer members of the team. She will be leading a roster that has over half of its players comprised of freshmen and sophomores, which will make her role as captain even more important as new players look to learn Elon's systems and build strong practice habits.

"Being positive has been a huge thing for me and pushing my teammates," Curran said. "Just showing them the culture of our team and knowing that it's not a selfish game and that we can play together, that's

what's gonna make us successful."

As they prepared for this season, bonding off the field played a big role.

"Every day over break, we would have these little texts. We would text each other and make sure that everyone was doing their part this offseason to be the best version of yourself when you got back to campus," Curran said. "Just making sure we are connected while we're not together and making sure everyone was doing their part."

Curran was a sophomore when the lacrosse team had its season cut short

by COVID-19, and said the experience changed her mindset on the game.

"I've been really trying to stay positive with everything and play every game like it could be taken away from us at any time," Curran said.

Aside from being able to finish the season this year, Curran's goals are to win conference for the first time and to end her lacrosse career at Elon with a bang.

In the team's first four games this season, Curran has scored 14 of the team's 41 goals. The team continues its season with a game March 2 against Campbell University.



BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior midfielder Gillian Curran looks for a pass inside against the University of Virginia on Feb. 11. Elon lost 20-11 in its season opener.

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THE PENDULUM

ELON COMMUNITY REFLECTS OVER RUSSIA'S WAR ON UKRAINE



Russia's large-scale invasion began on Feb. 24. The military action in civilian areas is in violation of the agreements between Ukraine and Russia, such as the Minsk agreements — a ceasefire signed in 2014. Since the attacks, the world has been reacting, including the Elon University community. Map is not to scale.

CAROLINE MITCHELL | DESIGN CHIEF

Professors, students share thoughts and experiences on
Russia's recent large-scale invasion on Ukraine

Nyah Phengsitthy | Managing Editor | @nyahphengsitthy

ENGLISH PROFESSOR JENNIFER EIDUM changed her entire class agenda on Thursday, Feb. 24 — a historic day for the world. Russia invaded Ukraine by land, air and sea, resulting in the biggest attack by one European country against another since World War II. Eidum's Language and Dialect class would go from discussing language to talking about the war.

"I dropped our class," Eidum said. "I gave a lecture about ... the history of Ukrainian and Russian language — how it led to language policies in the country, and then how those policies sort of tell us something about Putin's war rhetoric."

But changing the class agenda was more than teaching history to Eidum — since the beginning of her adult life, Eidum has personally connected to Ukraine. She first lived in the country as a Peace Corps volunteer for a few years, and later moved to Ukraine where she met her first husband. When Eidum saw the streets she used to walk through destroyed, it broke her heart.

"I was horrified. I was

devastated. I cried," Eidum said. "I had to get out of bed ... I turned on the TV and watched the news to watch missiles hitting Kyiv."



I WAS HORRIFIED. I WAS DEVASTATED. I CRIED. I HAD TO GET OUT OF BED ... I TURNED ON THE TV AND WATCHED THE NEWS TO WATCH MISSILES HITTING KYIV.

JENNIFER EIDUM
ENGLISH PROFESSOR

Russia's large-scale invasion on Ukraine captured the Chernobyl nuclear power plant within the first 24 hours of invading. The

military action in civilian areas is in violation of the agreements between Ukraine and Russia, such as the Minsk agreements — a ceasefire signed in 2014.

The U.S. and European allies imposed significant economic sanctions two days after Russia's initial invasion, most notably cutting off access to the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication messaging system. Removing certain Russian banks from the SWIFT network, which connects banks internationally and provides critical communication for foreign payments, effectively prevents Russia from making Western purchases.

Currently, Russia is still pushing toward Kyiv and Kharkiv, the capital of Ukraine and the second-largest city in Ukraine respectively, leading to the deaths of more than 350 civilians as of March 1, according to Ukraine's Ministry of Interior.

See **UKRAINE** | pg. 5B

Elon to lift indoor mask mandate



KYRA O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Healthy Elon announces indoor mask
optional policy starting March 14

Elon News Network
@elonnewsnetwork

Elon University will no longer require masks indoors starting March 14. The announcement comes from a university email from Healthy Elon chair Jeff Stein on Monday afternoon.

The new mask optional policy will begin during Spring Break. The university strongly encourages students, faculty and staff who are unvaccinated or immunocompromised to continue wearing masks indoors, but will not require it.

The mask policy applies to vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, however unvaccinated individuals are still required to test weekly.

"Elon endorses the rights of everyone to make their own personal choices about wearing masks," Stein wrote in the email.

University spokesman Owen Covington said the university has tried to "provide a two-week window on any policy change" to give the community time to react and prepare. He said the start of spring break is a "good transition point" for this policy.

Sophomore Krista Paciello said she finds the mandate lift exciting and does not see the significance of waiting two weeks to change the policy. She said the change will be weird because she has worn a mask since high school.

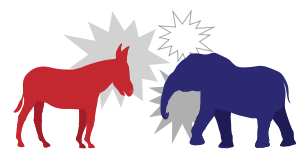
"I feel like a lot of people are more lenient now. I don't think two weeks from now it'd be any different than it would be right now," Paciello said.

Senior Luna Dunham plans to keep wearing a mask to class to keep others and herself safe.

"I am a little bit on the fence. I obviously love to see us getting over the hump of this pandemic, but also I have trust issues with the general population and public," Dunham said. "I think — hopefully, fingers crossed — everything will be okay."

Masks will still be required for Student Health Services, Faculty-Staff Wellness Clinic, the asymptomatic testing center in McCoy Commons and Health Sciences medical outreach programs, as well as for anyone experiencing COVID-like symptoms and five days after completion of a five-day isolation period after a positive test.

