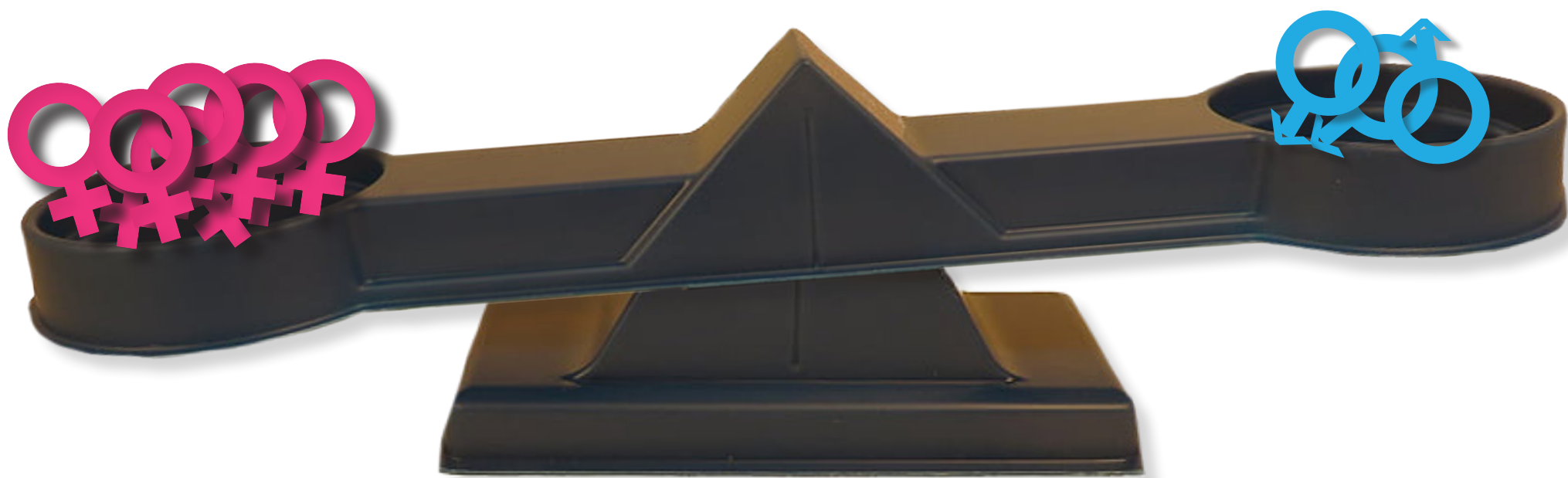


WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2021
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA
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THE PENDULUM



OUTNUMBERING MEN ON CAMPUS

This year marks the highest female-male gender gap for higher education institutes across the nation

Nyah Phengsitthy | Managing Editor | @nyahphengsitthy

IT ALL BEGINS IN kindergarten — the female-male gender gap in education that is. Beginning in K-12 schools, the gender gap has increased throughout the years, according to Tom Mortenson, senior scholar at the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education. But 2021 has officially been marked the year with the largest female-male gender gap in the history of higher education.

“It’s been an issue for 30 years,”

Mortenson said. “In 1990, there were many more women in higher education than there were men.”

The National Student Clearinghouse, a nonprofit research group, found that U.S. colleges enrolled 1.5 million fewer students than five years ago, where men accounted for more than 70% of the decline. But while the number of men enrolled in higher education is largely falling behind women across the country, this is not new for Elon University.

BY THE NUMBERS

1.5M

fewer students are enrolled today compared to five years ago, where men accounted for 70% of the decline.

See **GENDER** | pg. 4

Elon University releases annual Fire & Safety Report

The report details crime on campus, university procedures regarding crime from the last year

Ellis Chandler

News Director | @ellis_chandler

Each year when the annual Fire & Safety Report is released, Dean of Students Jana Lynn Patterson hopes people view the data as a way to better understand the campus — something that was not always available to students.

