

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020
VOLUME 50, EDITION 4
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM



BREAKING DOWN the board

An in-depth look into the
jobs, laws and members
of Elon University's
Board of Trustees

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TRUSTEE

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THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF
**ELON NEWS
NETWORK**

**Established 1974
Volume 50, Edition 4**

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NYAH PHENGSI^TTHY	Design Chief
CLARE GRANT	Photo Editor
KIERAN UNGEMACH	Politics Editor
KYRA O’CONNOR	Enterprise Story Coordinator

Ted Thomas, Andrew Zagari, Arielle Brochin and Caroline Bunder contributed to the design of this edition.

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

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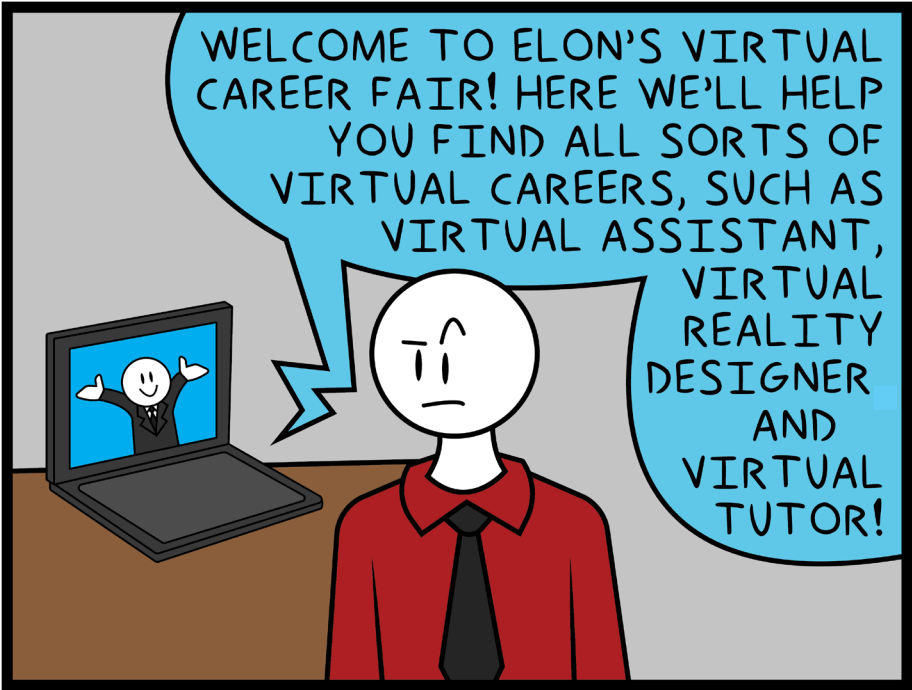
PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

The cutline for the photo of Elon freshman playing spikeball was misdated. It took place on Tuesday, Aug. 25. Elon News Network regrets this mistake.

Tita Ramirez’s name was misspelled in a cutline. Elon News Network regrets this mistake.

COMIC

VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR



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GAMES

How to Play: Guess the missing word in the five clues, then find them in the word search below. Words can be found backwards, diagonal, etc.

- 1. The board will be electing a Class of 2020 member this _____. *See Page 3 for answer.*
- 2. Out of the 35 members of the board, _____ of them are women. *See Page 7 for answer.*
- 3. Life and _____ trustee members hold no official responsibilities as a part of the Board. *See Page 12 for answer.*
- 4. Then-Elon President Leo _____ asked Wes Elingburg to join the board in 2005 . *See Page 14 for answer.*
- 5. Kenneth _____ Jr. helped facilitate the establish the Elon Ball as a part of his involvement with Student Government Association during his tenure with the group . *See Page 15 for answer.*

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

PURPOSE OF ELON UNIVERSITY’S BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Workers remove William Harper’s name from a Colonnades residence hall on July 7, 2020. Harper served as the fourth president of Elon University from 1911-1931.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

The board is responsible for several processes, from voting on a new president to making arrangements to continue campus life amid COVID-19

Annemarie Bonner
Elon News Network | @annemarie_bon

When Elon University chose to transition to remote instruction in March and later began to prepare for an in-person fall semester, President Connie Book needed more input on how to make the correct decision about the direction of the school. That guidance came from six members of the 35-person Elon Board of Trustees.

Unlike Book, Vice President for Student Life Jon Dooley and other administrators at the university, the Board of Trustees rarely faces the public. The board is composed of Elon graduates, donors and other important members of the surrounding community who pool their thoughts and resources in an effort to further the university’s commitments and goals.

From reviewing the Boldly Elon Strategic plan initiative to approving the annual budget, the board dictates how Elon students receive their education, makes decisions for the university as a whole and appoints a new president for the university when the time comes.

According to Patrick Noltemeyer, secretary to the Board of Trustees, they come to conclusions on these decisions by discussing and then voting. A simple majority approves or disapproves each initiative.

Noltemeyer emphasized that the board

is focused on advancing Elon’s mission through their decisions.

“Even though board members may have different religious beliefs, they may have different political persuasions, even though those things may be different, what unites them all into the day is a common belief in advancing the mission,” Noltemeyer said.

Noltemeyer said the board is made up of individuals from different backgrounds and careers, which aids in the decision-making process.

“One of the benefits of our Board of Trustees is that it’s a diverse group, a body that is diverse in thoughts and opinions, but all united behind a single mission to advance the educational experience for students,” Noltemeyer said.

According to Noltemeyer, the board meets once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester. Special meetings

are called as needed, and there are additional optional check-in meetings for members to participate in.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, the board had to shift their scheduled on-campus meeting in April to a virtual medium. They have also had summer meetings as well.

Another practice of the board for more than 50 years has been having two newly graduated students to sit on the board. Kenneth Brown Jr. ‘19 currently occupies one of those spots. A class of 2020 trustee will be elected this October.

Book serves as the bridge between the Elon faculty and the Board of Trustees.

BY THE NUMBERS

35

members hold a spot on Elon University’s Board of Trustees.

Faculty and staff report to her, and then she reports to the board.

Members are brought to the board for various reasons, ranging from implementing a new campus program to having connections to a certain cause. One of those reasons could be the implementation for programs outlined in the strategic plan.

Members can serve on the board for a four-year term, a rule implemented in 2014. Prior to that, members had been serving on the board for 15 years or more. Members can serve up to two consecutive terms, but will be asked to take a year off before running for reelection.

Noltemeyer said these members who serve and continue serving are interested in making decisions for the university.

“They may not even be parents, but they see the power of Elon’s mission. They see what’s happening here and they’re like, ‘that is a way that I want to use the resources that I have to make a difference for good in the world,’” Noltemeyer said.

There are two types of board members: a non-emeritus trustee and a life trustee. According to Noltemeyer, a life trustee is an honorary title the board can give to a former trustee, who used to serve a leadership role on the board in some regard.

Despite Noltemeyer working with the trustees for only a little over a year, he stressed the focus of the board.

“They truly believe that one of the greatest ways they can have a positive impact on the world is to support students to graduation and Elon,” he said.

PAST DECISIONS MADE BY THE BOARD IN PAST YEARS:

EVERY MEETING

Vote to approve scholarships and naming opportunities on campus.

ANNUAL PROCESSES

Vote to approve recommendations for promotion and tenure.

Vote to approve the university’s financial audit.

2020

Voted to remove former university President William Harper’s name off Harper Residence Hall in the Colonnades Neighborhood.

Voted to elect new trustees Bob Chandler and Rupe Sidhu.

2019

Voted to approve Boldly Elon: Our strategic plan for 2030

Voted to approve financing for capital projects.

Voted to award an honorary degree to Glenda Phillips Hightower

Voted to advance the Elon LEADS campaign into the public phase.

Voted to approve emeritus and life trustee status for members of the board.

Voted to elect Kenneth Brown, Jr. as a youth trustee.

2017

Voted Connie Book as the ninth President of Elon



Patrick Noltemeyer in front of Alamance Building on Wednesday, Aug. 26.

CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

How members of Elon’s Board of Trustees are appointed and what could lead to their removal

Abby Goretsky | Grace Terry | Kyra O’Connor

Whether they received nominations from the board or President Connie Book herself, members of the Elon University Board of Trustees are appointed and selected to serve four-year terms to further the university’s mission.