See **MASKS** | pg. 4B



NEWS • PAGE 2B

Increased
polarization affects
political climate



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 7B

Local record shop
looks to serve whole
community



SPORTS • PAGE 8B

Latham Park
renovations continue
for Elon baseball

THE PENDULUM

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Elon News Network is a daily news organization that includes a newspaper, website, broadcasts and podcasts. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to enn@elon.edu as Word documents. ENN reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of ENN and will not be returned.

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EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

CORRECTIONS POLICY:

ENN is committed to accurate coverage. When factual errors are made, we correct them promptly and in full, both online and in print. Online corrections state the error and the change at the top of the article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page.

Contact

corrections@elonnewsnetwork.com
to report a correction or a concern.

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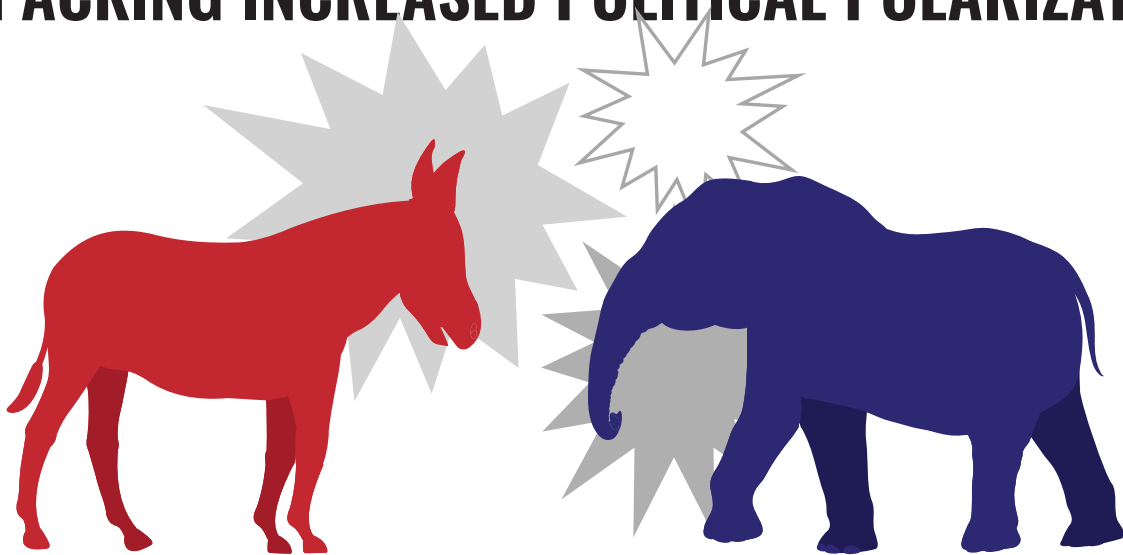
CORRECTIONS

In the last edition of The Pendulum, a caption misstated that the breakdown of the five most represented religions at Elon University came from a survey of 544 students, faculty and staff. The report surveyed 452 students. Elon News Network regrets this error.

CHEAT SHEET

THE CHEAT SHEET IS AN INTERVIEW WITH A RELEVANT EXPERT TO EXPLAIN COMPLEX TOPICS

UNPACKING INCREASED POLITICAL POLARIZATION



CAROLINE MITCHELL
DESIGN CHIEF

Leading up to and following the events of Jan. 6, 2021, increased polarization has changed the political climate

Avery Sloan

Politics Editor | @averysloan

Political polarization has increased in recent years, particularly leading up to the Jan. 6, 2021, riots. According to the



Susan Ladd

Journalism professor Susan Ladd talked about the state of political polarization in the United States. Ladd worked at the News and Record in Greensboro for 34 years in many roles, most notably as a politics editor and news columnist before she began working as a professor.

This interview was edited for clarity.

As a politics editor, have you noticed an increase in political polarization?

“Yes, absolutely. It was a very noticeable thing and I really believe that the source of it is the fracturing of the news media that we were also seeing at the time. When I say the fracturing of the news media, it includes newspapers are declining in circulation because people are going to online sites and the consolidation as bigger companies started buying up newspapers. As that’s going on, people are abandoning traditional media sources, and either going to online sites or cable news networks to a large degree. The problem there was that one of the things that happened is that the cable news networks really started blurring the line between news and commentary. I’m not sure people understood when they were watching a new show, and when they were watching one that was commentary. The lines got really blurred. The online news organizations were sometimes not that reliable. The ones that were independent, sometimes were great, but frequently had a particular political slant that permeated the way they did things and there was a range there from some that were a bit slanted to those that were publishing propaganda and misinformation. As people lost their traditional sources of news, and went to these other outlets, what they tended to do was, find one that aligned with the political beliefs they already had. It just made people less and less inclined to listen to other perspectives.

The thing about newspapers traditionally had featured a range of opinions. People were exposed to other opinions, but on a lot of these cable shows, they come from one political perspective. This is true of both sides, liberal and conservative. They each have

their own cable news shows that are very much representing a polarized political point of view.

What happens in communications, we call this confirmation bias, people tend to believe the things that confirm what they already believe. They tend to accept what confirms their pre-existing beliefs and reject things that contradict their current beliefs. The polarization gets worse and worse. The fracturing of the news media had a lot to do with that and you could see it start to happen. Particularly, starting in the second Obama administration, and leading up to the Trump elections, it just got more and more extreme. The other problem with that is that people stopped believing facts.

This is not just a difference of opinion. This is way more fundamental than that, and it’s a lot scarier. This is an inability to agree on what the facts actually are and that puts a country in very serious danger when people start rejecting the facts, where do you start? How do you start trying to come to any kind of understanding with people if you can’t agree on the basic facts?”

Do you think that this then also led to the actual events of Jan. 6?