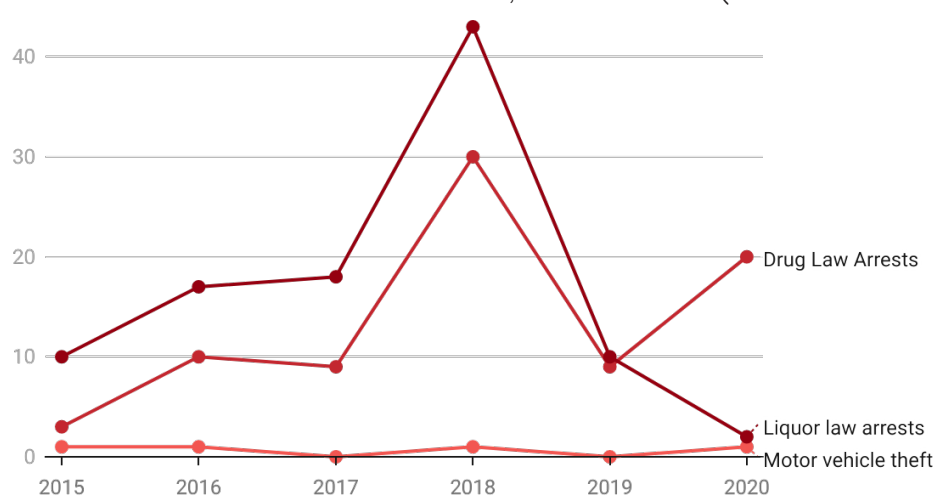
In 1986, when Lehigh University student Jeanne Clery was raped and murdered in her dorm, the standards for campus crime

reporting and the data associated with that information did not exist. After her death, in 1990, the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act was signed into law, and was renamed the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics act in 1999.

The Clery Act is a federal statute requiring colleges and universities who receive federal funding to maintain and disclose campus crime statistics and security information. The Clery Act also requires colleges and universities to publicly outline the policies and procedures they put into place to improve campus safety.

See **CRIME** | pg. 2

NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS, DRUG LAW/LIQUOR ARRESTS



KYRA O'CONNOR | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



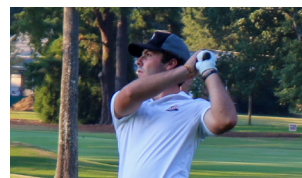
NEWS • PAGE 6

Elon Votes! faces a non-presidential election year



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 10

Yoga club continues in-person exercises in Numen Lumen



SPORTS • PAGE 12

Student athlete Pedro Rabadan grows despite adversity

Fire & Safety Report provides critical information on reported crimes

CRIME | from cover

“I appreciate that this requires institutions to produce a level of transparency that has not always been the case,” Patterson said. “It has at least given people some level of transparency as they’re looking into colleges and universities that they may want to attend or for those who are there, but I certainly hope folks will read it.”

The Clery Act at Elon

The report details crime in certain off-campus buildings or properties owned or controlled by Elon University and public property immediately adjacent to and accessible from campus. The report also details procedures for reporting suspicious or criminal activity, security, police authority, crime prevention strategies, university policies on substance abuse and sexual offenses and fire safety. It also provides information about other resources that support campus safety.

University Police Chief Joe LeMire credits the lower numbers to the lack of students on campus during the pandemic. He said it’s the officer’s discretion to write a citation or not.

“That could be based on the situation, the behavior, the cooperativeness of the person they’re dealing with, we have a very close relationship with [Student] Conduct. It’s a great process and we often send stuff through there,” LeMire said. “I would expect the numbers and referrals to be higher than arrests.”

Patterson said current students and parents as well as prospective students and parents can

look at the annual fire & safety report for Elon and other universities they may be applying to. The report, as opposed to crime statistics reported by another entity, has standardized definitions to account for differences in laws from state to state.

“It certainly is a good litmus test for students,” Patterson said. “When you look at the format, and the definitions of things, they’re standardized, so that a student, or a parent, or prospective student or prospective parent could look and say, compare apples to apples.”