The positions, which are voluntary, are occupied by members of the greater Elon community, parents and alumni, as well as people who may have no connection to the university, but want to “help move the university forward,” according to Patrick Noltemeyer, who serves as secretary to the Board of Trustees.

“I’m always impressed when someone says that they are willing to be a member of the Board of Trustees for an institution of higher education because nobody has to do that,” Noltemeyer said. “But it’s a way for them to make a positive impact on the world and they choose to do it for our board.”

Joining the board

The Board of Trustees Governance and Nominating Committee is a group of at least three trustees that receive recommendations from current board members and others for individuals to fill vacant seats on the board. The group makes nominations and recommendations to the board for discussion. Currently, there are 10 board members who serve on this committee.

Noel Allen ‘69, a member of the governance and nominating committee, said he looks to build a board that would improve Elon in the long-term. Frequently, candidates for the board are recommended by other trustees and staff members. The candidates are then vetted, a process which includes a meeting where current board members tell the candidate what the job entails and gauge their interest.

Candidates can be nominated based on the field they work in and the university’s interests. Noltemeyer used the Boldy Elon strategic plan’s initiative of growing the

BY THE NUMBERS

4

year terms are imposed on board members who have joined since 2014. They are able to serve two four-year terms and then must take a year break before being considered for reelection.

“

IT IS A VOLUNTEER BOARD. THERE’S NO REQUIRED DONATION. BUT WE DO ASK THAT THEY DO ATTEND MEETINGS REGULARLY

PATRICK NOLTEMEYER
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SECRETARY

STEM and engineering program as an example.

“If I were a board member, I would nominate somebody from the private sector who has experience in engineering that would know what graduates would need to know to succeed as engineers in the future,” Noltemeyer said. “Somebody who has hired people with an engineering degree.”

Noltemeyer said this is not the only way to get on the board.

“It could also be that there’s somebody that has the capacity financially to support an initiative like that and are interested in helping to advance that part of Elon’s mission,” Noltemeyer said.

Donations are not required to be on the Board of Trustees. However, some board members — like Charles Clohan, William Inman, Dalton L. McMichael and others — have given money to help fund buildings and scholarships. Due to their donations, Elon has named buildings after them and their families.

“It is a volunteer board. There’s no required donation. But we do ask that they do attend meetings regularly,” Noltemeyer said.

Board members can also be selected as a possible candidate for the Board of Trustees from personal connections. Allen has a longstanding connection to Elon. He grew up in the town while his dad took night classes at the university and is an alumnus himself.

As a student, Allen was part of a planning committee put together by President Emeritus J. Earl Danieleley and became involved in the alumni associations after graduation. In 1985 he was contacted to become a member.

Once a candidate is selected, a vote is then held among the current trustees on whether to elect them. If a majority votes in favor of a candidate, they become a trustee.

Currently, students are not involved in the process.

“There is not one [way for students to participate] right now. I think the trustees keep the mission in mind and at the forefront all the time, and I think the students would also be doing the same,” Noltemeyer said.

In the upcoming years the board will be experiencing something for the first time in their nominating process: reelection. In 2014, new term limits were set for any future members. After serving two consecutive

four-year terms, trustees have to take a one-year hiatus before they can be considered for reelection to the board.

Noltemeyer said the reason for this was to allow for more turnover “so that new ideas can come to the table.”

He also said it gives the board structure. “I think it helps both the individual who is considering becoming a trustee, and the university in the stating ‘Let’s do this for four years and then let’s have another conversation,’” Noltemeyer said.

For Allen and the over 25 other board members who joined before 2014, this rule does not apply, as it is only for members who joined after that year.

Leaving the Board

According to Noltemeyer, the recommendation for the removal of a trustee by the Governance and Nominating Committee requires a majority vote from the 35-member board of trustees, similar to the process of becoming a board member.

There must be “adequate cause” —which is defined in the board’s bylaws — to remove a trustee, according to Owen Covington, director of the Elon University News Bureau. Adequate cause can be anything from not fulfilling one’s responsibilities to failure to attend meetings, and is up to the purview of the members of the board, Noltemeyer said.

“Adequate cause” is defined in the bylaws as including but not limited to the refusal or neglect to discharge the duties of a trustee, conduct that is contrary to the interests and welfare of the university, or absence without an acceptable excuse from two or more consecutive board meetings.”

“Adequate cause” was updated from a previous version of the bylaws which stated that “trustees may be removed from office at any time without cause” by majority vote.

As controversy surrounding prominent board member and Postmaster General Louis DeJoy continues, some Elon community members have voiced their concerns, and started petitions calling for DeJoy’s removal. While Allen said he does not speak for the nominating committee, removal of any trustee must go beyond “political disagreement.”

“You have to be looking for not just political disagreement. Actual tangible proof of some illegality,” Allen said.

Calls for Louis DeJoy’s removal, resignation continue



Drawing of Postmaster General and trustee Louis DeJoy.

CAROLINE BUNDER | DESIGNER

Following DeJoy’s hearing, the university stood by him, but Elon community members still call for action

Kyra O’Connor and Emery Eisner
Elon News Network

Many citizens know him as their postmaster general. Some know him as a successful businessman or the former CEO of New Breed Logistics. But members of the Elon community know Louis DeJoy as one of the benefactors for Odyssey scholarships, and as a member of the Elon University Board of Trustees since 2007.

In the business

DeJoy’s story as a leader reaches back decades. After graduating from Stetson University in Florida, DeJoy served as CEO of High Point-based New Breed Logistics from 1983 to 2014. DeJoy told the Greensboro News & Record in 2004 that he grew the company — founded by his father in 1968 — from a simple trucking company into a larger logistics operation with high-profile clients such as Boeing and Verizon Wireless.

Once DeJoy sold New Breed to Connecticut-based XPO Logistics in 2014, he transitioned to CEO of XPO’s North American supply chain until he became a member of the company’s board of directors, where he served until 2018.

Ten years after becoming a trustee, DeJoy was honored with Elon’s medal for entrepreneurial leadership in 2017 for his work with New Breed and XPO Logistics.

“I guess I was an entrepreneur once, when I first started,” DeJoy said in his acceptance speech. “The rest of my life was implementing and operating my plan, and that is where success comes.”

A year after receiving his honor from the university, DeJoy and his wife Aldona Wos established the DeJoy-Wos Odyssey Scholars Endowment meant for “highly motivated students from Title I schools in Guilford County,” according to Elon University.

After multiple requests for an interview, DeJoy was unavailable for comment before

the publication of this story.

President Donald Trump selected DeJoy to head the postal service in May. The Republican party member and donor stepped into the role as the country’s 75th postmaster and was selected by a unanimous vote by the United States Postal Service Board of Governors, according to a press release.

Since DeJoy took on the role postmaster general, the USPS has experienced slowdowns, a lack of overtime pay for workers and post office box removals. DeJoy refuted claims of the post office being unable to handle a surplus of mail-in ballots come November in a hearing on Aug. 21, but Democratic congressmen — and their constituents — are still not convinced.

In the Elon community, alumni, faculty and students have expressed their concerns regarding the university’s continued affiliation with DeJoy. In response to concerns brought forth to Lee Bush, chair of the academic council, Elon University President Connie Book asked community members to remember the contributions DeJoy has made to Elon as a whole.

“The board fully supports our community’s belief that a free, fair and impartial election process is essential and forms the foundation of American democracy,” Book said. “Mr. DeJoy has said that he shares those values, and the board looks forward to hearing his upcoming testimony in Washington.”

Jeffery Clark, professor of mathematics at Elon, requested that Bush ask Book and Board of Trustees Chair Edmund Moriarty to make a clear statement regarding their position on the USPS and DeJoy. Clark said he had hoped the university would make a statement and stand with the USPS, and he was “disappointed” in the eventual response from Book, especially with the focus put on Elon specifically and the lack of problems with mail services on campus rather than the impact of the issue on the nation as a whole.

“I can’t tell you how disappointed I was for a fixation on ‘we’re okay, so I guess it’s not a problem,’” Clark said. “That just struck me so inappropriate and tone deaf certainly to the larger community.”

Now, Clark will be making a motion in the Sept. 4 faculty meeting. There will be a vote to ask DeJoy to commit through “words and

BY THE NUMBERS

4,000

plus signatures in a petition created by alum Joanna Penick ‘03 for the removal of DeJoy on the board of trustees.