“When people can’t accept or agree on what the facts are, they are very easily led into extreme behavior. It is an incredibly dangerous thing for democracy when you can agree on what the facts are, then you get the Jan. 6 insurrection. When people can’t trust facts anymore they tend to just follow what they want to believe. When you get a charismatic leader who can put people’s emotions up to act on something like that, that leads to things like Jan. 6.

There is no evidence that the election was ‘stolen.’ Courts looked at this, there were numerous court reviews of voting records in various states. There were assertions of election irregularities. Literally, there’s no proof that any of this actually happened, but people were willing to believe it nonetheless, to the extent that they were willing to overturn the U.S. government. That’s disturbing.”

Looking at after Jan. 6, how do you think that event has impacted polarization in general?

“I was very hopeful after it happened because even very strident Republicans were willing to say this was wrong and say this action was terrible and was not warranted. And in many cases, it meant that the election wasn’t stolen, that there wasn’t widespread election fraud. In the first hours after it happened, a lot of powerful Republicans did that.

But within 24 hours, they also started defending it, that the election was stolen, and that Jan. 6 was a peaceful protest, and things that just are patently false. We’re in a situation where we have leadership of a political party that is willing to use propaganda and false information to inflame the public so they can be reelected. In most cases, most of them are doing it to ensure the allegiance of Donald Trump because they believe that he still has sway of voters. It’s very worrisome.

The words on paper don’t make a democracy if people don’t follow them. It takes the commitment and belief actions

of a whole citizenry of a country to make democracy work and to be committed to that ideal. I found it very disturbing.

One of the things that I noticed as a reporter covering politics in 2014, 2015, 2016 was how quickly we went from, ‘I disagree with you’ to ‘I hate you’ and this was really reflected in the kinds of reader feedback that we got when we were doing political coverage. We weren’t talking about ideas anymore as much as people were talking about you’re a bad person. That’s a very significant difference. The level of vitriol that would come that I got over the phone with people literally changed from the day before Trump’s election to the day after.”

People were saying these things to you about you?

“Yes, I was writing columns so I was writing opinion based journalism. I actually had people who’d regularly call to argue with me about whatever I’ve written, and most of the time it remained very civil.

But one of our regular callers left a voicemail on my phone, the day after the election after Trump was elected, that contained veiled threats and used the language that this person had never used before. It was very disturbing. They felt empowered to be able to respond in that way because of Trump’s victory. He made it OK for a lot of people to name-call and threaten violence, that came through even from our own readers.”

What do you think the effect or how do you think polarization affects Elon students?

“We all are influenced by the opinions of our families in our community. Elon students come from many different diverse types of backgrounds and communities. To some extent, we all come preloaded with ideas and that’s fine. College should be a time when you start questioning and interrogating your own beliefs, testing them against reality, right. Young people tend to be more open to questioning and reconsidering things and my general sense is that most students are willing to listen to the ideas of others. For some, it is the first time they have really been exposed to being around people whose political beliefs may be pretty different from the earth. The key is to talk about it in ways that allow people to be heard, without being condemned, and to ask good questions on both sides. When we stop trying to talk about ideas, and just start calling each other names, there’s just nowhere to go from there.

It’s not a coincidence that the first thing I tell students in my media writing classes is ‘I want you to learn to be a critical thinker.’ Critical thinking is all about going back to the facts too, and let that be a starting point.

I would say I really do place a lot of faith in the younger generation and a lot of hope, that they will be the generation to pull back from this extreme polarization and demonizing each other and to be able to, again, have healthy discussions about ideas that are based in fact. That’s my hope. Young people tend to have much more open minds, so somebody’s got to change it. We’ve gone so far past where I thought we would ever go as a country.”



Freshman Jesse Riback plays table tennis in the Moseley Center on Feb. 23 after finishing his classes for the day.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Graeme Robertson, professor of political science at UNC Chapel Hill, speaks alongside Samuel Greene, professor of Russian politics and director of the Russia institute, inside LaRose Digital Theater in the Earnest A. Koury Sr. Business Center during the “Understanding the Conflict between Russia, Ukraine and the West” discussion on Feb. 28.

JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR



Sophomore Margaret Stephan takes the draw for the Phoenix in the first half of the Elon women’s lacrosse game against Vanderbilt University on Feb. 25. Elon lost 17-11.

ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Elon students talk inside Global Commons during the International Coffee Hour event on Feb. 24

ABBY REED | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Elon University President Connie Book speaks at College Coffee on March 1 for Elon Day inside Alumni Gym.

JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR

SPDC updates resources to fit the changing needs of students



CAROLINE MITCHELL | DESIGN CHIEF

This year's hiring cycle for graduating seniors is different from years past

Erin Martin
Elon News Network | @erinmartin35

As spring semester progresses and seniors are preparing to enter the workforce. When the pandemic shifted everything online back in 2020, the application and hiring process for a number of companies changed. Now, in 2022, the job search process is beginning to go back to normal agains as restrictions begin to loosen.

Director of the Student Professional Development Center Brooke Buffington said that when COVID-19 arrived, many industries shifted to hiring in the spring season. A traditional hiring cycle is when industries such as finance and accounting hire in the fall, while more communications and arts and science industries hire in the spring. Buffington said she believes this year will be different.

"There's so much uncertainty around what their hiring needs are going to be, this year is much more traditional," Buffington said.

Although many companies this year will return to a traditional hiring cycle, the ways in which companies are hiring may be new to the applicants.

Buffington said Elon has invested time and money into updating their

resources to best prepare students for interviews, like adding additional technology, software and career advisers at the SPDC.

"Even before the pandemic, we'd already added things in our interview rooms, like ring lights, because we knew more and more students are going to need good lighting for their video interviews," Buffington said.

Senior Corey Sobell said this

“

WE MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE THE TOOLS IN PLACE THAT SIMULATE THE SAME PROCESS THAT OUR STUDENTS ARE GOING TO GO THROUGH.