Unpacking 2020 data

Liquor law violations referred for disciplinary action account for the most offenses of any on or off campus crime. There were a total of 259 in 2020, which is down from 282 in 2019.

Drug law violations referred for disciplinary action account for the second highest number of offenses of any on or off campus crime. Sixty-four offenses were reported in 2020, which is also down from 87 in 2019 and 97 in 2018. Drug law arrests increased by 11 offenses in 2020 for a total of 20 arrests.

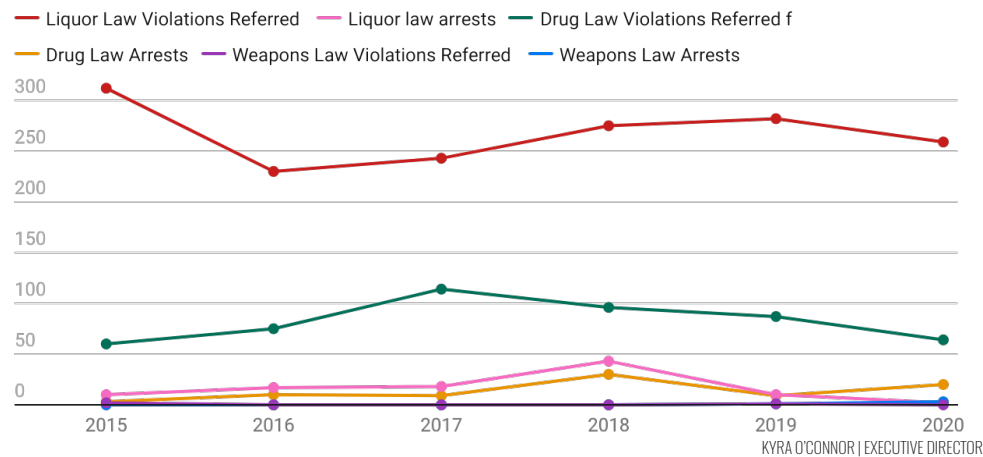
No weapons law violations referred for disciplinary actions were made in 2020. Weapons law arrests did increase by two in 2020 for a total of three arrests.

Five total offenses of burglary took place with four on campus reports and one non-campus report.

Only one motor vehicle theft was reported in 2020. There were no thefts reported in 2019 and only one in 2018.

When it comes to recent car break-

REFERRALS COMPARED TO ARRESTS, 2017-2020



ins and thefts in the Crest and Trollinger neighborhoods, LeMire said he and university police are stressing for students to lock their doors, especially those with key fobs.

“Keep that out of the vehicle because people that are going to go into an unlocked vehicle are automatically going to touch the brake, push the button and see if the car starts and it’s going to have the fob in the car and that’s how the cars get stolen,” LeMire said.

Elon University reported no hate-based crimes in 2018 and 2019, and one reported hate crime involving communicating threats in 2020.

No murder, negligent manslaughter, incest, statutory rape, robbery or aggravated assault offenses were reported in 2018-20.

LeMire said he is beginning a pilot program with Residence Life where sergeants,

BY THE NUMBERS

64

drug law violations were reported in 2020, which is also down from 87 in 2019 and 97 in 2018.

corporals and officers that would be assigned to different neighborhoods. He said the idea is based around community policing, so problems can be solved as they occur. He wants university police to build relationships with resident assistants, apartment managers and other people in Elon neighborhoods.

Kyra O’Connor contributed to the reporting of this story.

CORRECTIONS

In the last edition of The Pendulum, the biographies for these four candidates were identified incorrectly. Elon News Network regrets this error.



Emily Sharpe
Running for mayor of the town of Elon

Sharpe currently serves on the town’s Board of Aldermen. She said she wants to work to continue connecting with members of the Elon community and let the voices of residents be heard, through holding more downtown events or town hall meetings. Sharpe additionally hopes to continue to maintain a good relationship with the university.