“

THE BOARD FULLY SUPPORTS OUR COMMUNITY’S BELIEF THAT A FREE, FAIR AND IMPARTIAL ELECTION PROCESS IS ESSENTIAL AND FORMS THE FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY. MR. DEJOY HAS SAID THAT HE SHARES THOSE VALUES, AND THE BOARD LOOKS FORWARD TO HEARING HIS UPCOMING TESTIMONY IN WASHINGTON

CONNIE BOOK
ELON UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

action” to improve the service provided to the nation by USPS, as well as to resolve any financial conflict of interest. Failing these actions, Clark said, DeJoy should leave his position as a trustee at Elon.

Though a vote of this nature is non-binding, Clark said he hopes if the motion passes and is publicized, other members of the community may “take a stand” separating the university from DeJoy’s actions as postmaster general.

“If he is not to be held accountable as a representative of Elon University at this high level then we as a community have no claim to teach university values in our classrooms,” Clark said. “Our students learn from our actions every bit as much as they learn from our words.”

Joanna Penick ‘03 began a petition for the removal of DeJoy in early August. The alum said in addition to his actions as postmaster general, DeJoy’s affiliation with Trump also contributed to her starting the petition.

“I googled DeJoy to see that he was also a Trump megadonor and it soon became apparent what Trump and DeJoy had planned for the post office in regards to their attack on mail-in voting and attempts to sway the 2020 election in Trump’s favor,” Penick said.

The petition, which received over 500 signatures in the first 24 hours, now has over 4,000 signatures.

After seeing Book’s response to the academic council, Penick said the university’s statement was disappointing but not surprising, and she has since begun distancing herself from the university. The response “left a lot to be desired,” and Penick said she wished the university had addressed alumni, students and staff, not just faculty.

When Book mentioned in her response that the people they had heard from “weren’t aware of how much DeJoy had done for the university,” Penick said she felt the comment was condescending towards those voicing their concerns.

“It’s not that we’re not aware. I’ve read the numbers, I know how much money he gave,” Penick said. “It’s just that I value, and the people signing the petition and the people calling for his removal value, democracy over donations, and it’s clear that Elon does not.”

MAKE HEADLINES

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MIRANDA FERRANTE
SOPHOMORE, REPORTER



What I love about Elon News Network is the passion that our staff has for the work we do to serve our community.

MACKENZIE WILKES
JUNIOR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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BREAKING

DOWN THE

BOARD

With CEOs, doctors and authors, the board has many perspectives to consider

Kyra O'Connor and Emery Eisner
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

A former CEO of Wendy’s, the U.S. postmaster general and a famed humorist all walk into a room. While it sounds like the start of a bad bar joke, such a scene is actually commonplace at meetings of the Elon University Board of Trustees.

The board — a governing body at the university that aids in decision-making — contains parents, alumni and donors, but is also populated by former CEOs, authors and doctors. According to Patrick Noltemeyer, who serves as secretary to the board, this diversity in life experience is what makes the

university’s board “special” and helps trustees make better decisions for the university.

“We have trustees that represent basically every facet of our country, of our citizenry and everything. There are folks from every political persuasion on the board and many, many different walks of life and professions,” Noltemeyer said. “The variety of life perspectives that they bring to the table is really helpful because Elon is a diverse place.”

The board is composed of 35 individuals: there are 26 male trustees and nine female trustees. 30 of the trustees, or 86%, are white.

Noltemeyer said having different perspectives allows the trustees to look at all angles of a problem. But having so many different perspectives in one room can make conversations more difficult, as well. When the board votes on an initiative or plan, not every vote is unanimous, but Noltemeyer said the board members work hard to “come to a consensus.”

“The way that I look at a particular

“

THE VARIETY OF LIFE PERSPECTIVES THAT THEY BRING TO THE TABLE IS REALLY HELPFUL BECAUSE ELON IS A DIVERSE PLACE

PATRICK NOLTEMEYER
SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

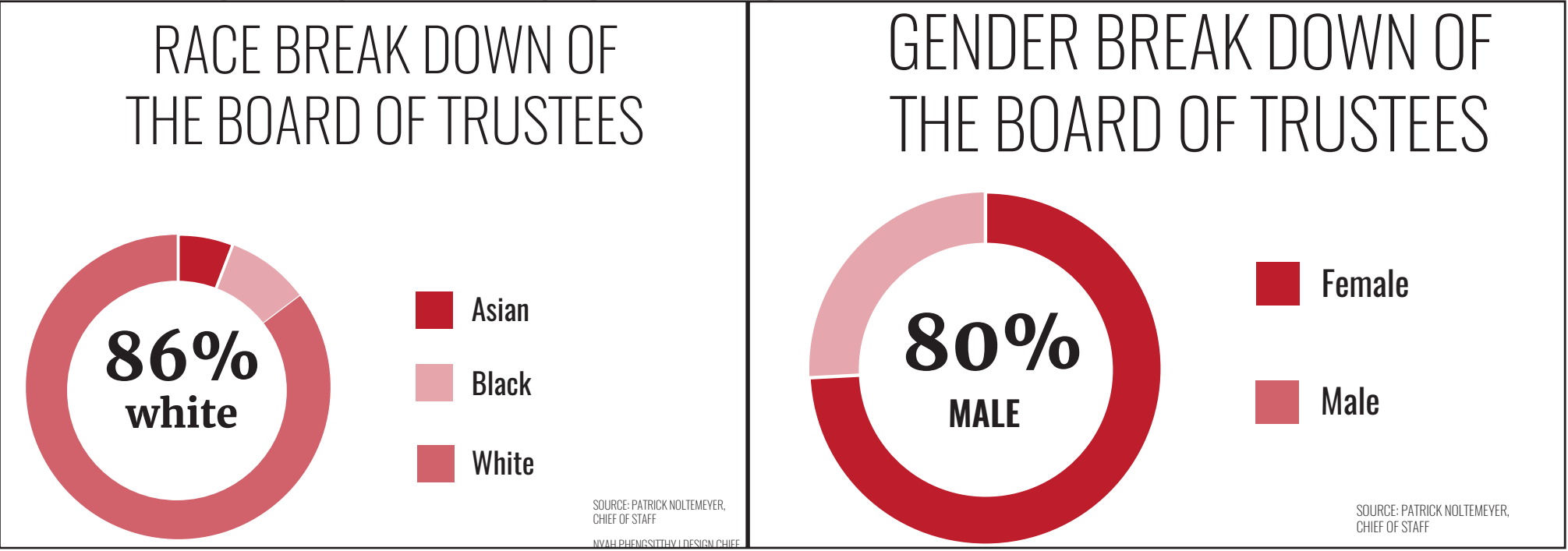
strategic initiative or a certain priority is going to be different than the person across the table from me,” Noltemeyer said. “What happens at the board table are very frank and open discussions about the pros and cons of each approach, and the board really has long conversations about the strategic direction of the university and the best next step.”

When the governance and nominating committee is looking for potential new members, they will analyze the diversity of the board and see where a new member could add, Noltemeyer said.

Despite their different life experiences, Noltemeyer said what really unites board members is their commitment to the Elon mission.

“They all believe in Elon students and the graduate’s ability to have a positive impact on the world,” Noltemeyer said. “That’s what unites them and makes them motivated to come to those meetings and have those hard conversations.”

MAKEUP OF TRUSTEES

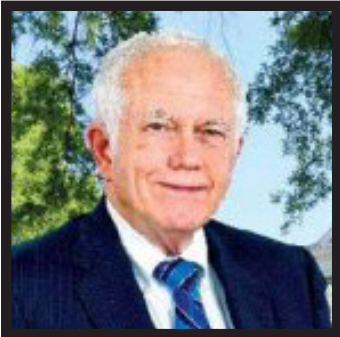


MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS

Vignettes by

Elliot Rezek | Ben Muse | Catie Mannato | Becca Chase | Chloe Franklin | Mya Osborne | Grace Terry

NOEL L. ALLEN



CLASS OF '69

STARTED BOARD: 1985

Noel Allen is a lawyer and the president of Allen and Pinnix P.A. He has an expertise in antitrust law and has been admitted to practice in all North Carolina federal and state level courts. Currently, he serves as a member of the advisory board for Elon Law after having helped establish the school.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

KERRII BROWN ANDERSON



CLASS OF '79

STARTED BOARD: 2016

Starting in 2001, Kerrii Brown Anderson served as the chief financial officer of Wendy's for five years, then as the CEO. She served as CEO for over two years until the company merged with Arby's. On top of serving on the Elon Board of Trustees, she is on the boards of directors for LabCorp, Worthington Industries, Abercrombie & Fitch and Sherwin-Williams.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

HOWARD ARNER



CLASS OF '63

STARTED BOARD: 1996

During Howard Arner's '63 career, he worked as the president and chief operating officer of the Insurance Solutions Group for Fiserv, a provider of technology for financial services. During Arner's time at Elon, he played football. He has also supported Elon Athletics through his contributions to both the construction of Schar Center and the Arner Family Football Scholarship.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

A. CHRISTINE BAKER



CLASS OF '88

STARTED BOARD: 2003

A. Christine Baker '88 spent the majority of her career as the chief financial officer of 1st State Bank. Currently, She is an instructor of finance in the Love School of Business. Baker sponsors the Christine Baker Elon Engagement Scholarship, which assists students with financial needs who don't qualify for Pell Grants. The scholarship aims to increase socioeconomic diversity.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

KENNETH L. BROWN JR.