BROOKE BUFFINGTON
SPDC DIRECTOR

year's job search is easier than last year's improvements in technology, as well as companies hiring more applicants. Sobell also said the changes to the application process because of COVID-19 have helped him access more job opportunities.

"One thing that COVID actually has helped with is that a lot of people are expanding further in their hiring

pool through virtual interviews," Sobell said.

The SPDC has introduced new tools during the pandemic to help students enhance their job search. One new platform is Big Interview — a tool that allows students to pre-record their interviews and request to have an adviser review it or to have the artificial intelligence program give feedback.

"We make sure that we have the tools in place that simulate the same process that our students are going to go through," Buffington said.

Although some companies have developed or purchased new technology to recruit employees, many companies still have unknowns regarding basic logistics, like whether a job will be remote or in-person. Though this can be a confusing time for new employees, Buffington said s students should be flexible with their employers.

"Being open to being flexible with that is going to be a great way to show that you're an asset to the organization and that you're gonna be a good employee for them to work with," Buffington said.

As more seniors begin to look for more jobs, Buffington reminds the university that all Elon students have free access to Big Interview for professional use. Students who need assistance in applying to jobs or internships can visit the SPDC for interview tips, resume editing and one-on-one career appointments.

Elon to lift indoor mask mandate in coming weeks

MASKS | from cover

While this new change may be in the favor of some at the university, not everyone is for the change. Psychology professor Katherine King said she is against Elon University lifting the indoor mask requirement and would like the masks to stay, even though Alamance and Guilford counties have lifted the mask mandate.

"I'm just not at all comfortable with, that we need to learn to live with the virus," King said. "That was even in the memo that Jeff Stein sent out today. That to me is wrongheaded."

Professor of philosophy Ann Cahill said she is not surprised by the decision, but she is disappointed.

"As a university, Elon is making a mistake in policy that lots of institutions are making, and lots of communities are making on different levels, but I still think it's a mistake," Cahill said. "Even though it feels like it's part of a certain form of social momentum, and I don't think Elon University is going to feel alone in making this decision, nevertheless, I think it's a mistake."

The decision to make masking indoors optional has far more consequences than benefits, Cahill said, especially for those who are high risk on campus.

"It is simply not a good ethical balance," Cahill said. "To reduce that choice to an individual choice, I think is a mistake. I think it's a failure of community responsibility."

New guidelines

The Center for Disease Control announced on Friday, Feb. 25 a loosened mask guidance, focusing more on community hospitalizations rather than cases. Under the new guidance, the majority of Americans will no longer be advised to wear masks in indoor public settings. The CDC's announcement also aligns with schools across Alamance and Guilford counties ending their mask mandates for students and staff.

The university will offer free N-95 or KN-95 masks at the front desk of the Moseley Center for those who would like to continue wearing one.

Hospitalizations in Alamance County have declined 35% and 39% throughout North Carolina, over the past 14 days.

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper encouraged cities and schools to lift requirements by Monday, March 7.

Brigham Young University, Carleton College and Marist College are among the most recent colleagues and universities to lift their mandates. The University of Richmond and Villanova University, two of Elon's peer institutions, lifted theirs with faculty discretion.

After Spring Break

Freshman Lily Johnson said she plans to wear a mask for a "week or two" after returning to campus following spring break.

"People are traveling and coming back from populated areas where maybe the numbers are kind of high. So I think for the first couple weeks, I might, but after that I feel like I might feel comfortable taking it off," Johnson said.

Johnson said she wouldn't look at any of her peers differently based on their decision to continue wearing a mask or not. Paciello said she was worried about being judged for choosing not to wear one once the mandate is lifted.

"I was worried that if I didn't wear a mask, people are going to think that I don't care about other people, so that's also something I have to think about," Paciello said.

Lifting the mandate during spring break is something Paciello said "shocked her."

"I feel like a lot of people are gonna go away, and they're gonna come back with whatever diseases they're gonna come back with," Paciello said. "I feel like it would have been better to wait until at least two weeks after spring break, just so that if they got COVID or whatever, they could have waited it out."

King said that when students return to class after spring break, she will still require students to wear masks in her classes, and if they choose not to, she will ask them to join online.

"We say we do things at Elon, that we want an inclusive campus, we value the well being of everyone," King said. "This to me is not valuing the well being of faculty and staff and students who are at higher risk than others."

Additionally, once the mandate is changed, Cahill said she will not be attending large-scale gatherings on campus.

"That's a small loss, compared to the folks who are going to be hospitalized and are hospitalized right now, but it is a loss," Cahill said. "This policy change ... that's what it's going to mean for me."

While she is not teaching on-campus this semester, Cahill said in her role as director of the national and international fellowships office, she will be asking students to mask up indoors, even though she does not have "the support of the university behind" her.

"Endemic really means how many hospitalizations are we willing to tolerate so that we can make an individual choice about whether or not to put a mask on," Cahill said. "I find that chilling. I find that chilling to say we're willing to fill these many hospital beds — we know we can prevent them — we know we could prevent those infections, but we're not willing to do it. I find that chilling and in many ways appalling."

RUSSIAN INVASION INCITES GLOBAL TENSIONS, CAUSES STRESS ON CAMPUS



A member of the Ukrainian State Border Guard stands watch at the border crossing between Ukraine and Belarus on Sunday, Feb. 13 in Vilcha, Ukraine. Russian forces are conducting large-scale military exercises in Belarus, across Ukraine's northern border, amid a tense diplomatic standoff between Russia and Ukraine's Western allies.

UKRAINE | from cover

Understanding this at Elon

Former Elon University professor and political historian Mark Dalhouse was keeping up with the events from a political standpoint days before the war unraveled. Everyone should recognize this moment in history, even from Elon, Dalhouse said.