Stephanie Bourland
Running for town of Elon Board of Alderman

Bourland currently serves as the associate director of corporate and employer relations for the School of Communications at Elon University. Bourland said key issues she hopes to address in her campaign this fall include safety, affordability and inclusivity within the town. She said working at the university for the past four years has allowed her to connect with members of the Elon community, especially students.



Michael Woods
Running for mayor of the town of Elon

Woods previously ran for Elon’s Board of Aldermen in 2019 and said he would like to see more inclusiveness, economic growth and better sustainability to the town. Woods said he hopes to implement more eco-friendly technologies and programs and to see the town and the university have better relations along with focusing on improving the relationship between the town police department and students of the university.



Randy Orwig
Running for town of Elon Board of Alderman

Orwig has served as the senior pastor at Elon Community Church for the past 11 years. He said his position within Elon Community Church has allowed him to understand and connect with community members of the town. Orwig said a key focus of his campaign for the Board of Aldermen was addressing the affordability of water and sewage services within the town and to work to grow downtown Elon.

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
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ENN Radio Podcast

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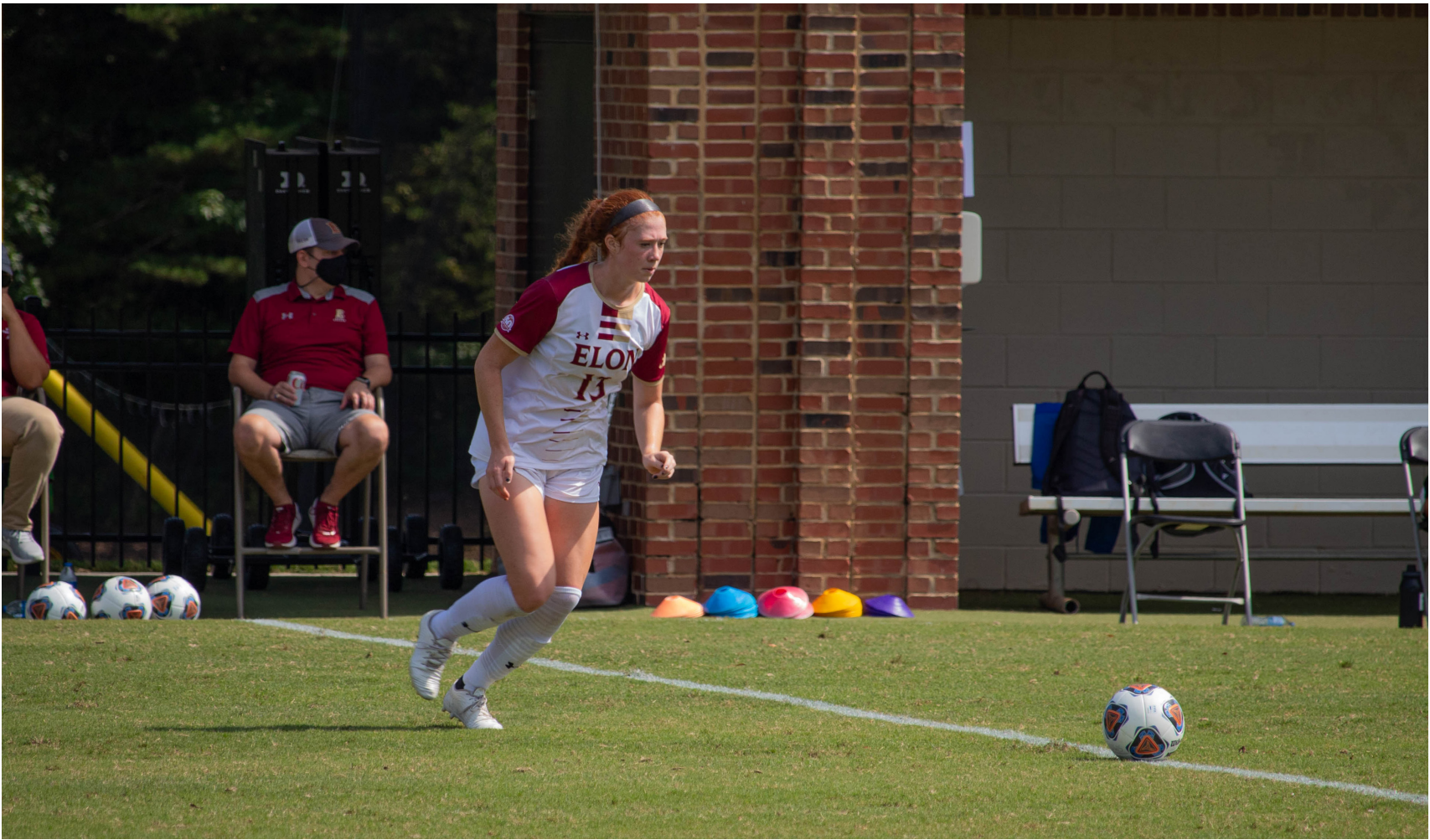
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Elon News Network