CLASS OF '19

STARTED BOARD: 2019

Kenneth Brown Jr. '19 was the executive president of the SGA during his time at Elon. He is currently serving a two-year term as a youth trustee. Brown majored in human service studies at Elon and was part of the Black Student Union. He is currently in a paid fellowship at the A.J. Fletcher Foundation which promotes education, faith and the arts.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

ROBERT CHANDLER



CLASS OF '69

STARTED BOARD: 2019

Bob Chandler is a graduate of North Carolina State University, where he majored in business management. Chandler is currently the vice president of Burlington-based Chandler Concrete, which has been family-owned and operated for more than 35 years. Bob joined the business in 1989, after serving four years as a branch manager for Wachovia. Prior to becoming a trustee, Chandler served as a member of the President's Advisory Council, the Chandler Center Advisory Board, the Athletics Advisory Council and the Board of Visitors.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHANDLER CONCRETE

CHARLES CLOHAN



CLASS OF '98

STARTED BOARD: 2016

Charles Clohan '98 was a former principal and partner of Dittmar Company and is now a private real estate investor. He and his father, Richard A. Clohan III, have both made contributions to the Koury Business Center and provide support for the university and the Phoenix Club. The dining hall in the Colonnades neighborhood is named for the Clohan family.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

LOUIS DEJOY



STARTED BOARD: 2007

Louis Dejoy is the United States postmaster general and started this role on June 15, 2020. Dejoy is the president and founder of LDJ Global Strategies, a real estate and equity firm based out of Greensboro. He also served as chief executive of XPO Logistics and New Breed Logistics, which XPO acquired in 2014. Dejoy was recognized with Elon's Medal for Entrepreneurial Leadership in 2017 and currently is a trustee of The Fund for American Studies, PGA Wyndham Championship and the Piedmont Triad Partnership.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

EDWARD W. DOHERTY



STARTED BOARD: 2006

Edward Doherty previously served as the chairman of the Elon Board of Trustees, with his term ending in June 2020. He is chairman and co-CEO of Doherty Enterprises, which owns restaurants such as Applebees and Panera Bread. Doherty and his wife created The Doherty Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership in the Love School of Business at Elon.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DOHERTY ENTERPRISES

WESLEY ELINGBURG



STARTED BOARD: 2005

Starting in 1980, Wesley Elingburg worked as a public accountant for LabCorp in Burlington. 25 years later, Elingburg retired as the chief financial officer, a position he held at the company for nine years. Currently he is a managing partner of the Greensboro Grasshoppers and serves on the Board of Hospice In Alamance and Caswell counties and the board of trustees of Greensboro Day School.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

ALLEN GANT JR.



STARTED BOARD: 1997

Allen Gant Jr. is the chairman of Glen Raven Inc., a textile company his grandfather founded in 1880. Gant served as CEO of Glen Raven from 1996 to 2017. He served as the chair of the National Council of Textile Organizations and the Institute of Textile Technology. Also, he sat on the board of directors for the North Carolina Textile Foundation Inc. He was honored with a degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Elon.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GLEN RAVEN

MICHELE SKEENS HAZEL



CLASS OF '78

STARTED BOARD: 1995

After graduating from Elon in 1978, Michele Hazel launched a career as a philanthropist. Before joining the Board of Trustees, Hazel served as a vice-chair for the Ever Elon Campaign. She and her husband, Jack Hazel gave a gift to the campaign endowing the Skeen-Watson Law Professorship at Elon's School of Law.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

JAMES HENDRICKSON



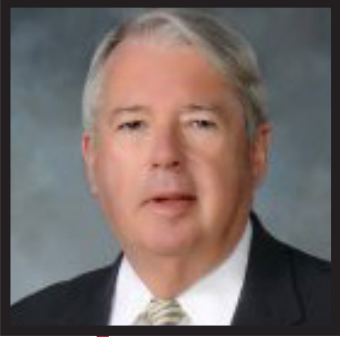
CLASS OF '71

STARTED BOARD: 2008

After graduating from Elon in 1971, James Hendrickson founded Hendrickson Mechanical Services Inc. in 1993, where he served as president and CEO. In 2007, the Hendricksons made a \$1 million gift to name the Hendrickson Football Center in honor of his father, Horace J. Hendrickson, who was Elon's head football coach from 1937 to 1941.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

WILLIAM HERBERT



CLASS OF '68

STARTED BOARD: 1996

Having served as a physician for over three decades, William Herbert retired in 2011 as professor of obstetrics and gynecology and chair of the department at the University of Virginia Medical Center. The Virginia native is the 2016 recipient of Kappa Sigma's William E. Gortney Distinguished Alumnus Award and the Elon Medallion. He also has supported a number of initiatives at Elon, including the Elon LEADS Campaign, the construction of the Ernest A. Koury Sr. Business Center, Elon Athletics and the creation of the Madaline Cates Herbert '31 Memorial Scholarship.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

JOHN HILL



CLASS OF '76

STARTED BOARD: 2013

John Hill is the founder and CEO of Pinnacle Advisory Group Inc., which is based out of Columbia, Maryland. Hill, along with his wife Lesley, established the John R. Hill '76 and Lesley W. Hill Endowed Fund for Engaged Learning in Business to support Elon students in their research and internship endeavors. He also has previously served in 2009 as the president of the alumni board.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

VICTORIA HUNT



STARTED BOARD: 1997

Victoria Hunt is the CEO of the Hunt Electric Supply Company. In 2005, she and her husband Sam were awarded the Frank S. Holt Jr. Business Leadership Award for their contributions to the local community. The Hunts have also given donations toward the construction of Elon's softball field, known as Hunt Softball Park. As a philanthropist, Victoria Hunt has donated scholarships to the Ever Elon Campaign.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

WILLIAM INMAN



STARTED BOARD: 2005

William J. Inman and his wife Pat received Elon's highest honor, the Elon Medallion, in 2019 in recognition of their efforts to help Elon improve in engaged learning and leadership. In, 2017, Inman's established 10 endowed Odyssey scholarships. Inman also donated the lead amount to the Inman Admissions Welcome Center and have also supported the Rhodes Stadium, Alumni Field House, the Ernest A. Koury Sr. Business Center and the Numen Lumen Pavilion.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

MAURICE JENNINGS JR.



CLASS OF '87

STARTED BOARD: 2000

Son of Maurice Jennings '57, Maurice "Burney" Jennings Jr. succeeded his father as the president and CEO of Biscuitville in 1997. Since he stepped into this role, Jennings has continued to expand the company's locations in North Carolina and Virginia. Jennings and his wife endowed a professorship at Elon University's School of Law. As a board member, Jennings has led fundraising campaigns for Elon's Center for the Arts and the law school. He is also a 2006 recipient of the Elon Medallion to honor his service for the university.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

AMY MICHELLE LAROSE



STARTED BOARD: 2012

Michelle LaRose is an attorney in Annapolis, Maryland and is the daughter of two Elon alumni. Her father, Robert LaRose, was a member of the board from 1985 to 2006, when he was named as Elon's first Life Trustee. Her mother, Gail LaRose, served on Elon's National Alumni Executive Board and Elon's Board of Visitors. Along with her brother Scott, Michelle LaRose established the Gail H. LaRose Endowed Scholarship in memory of their mother. She also serves on Elon's campaign planning committee. Michelle LaRose is a graduate of the College of William and Mary's School of Law and the mother of three children.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

ROBERT LONG JR.