"This will affect all of us, all of us have an interest in this," Dalhouse said on the morning of the initial invasion. "This is potentially a fundamental reordering of the world's security apparatus."

Professor of economics Steven Wagner said that the sanctions that the West is employing will inflict as much economic pain on the country as possible, but also will result in long-term effects for the U.S.

President Joe Biden announced sanctions targeting Russian banks and high-tech sectors, and Ukraine applied for membership into the European Union as of Feb. 28, according to a report from Al Jazeera.

"If you try to restrict trade, everybody suffers. Russia should suffer a lot more than we will, but we'll all feel part of the pain," Wagner said. "We'll see higher energy prices ... Ukraine's a big producer of wheat, so that is likely to be very interrupted. So bread, things that use wheat, those prices will go up."

As for understanding the economics of this from an Elon standpoint, Wagner said that the community here should understand that they are not insusceptible to these effects. Already, gas prices in Alamance County have risen to over \$3.50, with Russia being one of the biggest gas and oil producers in the world.

"Russia will, in the foreseeable future, never be a reasonably decent player in the world. So I think this is a protracted conflict. It's unfortunate, frightening, and it's just, it's a terrible turn of

events," Wagner said. "The economics of it are, to me, not as important to us as citizens as the human elements are to us as people."

Elon University President Connie Book made remarks on the war at a panel discussion on Feb. 28 that heard from Samuel Greene and Graeme Robertson, co-authors of "Putin v. The People: The Perilous Politics of a Divided Russia." Moderated by Safia Swimelar, professor of political science, the panel discussed the attack on Ukraine through a series of questions and answers from students, faculty and staff.

"In this time of confusion, frustration and fear ... for many across the world who are struggling to understand how this could be happening today," Book said. "A lot of people are watching these images asking themselves that very question."

Checking in abroad

Dean of the Global Education Center Nick Gozik said Elon is monitoring the situation in Ukraine, and although the university does not have students in the country, they are still recognizing the global event

"We do not currently have students studying in Ukraine, nor do we have any international students from there on campus," Gozik said. "However, Elon has had other ties to the country and region, including amongst our faculty and staff, and we very much have the people of Ukraine in our thoughts."

The GEC sent an email to current students abroad stating that the study abroad partner institutions have reported no immediate impact on programs at this time, and that they are closely monitoring the security crisis in Eastern Europe. The center recommended students to stay informed, reconsider personal travels, stay away from protests and recognize student resources, such as counseling services.

A current student studying in Berlin,



IF YOU TRY TO RESTRICT TRADE, EVERYBODY SUFFERS. RUSSIA SHOULD SUFFER A LOT MORE THAN WE WILL, BUT WE'LL ALL FEEL PART OF THE PAIN. WE'LL SEE HIGHER ENERGY PRICES ... UKRAINE'S A BIG PRODUCER OF WHEAT, SO THAT IS LIKELY TO BE VERY INTERRUPTED. SO BREAD, THINGS THAT USE WHEAT, THOSE PRICES WILL GO UP.

STEVEN WAGNER
PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS

Germany, junior Carrie Underwood, said that she has witnessed a different life during the past couple of days — protests around Berlin, war discussions and concerned citizens. Though she isn't directly seeing the war, the conversations happening in Germany have been a stark reminder that she is geographically nearby.

"You can feel so far removed from the situation, but in reality, I am close to this," Underwood said.

Finding solutions

Eidum said one of the most meaningful moments in her life was witnessing the Orange Revolution when she lived in Ukraine, a series of protests and political events in Ukraine from 2004 to 2005. This was a result of the aftermath of run-off vote in Ukraine's 2004 presidential election. Eidum said watching Ukrainians fight for their democracy and against electoral fraud, inspired her to become more involved in democracy in general — one thing she also wishes more of the Elon community will do.

"Democracy can't be taken for granted. Democracy is something that you actually have to be involved in, and if the structures fail you, you need to do something about it," Eidum said. "That was a lesson that I got in 2004, and I feel like Ukraine keeps giving us this lesson."

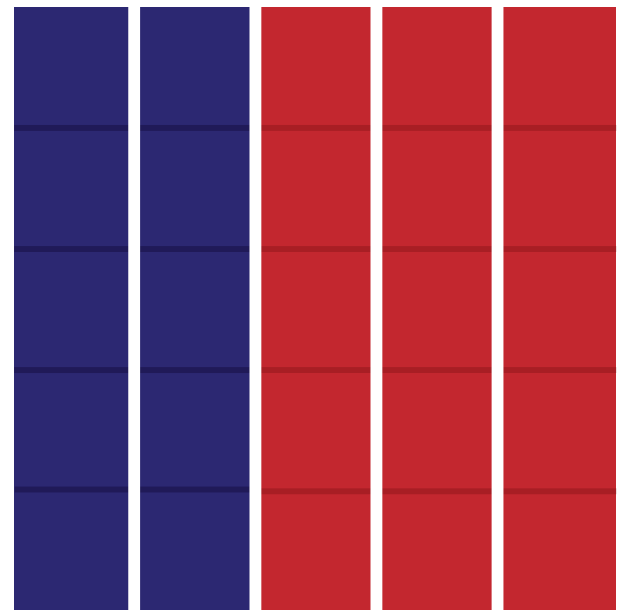
Eidum said the Elon community can help find solutions for this through continuing education on global issues, but also take a moment to recognize democratic freedoms and rights.

But for Eidum personally, she said she will continue to exercise her voice in the local community.

"I can send a little bit of money to Ukraine, sure. But no matter, the number one thing I have is information, and I have students," Eidum said. "Helping the Elon community to know more about what's going on is something that I can do that may pay off in some way someday."