Senior Kayla Hodges prepares to kick the soccer ball during Elon women's soccer's second CAA conference match against University of Delaware on Sunday, Oct. 3. The Phoenix and Blue Hens tied 1-1 after double overtime. For more sports coverage, visit page 12.



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



GRAYSEN SHIRLEY | POLITICS EDITOR

Two marchers at the Rally for Abortion Justice, North Carolina hold up signs that read “Abortion is essential healthcare.” Women’s marches occurred across the country on Saturday, Oct. 2.



SOPHIE ROSENTHAL | CHIEF COPY EDITOR

Noah Thompson and his daughter sell produce in their stand at the Elon Farmer’s Market on Thursday, Sept. 30. The family farm, T5-Farms, is based in Alamance County.



Pro-choice marchers express their voices at Pro-Life counter marchers at the Supreme Court during the Women’s March in Washington D.C. on Saturday, Oct. 2.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Universities across the nation, Elon face gender gap

GENDER | from cover

The female population at Elon University has reigned over males for the last decade. Since 2000, the university’s undergraduate gender composition has consisted of around 60% women and 40% men -- numbers that are still evident today, according to the university factbook. Some students have raised concerns that this gender gap is evident across many aspects of campus life.

“I had my global experience class and there were about 20-25 people in the class,” sophomore Ben Weas said. “But there were only five males in it, five guys, and the rest were female. And so that dynamic, it does feel a little bit odd.”

The decrease in men attending college is due to a number of reasons, such as the setup of K-12 learning and the possibility of earning a job without a degree. Freshman Izaiah Ezeji-Miles said college was always a goal in the back of his mind, but he didn’t put much thought into it until the time came.

“I wasn’t really even thinking about college until I got to senior year of high school, and I was like, ‘Oh, crap. I don’t even know what college I want to go to,’” Ezeji-Miles said. “I didn’t really have a dream college.”

Ezeji-Miles said that if he wasn’t given a scholarship at Elon, he would not be attending the university, and if he didn’t attend college, he would be in the military. Ezeji-Miles is majoring in computer science at Elon, and he said the female-male gender gap is not as evident in his classrooms.

““

THE STRUCTURE OF THE K-12 CLASSROOM IS NOT CONDUCTIVE TO ENGAGING BOYS AND LEARNING. GIRLS SEEM TO ACCOMMODATE THE STRUCTURE OF THE K-12 CLASSROOM BETTER THAN THE BOYS DO — IT’S ACTIVITY LEVELS AND IT’S MATURITY LEVELS.

TOM MORTENSON
SENIOR SCHOLAR AT THE PELL INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF OPPORTUNITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

According to Mortenson, women tend to succeed academically at higher rates than men in the primary and secondary education levels. They then take that success with them if they choose to enter a higher institution, but it is not as highly reflective in men.