STARTED BOARD: 2004

Robert Edward Long Jr. co-founded and served as a law partner at Long, Miller & Associates until its sale in 2002. He was involved in the establishment of Elon's School of Law and was bestowed the honorary degree of doctor of humane letters in 2010 by Elon President Emeritus Leo Lambert. Long was inducted into the Carolinas Golf Hall of Fame in 2018 for his efforts in saving Greensboro's PGA Tour stop. He chairs the Piedmont Triad Charitable Foundation and raises money for the United Way of Greater Greensboro and the Future Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIAD BUSINESS JOURNAL

MARK MAHAFFEY



STARTED BOARD: 2001

Mark Mahaffey is the chairman of the board at The Mahaffey Company, a Florida-based firm that specializes in affordable apartment housing. He serves as the chair of the board of trustees of The Museum of Fine Arts St. Petersburg and director at Sabal Trust Company. Mahaffey was awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree during Elon's 2016 Spring Convocation. He also served as the first chair of the Ever Elon Campaign, which brought in \$107.3 million in five years to build Elon's endowment. Mahaffey and his wife Marianne endowed the university with the Mark T. and Marianne Mahaffey Scholarship for International Study and Service, which supports students who wish to study abroad but are unable to for financial reasons.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

CHRIS MARTIN



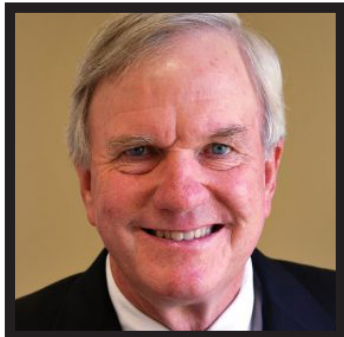
CLASS OF '78

STARTED BOARD: 2013

Chris Martin is the president, chief executive officer and chairman of the board at Provident Financial Services and the Provident Bank. He also is president of The Provident Bank Foundation, which supports communities served by Provident Bank. He serves on the board of directors for the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York and the New Jersey Bankers Association. Martin is a vice president of the Middlesex County 200 Club, which provides financial assistance to families of first responders and emergency personnel. He was bestowed Elon's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year award in 2012. Martin is serving as campaign chair of Elon LEADS — a financial initiative that focuses on expanding scholarships and learning environments, broadening engaged learning and supporting mentor relationships — until April 2021.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

DALTON McMICHAEL JR

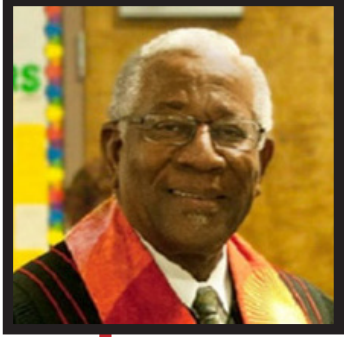


STARTED BOARD: 2010

Dalton McMichael Jr. is the founder and president of McMichael Mills, Inc., a covered elastic yarn manufacturing and distributing company. He is the son of textile executive and philanthropist Dalton McMichael Sr. and brother of fellow trustee Gail Drew. McMichael's sister is Gail Lane who is a Life Trustee. McMichael is a member of the board of visitors for Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. Through the McMichael Family Foundation, he and his siblings have made significant contributions toward Elon University School of Law scholarships. McMichael has a bachelor's degree from North Carolina State University and an MBA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

REV. MARVIN L. MORGAN



CLASS OF '71

STARTED BOARD: 2008

The Rev. Marvin Morgan is a certified intentional interim minister and church consultant, and has served as a UCC pastor for 50 years. His half-century-long pastoral career includes multiple senior UCC leadership positions, including service on the UCC executive council and as a moderator of the UCC's 27th General Synod. In recent years, Morgan has served as intentional interim minister at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Decatur, Georgia; Brookmeade Congregational Church UCC in Nashville, Tennessee; and Fairfield Glade Community Church in Crossville, Tennessee. Most recently, Morgan served as interim pastor of the Sojourners UCC congregation in Charlottesville, Virginia. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Elon University, a master's degree from Duke University Divinity School and a doctor of ministry degree from Drew University.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CENTER FOR CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH

EDMOND MORIARTY



STARTED BOARD: 2015

Moriarty started as an investment banker at Merrill Lynch & Company and by the end of his time at Merrill, Moriarty had worked his way up to senior vice president and co-chief risk officer. After working at Merrill, Moriarty was also chief operating officer of investment management at Morgan Stanley. Moriarty currently holds the positions as chief financial officer and head of risk for Rockefeller Capital Management. Moriarty used to be vice chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Gill St. Bernard's School. Currently, he serves as the chair on the Board of Trustees at Elon University. He is also a trustee for a non-profit organization, based in Morristown, New Jersey, called Homeless Solutions, Inc.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

DAVID PORTER

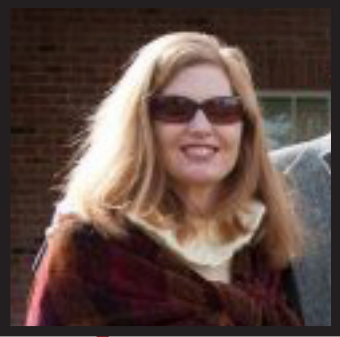


STARTED BOARD: 2011

David Porter became the managing partner of Baystate Financial in 1996, one of the largest and oldest full service financial firms in Massachusetts. As of August 1996, Porter is the owner of the company as well. By 2015, the company grew from one office in Boston to 12 major offices spread throughout five states. Porter also wrote a book about accountability in the financial services industry called "Where Winners Live." In 2013, his book debuted and sold over 45,000 copies. He established the Baystate Financial Charitable Foundation in 1999 with the intention of raising money to support local charities.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

ANNE ELLINGTON POWELL



STARTED BOARD: 2008

Anne Powell is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her father was Robert Ellington, who the Elon Health and Counseling Center is named after, and Anne's mother Helen served Elon as the coordinator of special events for over two decades. Prior to her service as a trustee, Powell was an active member of the Elon Board of Visitors and served on the Ever Elon Campaign Leadership Committee and the Elon Society Executive Committee. Powell currently serves as a member on the board's Campus Life committee, working closely with Vice President for Student Life Jon Dooley to enhance the out-of-classroom experience for students at Elon.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

JEANNE ROBERTSON



STARTED BOARD: 2003

Jeanne Robertson is an American author, radio personality, member of the CPAE Speaker Hall Of Fame and an award-winning humorist. Robertson majored in physical education and graduated from Auburn University, but took a year off from studying at Auburn when she the title Miss North Carolina, which ultimately started her career as a speaker. She served as president of the National Speakers Association in 1985. In 2000, Robertson was recognized as Auburn University's Woman Entrepreneur of the Year by the NCAA Southeastern Conference. In addition, she had the honor of speaking at the White House in 2008 for National Volunteer Week.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JEANNE ROBERTSON

RUPE SIDHU



STARTED BOARD: 2020

Rupe Sidhu is a private equity investor with a degree in history from St. Stephen's College, an MBA from the University of Massachusetts and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. Sidhu is an Elon parent, and he has a son who is a senior in the Business School at Elon. Sidhu has experience serving on corporate boards.