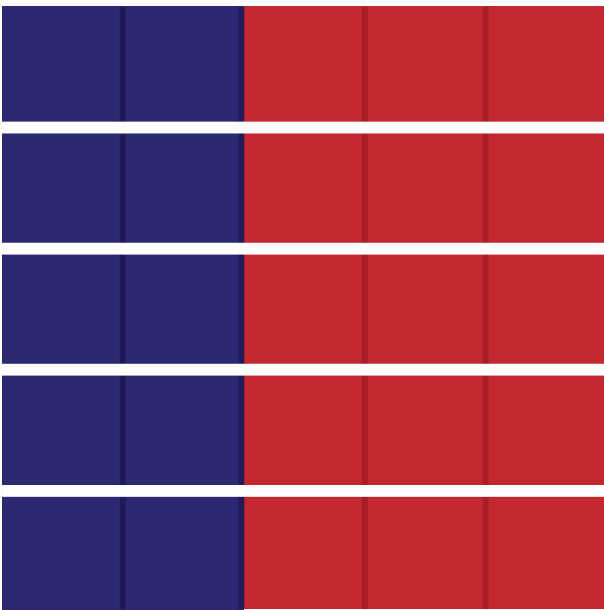
NORTH CAROLINA’S NEW DISTRICTS CHANGE EXPECTED ELECTION OUTCOMES

PROPORTIONAL



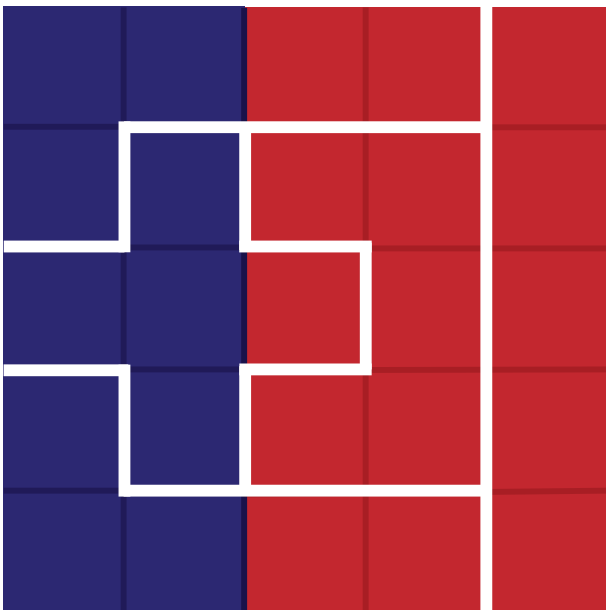
2 Democrats, 3 Republicans

CRACKING



0 Democrats, 5 Republicans

STACKING



3 Democrats, 2 Republicans

Cracking and stacking are the two forms of gerrymandering used in an election to manipulate results. These three graphs show the same amount of votes but all show different results, due to the effects of gerrymandering.

CAROLINE MITCHELL | DESIGN CHIEF

Elon students support lower levels of gerrymandering in North Carolina’s newly improved congressional maps

Avery Sloan
Politics Editor | @averylsloan

Junior Ashley Vann struggles to call any North Carolina district lines fair. Vann, delegate chairperson of North Carolina Student Legislature, said as long as the lines are drawn by elected representatives, it’s a partisan process.

The North Carolina Supreme Court declared the congressional districts unconstitutional for partisan gerrymandering at the beginning of February. Gerrymandering is manipulating districts to give one party an advantage. This is done by either spreading out the votes of one party so each vote is less meaningful, or putting all voters of one party into one district to have as few districts affected by their party as possible. North Carolina is a swing state and does not significantly lean Republican or Democrat based on the population of voters alone. Still, Republicans have controlled both the State House and Senate since 2011.

“We have had several racial gerrymandering cases and several of our maps have been struck down,” Vann said. “I think North Carolina is probably one of the worst states in terms of just gerrymandering in general.”

The congressional districts created for the 2022 election did not initially pass the North Carolina Supreme Court, as they skewed in favor of Republican candidates, who currently control the North Carolina legislature and create the district maps. The Voting Rights Act gave the federal courts oversight of the district’s creation. But since this act was ruled unconstitutional, federal courts no longer have this power and is left up to the state’s court.

North Carolina’s redistricted maps have been approved by the state’s Supreme Court, but North Carolina Republicans have appealed to federal courts— a process that will take an uncertain amount of time. For now, the districts will remain as the state’s courts have approved.

Vann said she is aware of past cases of racial gerrymandering — manipulating districts specifically across racial lines — occurring in North Carolina, and sees this as an issue as it takes power away

from constituents. She said she is in favor of having a non-partisan commission create the districts for North Carolina, as five other states do; Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado and Ohio.

“The way it works right now it’s definitely representatives picking their voters as opposed to voters picking their representatives, which is just toxic to the entire system,” Vann said. “It takes away the idea that people are actually being represented by people that they want and it undermines what I see as representative government.”

Another complication of the current gerrymandered districts is that not all Elon students are in the same voting district for the House of Representatives elections, according to the director of civic engagement for Elon Votes, junior Trevor Molin. This has previously made it more difficult for Elon Votes to help students register to vote, and for students to know which district they are supposed to vote in.

“Currently, campus is completely in one district, which is Amy Daly’s district,” Molin said. “Ricky Hurtado’s district is right on the outskirts of Elon, and there’s some students who live off campus that live in that district. So there’s some confusion there.”

Senior Daniel Dorociak, president of College Republicans, feels the redrawn districts create more fair and competitive elections, which he said is an unpopular opinion amongst his party.

“I’m just shocked at the shift from this incredibly conservative map to this map ... it makes it so much more competitive,” Dorociak said. “That gives us a challenge to really broaden our message from the more conservative face that voters that we tend to target to expand that to citizens that identify or live in different areas of state that are not necessarily part of that original conservative base.”