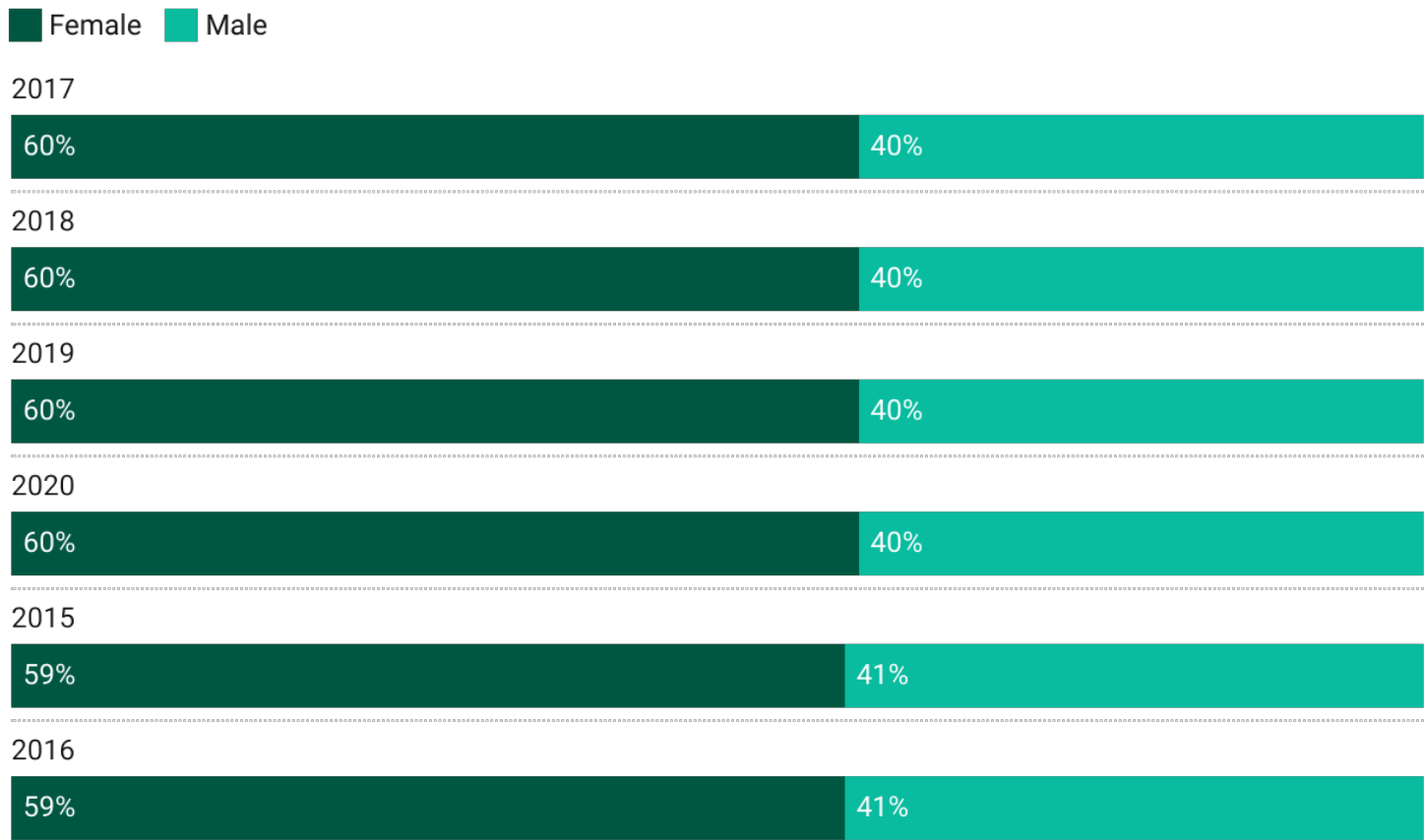
“The structure of the K-12 classroom is not conducive to engaging boys and learning,” Mortenson said. “Girls seem to accommodate the structure of the K-12 classroom better than the boys do — it’s activity levels and it’s maturity levels.”

The National Center for Education Statistics in 2019 found that females made up 9.4 million undergraduate students and males made up 7.1 million undergraduate students in the United States. These numbers also reflect at Elon today — 3,767 women are enrolled part and full time at Elon, and 2,535 men are enrolled part and full time this semester, according to the fall 2021 registrar report.