ERIC R. SKLUT



STARTED BOARD: 2015

Eric Sklut owns and operates Perfection Automotive Inc. Both Sklut and his wife, Lori, have played a role in the Jewish life program on-campus as well as the Jewish studies department at Elon by establishing the Lori and Eric Sklut Emerging Scholar Professorship and creating the Sklut Hillel Center on campus. Eric and Lori are also active participants on the Jewish Life Advisory Council at the university.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

WILLIAM SMITH

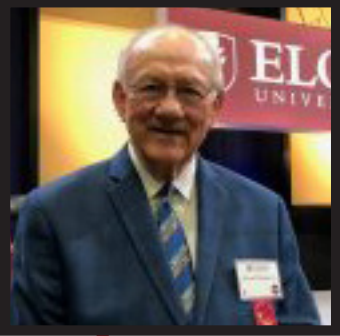


STARTED BOARD: 1995

In 1988, William Smith graduated from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill with a B.A. in economics. Smith now serves as the president, chief executive officer and chairman of the board at the Trust Company of the South. Apart from his positions with the Trust Company, he is a member of the board of trustees and the executive board of directors of the Piedmont Triad Charitable Foundation.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRUST COMPANY OF THE SOUTH

RICHARD THOMPSON



CLASS OF '64

STARTED BOARD: 1998

Richard Thompson '64 graduated from Elon University with a BA in Physical Education. Later, he went on to earn his master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and his doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Thompson served as the Mississippi state superintendent of education, the vice president for the university-school programs at the University of North Carolina and the state superintendent of North Carolina public schools. His work has been honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award at Elon University and Chowan University. He was also named to the Alumni Hall of Fame at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

KEBBLER MCGHEE WILLIAMS



CLASS OF '98

STARTED BOARD: 2008

Kebbler McGhee Williams '98 was the first African American woman appointed to the Board of Trustees. Williams is featured in the Elon University African-American Alumni Hall of Fame. In addition, Williams is a member of the Board of Trustees campus life committee, the executive committee and the alumni affairs committee. Her accomplishments also include previously serving on the university's national alumni executive board, earning the Elon's Distinguished Alumna of the year award and the Gail Fonville Parker Distinguished Alumni Award in 2015. Three years later, she was also appointed into the Phi Kappa Honor Society. Now, Williams works as the director of K-12 for The Hunt Institute in Durham.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

CECIL WORSLEY



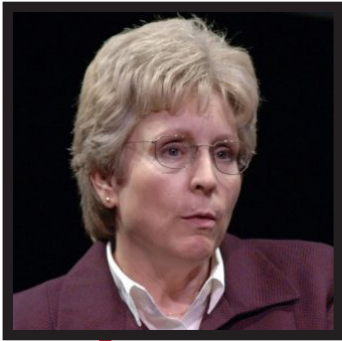
CLASS OF '86

STARTED BOARD: 2015

Cecil Worsley '86 was a member of Elon's golf team and continues to play a prominent role in the university's athletics program. In 2009, Worsley allocated funds towards the Golf Training Center, which was renamed the W. Cecil Worsley III Golf Training Center. Additionally, Worsley serves as a member of Elon's president's advisory council and the president of the athletics advisory council. Outside of his involvement with Elon University, Worsley owns Black Gold Holdings LLC, the Port of City Java Coffee Shop & Franchise and the Springer Eubank Company.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

DEBORAH YOW-BOWDEN



CLASS OF '74

STARTED BOARD: 2006

In 2004, Deborah Yow-Bowden '74 earned the title director of athletics at the University of Maryland, where she was also named the 17th most influential person in college athletics by the Sports Business Journal. Her other accomplishments include serving as the president of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics and being a member of the NCAA management council and the NCAA division budget committee. In 2007, Yow-Bowden was listed as one of "the 10 most powerful people in college sports" by the Chronicle of Higher Education. She also received the Elon Young Alumni of the Year Award in 1985, the Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award in 2009 and she presented the 2003 Elon University commencement speech.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

TYPES OF TRUSTEES

Elon University gives honorary title to past board of trustee members

Grace Terry | Managing Editor | @gfterry9

LIFE TRUSTEES AND TRUSTEES emeritus are a group of over 30 former members whose responsibilities are different from that of a regular trustee member. Officially they don't have any.

These types of trustees are honorary titles that the board of trustee's votes to bestow on past members. According to Patrick Noltemeyer, secretary to the board of trustees, life trustees typically get the position for serving as previous leaders on the board, like chair

of the board or chair of one of the board's committees.

The title of trustee emeritus is for honoring board members who have "provided terrific service to the board" but have not served in a leadership position.

Both these titles do not require its honorees to be present at meetings, but that does not stop many of them from coming.

"We could schedule a conference call for next Monday and there'd be for-life trustees and a handful of

emeritus trustees who call in because they invested in the university over time," Noltemeyer said." Even if they don't have a vote at the board table, they still have a voice."

Noltemeyer said they offer a unique perspective to other trustee

"Their historical context, often is very valuable from somebody that may have been on the board for an extended period of time," he said.

Currently there are eight total life trustees and 17 total trustees emeritus.

LIFE TRUSTEES

- Barbara Bass '61
- Thomas Chandler
- Wallace Chandler '49
- Gail Lane
- James Maynard
- James Powell
- Warren "Dusty" Rhodes
- Zachary Walker, III '60

TRUSTEES EMERITUS

- Edmund Gant
- Sherrill Hall '55
- William Hawks
- R. Leroy Howell '51
- Maurice Jennings, Sr. '57
- Ernest Koury, Sr. '40
- Mittie Crumpler Landi '96
- W. Bryan Latham
- Donald Lopes
- Jack Lindley, Sr. '56
- Frank Lyon '71
- Thomas Mac Mahon
- Bob McKinnon '62
- Thomas Powell, III
- William Rippy '43
- Samuel Scott
- Robert Ward

Elon trustees give over \$1.2 million in campaign contributions

Elon University Board of Trustee members gave \$1,276,055 to presidential and congressional campaigns between 2019 and 2020, according to data from the Federal Election Commission

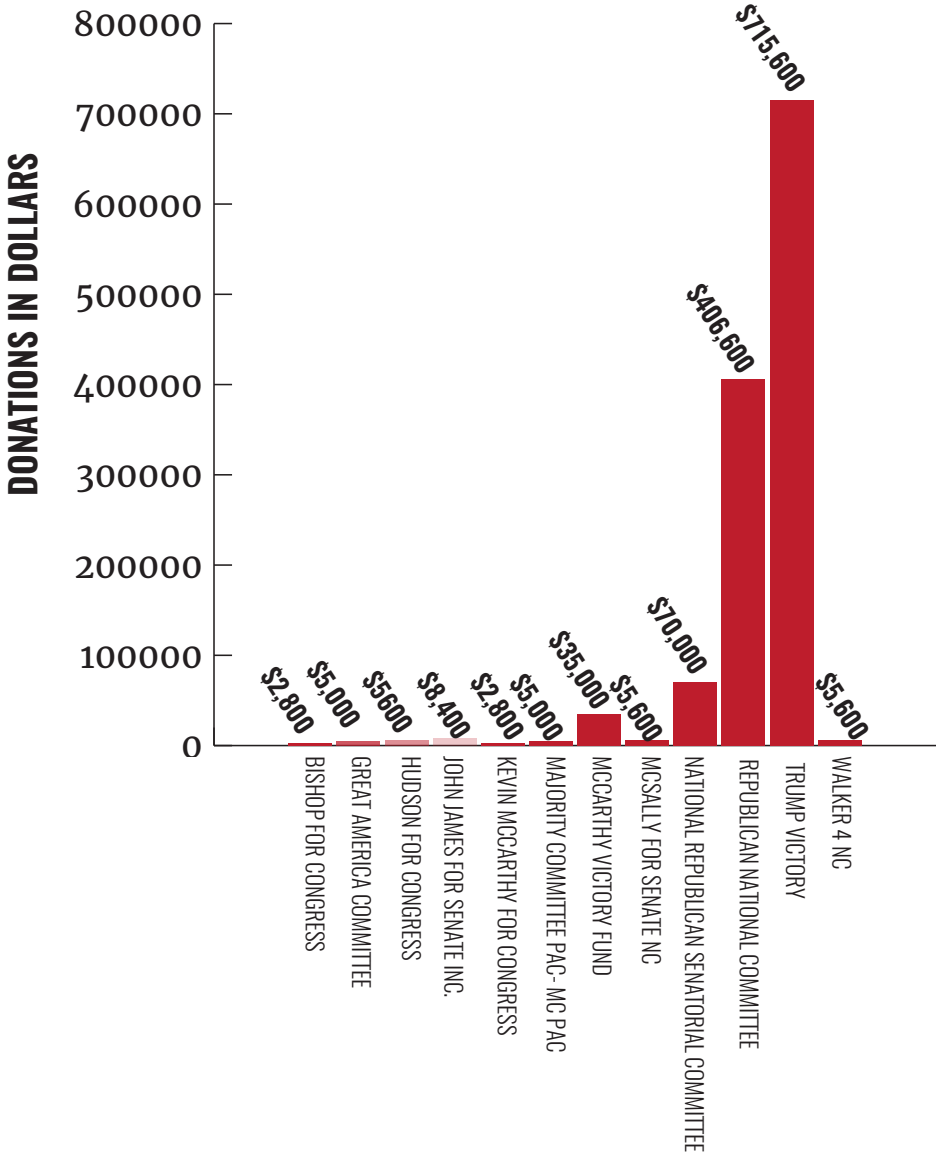
Mackenzie Wilkes | Executive Director | @macwilkes

BETWEEN 2019 AND 2020, members of Elon University’s Board of Trustees gave a total of \$1,276,055 to candidates running for federal office, according to data obtained from the Federal Election Commission. Out of 35 trustees, seven donated to a federal campaign between 2019 and 2020. \$716,055 went to presidential

campaigns — \$715,600 to President Donald Trump, \$355 to former Vice President Joe Biden and \$100 to Sen. Kamala Harris, who dropped out of the Democratic primary in December 2019. \$148,400 went to congressional campaigns. \$1,271,300 went to Republicans and the Republican Party, while \$4,755 went to Democrats and the Democratic Party.