Senior Anna Calbos, the public relations chair of College Democrats, feels similarly to Dorociak. She said partisan gerrymandering is inherently problematic.

“The past 10 years of Republican control has been a lot leading up to this moment ... just because they’ve had power for so long, but most registered voters in the state are Democrat but we still consistently elect Republican politicians,” Calbos said. “Districting affects everything, money allocation to schools, segregated or not segregated communities, who you elect.”

Sophomore Andrew Lymm, Student Government Association director for civic engagement also said there is no reason

“WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL RACIAL GERRYMANDERING CASES AND SEVERAL OF OUR MAPS HAVE BEEN STRUCK DOWN. I THINK NORTH CAROLINA IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE WORST STATES IN TERMS OF JUST GERRYMANDERING IN GENERAL.”

ASHLEY VANN
JUNIOR

a party should feel gerrymandering is necessary. If partisan gerrymandering is necessary for a party to win then those leaders should rethink their platforms, Lymm said.

Dorociak also said Alamance County, which normally votes Republican, is now in the same district as Orange, Granville, Durham and Person counties. Orange and Durham counties both primarily vote Democrat, which will have an effect on Alamance counties district wide elections, as previously Alamance county was only with other primarily Republican counties. This not only will impact how much Elon students’ votes will count, but what kinds of candidates will run, Dorociak said.

“It’s gonna be interesting to see if a more traditional Republican emerges from that or if you’re trying to have a Trump campaign versus a more liberal Democrat,” Dorociak said. “I really think in the end, it will be a more moderate candidate. Just because of the influence of Orange and Durham Counties.”

Lymm also emphasized the importance of having districts that reflect the residents of the district and how important competitive elections are. No matter which party one is a part of if they have the right platform, then having a representative district should not scare them, Lymm said.

“Justice Brandeis was talking about how all the states should be ‘laboratories for democracy,’” Lymm said. “But you can’t have a laboratory for democracy without having an opposing opinion.”

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LIFESTYLE

Main Street Vinyl rocks into their sixth year in Burlington

The independently owned record shop is not only in the business of vinyl records but also nostalgia

Cailey Cetani
Elon News Network

When Joshua Garrett’s favorite record store closed in Melbourne, North Carolina, he decided to open his very own shop — Main Street Vinyl.

Located in downtown Burlington, Main Street Vinyl is an independently owned record store co-owned by Garrett and his fiancée, Amy McLamb. The store boasts a wide range of music genres from trendy pop music to old jazz hits, catering to a large and diverse customer base.

According to Garrett, the shop not only offers a variety of old records customers can listen to and purchase, but also a throwback experience, as many of their products are from classic musicians, like Elvis. Garrett mainly stocks the shelves with old records that have been bought either from customers or from other record and donation stores such as Salvation Army or Goodwill.

“We sell nostalgia, that is the name of the game,” Garrett said. “We take people back to that time and place.”

Vinyl sales have increased across the nation since 2020 — a 51.4% increase in vinyl sales with 27.5 million records sold in 2020 and 41.7 million records sold in 2021, according to Billboard’s 2021 end-of-year report. Garrett said he believes the increase has to do with the music industry focusing on digital markets, which lack a tangible product as proof of listening to music.

“The music industry had gotten so cold and so impersonal that I think a lot of people rejected that. They’re like, ‘I’m not okay with that. I want to go to a physical shop and buy physical music,’” Garrett said.

An Elon native, sophomore Krissy Bell has visited Main Street Vinyl multiple times and said Garrett is always there to



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joshua Garrett, owner of Main Street Vinyl in Burlington, NC stands in front a rack of records just after opening his shop at 12 p.m. on March 1.

give recommendations and talk about the current news in the vinyl record industry. Bell received her first record player in 10th grade and has been collecting vinyls ever since.

“He’s really knowledgeable about business,” Bell said. “We’ve had full on conversations about the revitalization of records and how that works.”

Bell said that she believes listening to vinyls is the right way to listen to music, and that listening to tunes through a phone doesn’t give the same experience.

“It’s just nice to be a part of something that other people pass on and be part of,” Bell said.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Garrett said the shop has faced some supply chain issues. Some of this has to do with the new artist albums today, such as Adele’s “30,” and the demand for new records over old ones.

“Supply issues have been really hard on us because it’s made it difficult to keep my new selection stocked with what I always like to have,” Garrett said. “So I’m kind of at the mercy of the distributors, who are also at the mercy of the pressing facilities.”

One of the things that makes the vinyl shop special is its customer base. Garrett said the Main Street Vinyl has a diverse customer base day where each day brings

in someone new. Sometimes he sees a kid come in to find a record for their siblings birthday, while other days he sees vinyl record enthusiasts coming in looking for original records from when they were kids.

The only challenge Garrett has found with the variety in costumers is making sure everyone’s music taste is accommodated. As he continues to run the shop, he hopes to provide to everyone’s needs and wants.

“I want to scratch that itch for everybody,” Garrett said. “I want anybody, anybody to be able to walk in off the street and find something in here that they want, that they love.”

EXPLORING SUSTAINABLE SHOPPING

Thrift stores and boutiques located in the Alamance County positively impact enviornment

Betsy Schlehuber
Elon News Network | @betsyschlehuber

Sustainable fashion has made its way into stores in recent years. This sort of fashion can consist of clothing made with environmentally friendly materials such as organic cotton, repurposed materials and any other sort of clothing made to last long. Fortunately for Elon University, there are some local businesses offering sustainable options.

Elon U Thrift

Elon U Thrift is a consignment shop founded by junior Jakob Reuter and senior Grace Granger. The shop originally started as a class assignment in 2020 for their ENT 2500 course, Creativity & The Doer/Maker Mindset. After the class ended, the two chose to continue with the project.