Some trustees haven’t donated this presidential election cycle, but have in the past. Mark Mahaffey, donated to Mitt Romney in 2012, John McCain in 2008 and for George W. Bush in 2004 and 2000. While Edward Doherty has donated to a congressional campaign, he hasn’t donated to a presidential candidate this cycle. In 2016, Doherty donated to Hillary Clinton’s campaign.

LOUIS DEJOY CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

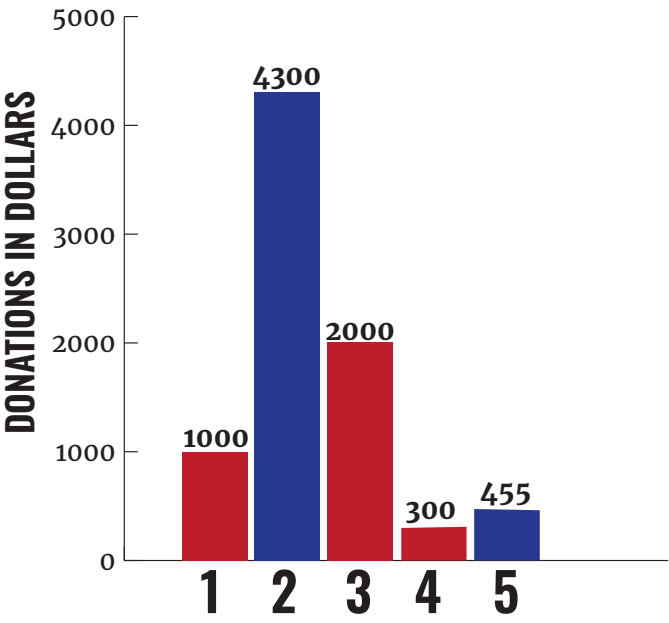


LOUIS DEJOY

Louis DeJoy gave the largest amount of money to candidates for federal office and affiliated organizations, as well as to the greatest number of individuals, totaling \$1,268,000 to 12 candidates and organizations. DeJoy gave to Rep. Dan Bishop’s (R-NC) reelection campaign, Rep. Kevin McCarthy’s (R-CA) reelection, Rep. Martha McSally’s (R-AZ) reelection campaign, Rep. Mark Walker’s (R-NC) reelection campaign and John James’ (R) Michigan Senate

campaign. DeJoy donated to two PACs for McCarthy’s reelection and to two PACs in favor of Trump and candidates who support him — Trump Victory and Great America Committee, which is led by Vice President Mike Pence. The National Republican Senatorial Committee, a PAC working toward the election of Senate Republicans, was also among DeJoy’s campaign contributions. DeJoy, who was the national finance chair for the Republican National Convention, also donated to the Republican National Committee.

OTHER CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS



1. ROBERT “BOB” CHANDLER

Between 2019 and 2020, Bob Chandler only donated to the reelection committee for North Carolina Republican Senator Thom Tillis, totaling \$1000.



2. EDWARD DOHERTY

Edward Doherty only donated to the reelection committee for Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), totaling \$4300.



3. MAURICE JENNINGS JR.

Burney Jennings donated to committees for the reelection of two North Carolina congressmen — Sen. Thom Tillis and Rep. Mark Walker — totaling \$2000.



4. DALTON MCMICHAEL JR.

Dalton McMichael Jr. only donated to Thom Tillis’ (R-NC) Senate reelection committee, totaling \$300.



5. MARVIN MORGAN

The Rev. Marvin Morgan donated a total of \$455 to ActBlue, a PAC supporting Democrats and progressives. \$355 worth of Morgan’s contributions to ActBlue were directed to Biden’s presidential campaign, \$100 to Georgia’s federal election committee and \$100 to Sen. Kamala Harris’ presidential campaign prior to her dropping out.

Trustees serve school without Elon degrees

Vicky Hunt, Wes Elingburg and Jeanne Robertson never graduated from Elon, but still call the school their own.

Madalyn Howard

Elon News Network | @madalynhoward_

Unlike the majority of Elon's Board of Trustees members, Vicky Hunt, Wes Elingburg and Jeanne Robertson's first interactions with the university were not as undergraduate students. But despite not sharing an alma mater, each is uniquely passionate about the university community and proud to call themselves Elon supporters.

Vicky Hunt

Local businesswoman Vicky Hunt and her husband share a passion for Elon athletics, academics and students that goes back decades.

Hunt was raised in Northern Virginia and received an undergraduate degree in American Studies from Mary Washington College. After graduating, she moved to North Carolina and earned a master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

While working at a library, she met her future husband, Sam Hunt, a graduate of Eastern Carolina University and Burlington native. The pair were married and moved to Burlington, where Vicky Hunt got a job with her husband's family business, Hunt Electric Supply.

Living in Alamance County, the Hunts grew familiar with Elon, but Vicky Hunt said their connection to the school accelerated with her husband's work in the North Carolina legislature. Sam Hunt served most notably as Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Transportation from 1993 to 1995. He also served four terms in the North Carolina House of Representatives from 1985 to 1992.

"Elon is a jewel of Alamance County," Vicky Hunt said. "And Sam was helpful in different things to do with transportation around the university."

As the Hunts grew closer with the university's administration, Vicky Hunt was invited to join Elon's Board of Trustees.

"I always kid Sam and say, 'They really wanted to get you, but they got me instead,'" she said. "But through me, they got you too."

In 2005, Sam and Vicky Hunt became the first husband-and-wife team to receive the Frank S. Holt Jr. Business Leadership Award. The award was established by the Love School of Business to "recognize a local citizen whose contributions to business and the community reflect progressive, visionary leadership," according to Elon's website.

The Hunts gave lead gifts of more than \$1.25 million to construct the Hunt Softball Park on Elon's campus.

The couple have also made multiple donations to provide need- and talent-based scholarships to Elon students, including a scholarship in the university's Odyssey Program to financially assist two gifted students each year.

"The first time I ever heard an Odyssey Scholar speak, I was blown away," Vicky Hunt said. "It changes that young person's life, it changes their family's life and then they go out and do good things."

Wes Elingburg

After retiring as chief financial officer of LabCorp in 2005, Wes Elingburg has worn many different hats in his 15 active years on the board.

Wes Elingburg was raised in Asheville and attended Western Carolina University with hopes of becoming a teacher. But one summer break, a friend's father asked Elingburg if he had considered accounting.

"He said, 'That's something you ought to look at,'" Elingburg said. "So I went back and took an accounting class at Western, and I fell in love with it."

Elingburg graduated summa cum laude with a degree in business and accounting in 1978. The next year, he moved to Greensboro to work at KPMG, an auditing firm.

"It just shows you how one conversation with a person can change your life," Elingburg said.

While working with KPMG, he audited National Health Laboratories Inc., which is now known as LabCorp. After auditing them for two years, he accepted a job with the company and moved to Burlington.

Elingburg would work at LabCorp for 25 years, 10 of which were spent as the company's chief financial officer.

Elingburg retired from LabCorp in 2005 to focus on his family and volunteer work. That same year, Elon president Leo Lambert offered him a position on the board of trustees, citing Elingburg's financial expertise.

"I agreed to do that in 2005, and I have been a proud member of the board ever since," Elingburg said. "I believe when you get involved in something, you go in 100%, so I became a very active board member."

At Elon's Spring 2016 Convocation, Elingburg was awarded an honorary doctorate for his philanthropy and service on the Board of Trustees. Elingburg and his wife Cathy are members of the Numen Lumen Society, which, according to the university's website, "recognizes benefactors whose cash gifts to Elon equal \$1 million or more."

The couple have supported the Elon Academy and Elon athletics program, funded construction projects including the Student Professional Development Center, School of Communications and



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

Wes Elingburg and his wife, Cathy Elingburg.

Alumni Memorial Gymnasium and, in 2007, endowed the Wesley R. Elingburg Professorship.

When not at Elon, Elingburg is an avid baseball fan and the majority managing partner of the Greensboro Grasshoppers, Greensboro's Minor League Baseball team. While the coronavirus pandemic may have put a pause in that area of his life, Elingburg hopes Elon students can safely resume their experience on campus and enjoy the community he is so passionate about.

"It's just a great bunch of people," he said. "Cathy and I didn't go to Elon, but we have both adopted Elon as our school. We both are just happy to be a part of that community."

Jeanne Robertson

When Jeanne Robertson is not touring across the country, the nationally-recognized humorist can be found cheering on Elon sports, supporting the performing arts and serving on the Board of Trustees.

Robertson grew up in Graham and says she was always familiar with Elon, but chose instead to attend Auburn University to study physical education.

As a sophomore at Auburn, she entered and won her first beauty pageant. She advanced to the 1963 Miss North Carolina pageant, and at the age of 19, was crowned Miss North Carolina. From there, she competed in that year's Miss America competition, where she was named Miss Congeniality.

As reigning Miss North Carolina, Robertson was required to take a year off of school. But she cited her gap year as the catalyst for her speaking career.

"Pageants take a lot of criticism," Robertson said. "However, during that year, I made more than 500 little speeches in 12 months. And you cannot buy that kind of an opportunity."

Robertson returned to Auburn and graduated in 1967. But even when her reign as Miss North Carolina ended, Robertson found herself booking speaking engagements nearly every weekend. Those bookings eventually gave way to theater shows, and the rest, according to Robertson, is history.

"It's been 57 years since I started speaking," she said. "It's served me well."

Throughout her career, Robertson amassed prestigious recognitions, from North Carolina Press Association's North Carolinian of the Year to the National Speakers Association Cavett Award, of which she was the first woman recipient. Robertson was even inducted into the National Speakers Association Speaker Hall of Fame in 1981.

In the past decade, Robertson has found success online as well. Several self-uploaded videos of her performances have received the viral treatment, and her official YouTube channel is expected to hit 100 million views in early September.

She married her husband, Jerry Robertson, a Duke University graduate, and together they moved to Burlington, Jerry's hometown. Living in Burlington, the Robertsons began developing a closer connection to Elon's campus.

"When we moved back to Burlington, we liked sports," Jeanne Robertson said. "And there's so many things that can attract you to Elon. Being in a town as you age and having a university like Elon, it's a godsend."

The Robertsons are both members of The Phoenix Club, a group of dedicated Elon supporters who provide scholarship contributions for Elon student-athletes every year.

"People, I think, always give where their heartstrings are," she said. "Ours are sports. And Elon will always thank you."

In 2003, Jeanne Robertson was elected to Elon's Board of Trustees. Robertson said she was initially skeptical when offered the position, wondering what she could bring to the table. But now, she sees it as another way to give back to the Elon community.

"And I've never been as tired after a speech to 3,000 people sitting in the hall as I am after a trustee meeting," she said.

And though Robertson cannot always be there in person to support Elon due to her busy schedule, she always takes her love for the school on the road.

"I mention Elon in every show, and there's always people in the crowd that go, 'Yay Elon!'" Robertson said. "It's fun and I'm just proud."



PHOTO COURTESY OF VICKY HUNT

Vicky Hunt and her husband, Sam Hunt.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY
Kenneth Brown Jr. '19 walks to the stage on May 24, 2019 during Elon's undergraduate commencement exercises in Schar Center. After graduation, Brown Jr. was selected to serve as the Youth Trustee on Elon's Board of Trustees.

Youth Trustee Kenneth Brown Jr. '19 is bringing a student's perspective to the Elon University board of trustees

Graysen Shirley
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

In a local church stood a tower of chairs waiting to be unloaded and a rack of tables ready to be set up. Scanning the room, Elon Youth Trustee Kenneth Brown Jr.'s eyes immediately caught attention of the chairs and tables. He asked other members of the congregation if he could assist in setting up the chairs and tables for an event. These connections with church members helped Brown to discover the power of service and kindled his passion for helping his community. Brown, a Greensboro native, spent much of his youth in the church where he became rooted in charity through assisting other congregation members with events and being present to serve goodwill beyond the four walls of his church. He credits his parents' involvement in the church with instilling him with the importance of practicing

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KENNETH BROWN JR.
ELON YOUTH TRUSTEE

benevolence. “My service experience began when I was young and growing up in the church,” Brown said. “Service has been a really big part of who I am.”

Brown continued to seek out opportunities to serve his community during his time at Elon University as an Odyssey Scholar and human service studies major. Brown volunteered with the “It Takes A Village” Project, which is a tutor program that partners Elon students with children from Alamance, Guilford and Orange counties. He worked with children in the weekly reading program, teaching and engaging with them to help further their education. Madelyn Pastrana, the project coordinator of “It Takes A Village,” witnessed how Brown's work with the children he taught was instrumental to their growth and development.

“Kenny leads with his heart; everything he does is for a greater good because he believes in the power of the people and he embodies that,” Pastrana said. “Kenny is a great example of someone who gives back. Knowing his own struggles and his own identity, he's a firm believer in passing that along.”

In addition to Brown's service efforts in the broader community, he also pushed for positive change locally within Elon through his involvement with Student Government Association. Brown served as the class of 2019 president his first two years and as executive president his final year. During his tenure, he facilitated the creation of the Elon Ball, guided student responses to national and local emergencies and advocated for a more effective funding model for student activities.

“When I was campaigning for student body president, one of the things during my term was to make sure that everything we do, big and small, they all pointed back to this one vision,” Brown said. “To a vision of being our better selves, to a vision of doing good things.”

Brown was also a member of the Black Student Union while at Elon. As the special events coordinator, he got to engage with fellow students in organizing events, such as the Black Student Union Fashion Show. Brown worked with models, a fashion team and a logistics team to create a production that told the stories and histories of 40 Black students on campus.

Brown's expertise in his roles of SGA executive president and special events coordinator for the Black Student Union got him recommended by the Elon community to be a Youth Trustee. The 2019 graduate had to go through an interview process with Patrick Notlemeyer, secretary of the board

of trustees, and Kari Taylor, deputy chief of staff. Notlemeyer and Taylor presented Brown to President Connie Book as a potential candidate. After Book recommended Brown to hold the position, he was named the 2019 Youth Trustee.

Noel Allen '69, a trustee and member of the organizing committee, said that having a Youth Trustee is invaluable and energizes the board, allowing them to hear from the perspective of someone who is younger and still has ties with the student body.

As a Youth Trustee, Brown serves as a voice for students by connecting with them one-on-one and being on the campus life committee, which oversees student organizations and student life. Serving in the position since June 2019, Brown provides a younger perspective to board meetings through being a recent alumni and is able to understand what students are currently going through, as opposed to other members.

Being on the campus life committee, Brown looks at what student organizations are doing on campus and how students are contributing to the community as a whole through their civic engagement.

“We're here to make sure that students are getting the Elon education, getting the tools and resources they need to do their most authentic and their most thriving self,” Brown said. “The student voice is important.”

Alongside being a Youth Trustee, Brown is a fellow for the A.J. Fletcher Foundation, which supports education, art and faith-based organizations in North Carolina. Brown is currently working in a diverse range of areas, including heading up communications efforts online and helping grantees logistically and with projects.

“With the work that I do, with the Fletcher Foundation and now understanding my board of trustees experience, I think a lot of it goes back into that service mindset,” Brown said.

In his roles as both a youth trustee and an A.J. Fletcher fellow, Brown wants to help others see how they can get involved in their local communities through volunteer efforts and service opportunities. He hopes to encourage the Elon community to get involved in service and civic engagement through the actions they take, as well as having meaningful conversations with others.

“It doesn't matter if I'm the president of the student body or a trustee on the board or just an everyday ordinary person. Anyone can lead because anyone can serve,” Brown said. “And so my default position is trying to figure out can I better help the people close to me, the people I work with and just walking in that purpose and walking in that light.”



ZACHARY OHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Elon Board of Trustees member Kenneth Brown Jr. '19 cheers alongside Elon President Connie Book at Schar Center on Aug. 28, 2018 during the first volleyball match in the new 5,100-seat arena. The Phoneix won 3-0.

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