“We decided we were both passionate about the idea and decided to make it a real business,” Granger wrote in a statement to Elon News Network. Granger found thrifting to be a

beneficial thing to the environment, as it reduces the amount of clothing waste and is important to our culture. This passion is part of why she continued with the project and continues to sell sustainable clothes.

“I love that thrifting is becoming more popular and I hope to see even more of it... and recycled clothes in the coming years,” Granger wrote.

Students can purchase items from Elon U Thrift at Marketplace Under the Oaks or on their website, elonuthrift.com.

Simply Oak

Located in downtown Elon, Simply Oak Boutique carries clothing, accessories and gifts. Melissa Troutman, owner of Simply Oak Boutique, said the shop’s main mission is to carry unique, fun pieces that will make everyone feel confident.

“We take pride in choosing one of a kind pieces that you wouldn’t typically find in other stores,” Troutman wrote in an email to Elon News Network.

Troutman opened the store in January 2017 — two years after receiving her bachelor and master degree and bachelor’s degree from Elon University.

The sustainable clothing sold at Simply Oak Boutique comes from local vendors, so when

someone purchases clothes, some of the profit goes back to the vendor.

“We try our best to order and carry as many local products as possible in order to help reduce our carbon footprint,” Troutman said.

Along with carrying sustainable clothing, Simply Oak Boutique also has sustainable packaging in the form of recyclable paper shopping bags. Customers also have the option to purchase a reusable Simply Oak Boutique bag.

Troutman said the boutique’s clothing is inspired by current trends and are closet staples — appealing to the college student population.

Wearology

Wearology is an eco-friendly boutique that opened five months ago. The shop is located in Gibsonville and owned by former public school teacher, Brittany Pate. Through Wearology, Pate has been able to give back to the community — specifically to public schools.

Wearology carries a wide array of sustainable and eco-friendly clothing items that are primarily targeted at a younger audience. Pate said she has always loved fashion, but never knew where her clothing came from or how it was made. With Wearology, she said she can make sure the clothing is sustainable and local.



AVERY SLOAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Located in downtown Elon, Simply Oak Boutique carries clothing, accessories and gifts. 108 W Lebanon Ave, Elon, NC 27244.

Owner of Wearology Brittany Pate, former public school teacher in Guilford and Alamance Counties, welcomed a change to the community while recovering from a car accident. Wearology can be visited at 108 W Main St, Gibsonville, NC 27249.



KYRA O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



BETSY SCHLEHUBER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon U Thrift sells recycled clothes at a Marketplace Under the Oaks event in February. Items can be purchased at Marketplace Under the Oaks or on their website, elonuthrift.com.



LATHAM PARK

RENOVATIONS CONTINUE FOR ELON BASEBALL TEAM

Facilities will include indoor batting cages, locker room and offices for baseball staff

Sammy Johnson
Elon News Network

As Elon University’s baseball team continues its spring season, renovations have started on the team’s facilities.

The renovations are partly due to Elon hosting the Colonial Athletic Association baseball conference tournament in May. According to Athletic Director Dave Blank, Elon wants to make the viewing experience as pleasant as possible for new visitors.

Elon’s bid to host the tournament was deliberately timed with the renovations. These renovations have been made possible due to unique fundraising opportunities realized over the last year.

Blank said the renovation plan will also maintain a safe environment for fans, as well as increase ticket sales. He also said the updated branding on the field will better represent Elon.

“Elon prides itself on providing first-class facilities in which to watch, practice and compete in all sports,” Blank said. “These enhancements will improve Elon’s ability to attract the best student athletes and represent Elon in a positive manner.”

Construction has begun on a new indoor performance facility directly adjacent to Latham Park. The building will include a locker room for the team, indoor batting

cages, an equipment room, a training room and offices for coaches.

“

THIS HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN A DREAM OF MINE, NOT SO MUCH FOR ME, BUT FOR OUR PLAYERS. WHEN I GOT WORD OF THIS GIFT, IT WAS A COUPLE DIFFERENT EMOTIONS. ONE WAS AMEN, THANK GOD, THIS IS REALLY EXCITING. THE OTHER WAS RELIEF BECAUSE WE’VE BEEN PUSHING AT THIS FOR SO LONG.

MIKE KENNEDY
HEAD COACH

Further renovations are mostly for replacing any equipment that is at the end of its life expectancy cycle, including Latham’s infield turf, pitching mound and seats throughout the stadium.



Rendering of Latham Park renovations, where the facility will include indoor batting cages, a locker room and offices for baseball staff.

The dirt mound will be replaced with synthetic turf and the mounds in the bullpen to match.

Head coach Mike Kennedy said he is excited to see the new facility being built after years of waiting for the project to be funded.

“This has obviously been a dream of mine, not so much for me, but for our players,” Kennedy said. “When I got word of this gift, it was a couple different emotions. One was amen, thank God, this is really exciting. The other was relief because we’ve been pushing at this for so long.”

Elon’s baseball team currently shares a facility with men and women’s soccer and women’s lacrosse. Kennedy said the baseball-specific amenities of the new indoor facility will help Elon develop players, as the team will no longer have to worry about dealing with weather affecting practice plans.

“Player development is in the forefront of what we try to do and this building will provide that right off the bat,” Kennedy said.

Kennedy also believes the facility will be attractive for recruits that visit Elon.

“Something like this

immediately gets the attention of the kids you’re trying to bring to campus,” Kennedy said. “They see the commitment from the university in terms of a facility, and I’m not going to say it makes our job easier, but it certainly gives us something to create some excitement.”

The total for all the renovations will reach nearly \$2 million. According to Blank, the majority of the cost will be funded by donations.

All renovations and construction are scheduled to be complete by the time Elon’s regular season ends on May 21.