Recruitment strategies

Elon continues to combat the female-male gender gap through its recruiting strategies for freshman students. The five most represented states among Elon’s fall 2021 student population are North Carolina, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Virginia. However, according to Vice President for Enrollment Greg Zaiser, the university has spent the last five years

ELON UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE GENDER COMPOSITION



KYRA O’CONNOR | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

investing more resources in Colorado, Texas, California and Illinois — states that follow the five states with highest enrollment numbers.

“Elon’s recruitment footprint continues to expand nationally and internationally,” Zaiser wrote in an email to Elon News Network. “Most of our recruitment territory is reflective in the student body since 46 states are represented in the [freshman] class this year. Market awareness and proximity to campus play a major role as well ... Our model of expansion has not changed the female-male ratio on campus.”

The university’s majors and programs have also contributed to the recruitment of male students. Elon’s engineering program and the Love School of Business tend to receive more male participation, according to Zaiser. The number of students majoring in engineering increased from 56 in 2019 to 101 in 2021.

“Engineering in particular is attractive to males and females but may ultimately attract more males to campus than we have seen as the four-year program grows,” Zaiser wrote. “We’ve added a focus on recruiting from all-male high schools and inviting counselors from those high schools to campus for comprehensive programming.”

While engineering and business majors tend to attract more male students at Elon, sophomore music theatre student Zeth Dixon said within his program, he tends to see the reverse.

“It’s evident in the music theatre program and in our campus as a whole,” Dixon said. “I’m one of the few males in the room sometimes, which I don’t necessarily have a problem with, I think it’s interesting.”

While Weas said he sees a disproportionate female-male ratio in his classes, the dynamic changes when he enters the eSports lounge, where he is surrounded by mostly men, including the all-male eSports executive board.

“It adds a different angle to Elon than kind of the rest of organizations on this campus,” Weas said.

Though it’s possible men may be more interested in attending Elon because of

organizations like the eSports club, Elon does “not fund or provide resources to organizations or programs differentially on the basis of gender,” according to Vice President of Student Life Jon Dooley.

Athletic contradiction

The gender gap is also evident in sports, but unlike many other areas of campus, the gap is reversed, with Elon’s athletes consisting of 60% men and 40% women, according to Zaiser.

“We hear from students – both male and female – that athletics is important,” Zaiser wrote. “National and Elon research indicates that male students tend to migrate to more urban and larger settings. It used to be that private liberal arts colleges and universities had more female students than males. In recent years, even flagship public schools have seen more female representation.”

And although there is a gender gap with student athletes, the same contradiction can be found with coaches at Elon — women coaches are more underrepresented in women’s college sports than they were 50 years ago.

Possible increased ratio

If the university was to reach 70% women and 30% men, Elon would face the possibility of being a majority female institution. Zaiser wrote that the university has found ways where this can be prevented in coming years, such as such a higher percentage of men committing to the university than women. Elon has also been growing its transfer population of students in the fall, where the university has seen more men come through their transfer system.

“I don’t anticipate considerable erosion in our male-female representation on campus,” Zaiser wrote. There is of course a concern that if the percentage of one sex over another increases significantly, we will be less appealing to students overall. This is another reason we pay attention to this.”

But the question of why women outnumber men in higher education remains

for many. According to psychology professor Catherine King, while there are fewer men attending college, they are still showing up, and it’s the women who work harder to get similar results to men in the workforce.

“A girl with a four year college degree makes a lot more money than a girl with no four year college degree, but she still doesn’t make as much money as a boy with a college degree,” King said. “So there’s still the gender gap in wages, but the differential between college and no college is greater for a female than for a male.”

King teaches a core capstone course focused on women’s, gender and sexuality studies and studying this gender gap. Despite Elon’s disproportionate female-male ratio, King said what matters most is what students attend college for: to learn.

“I want highly motivated students no matter what their gender is, and that’s just me selfishly,” King said.

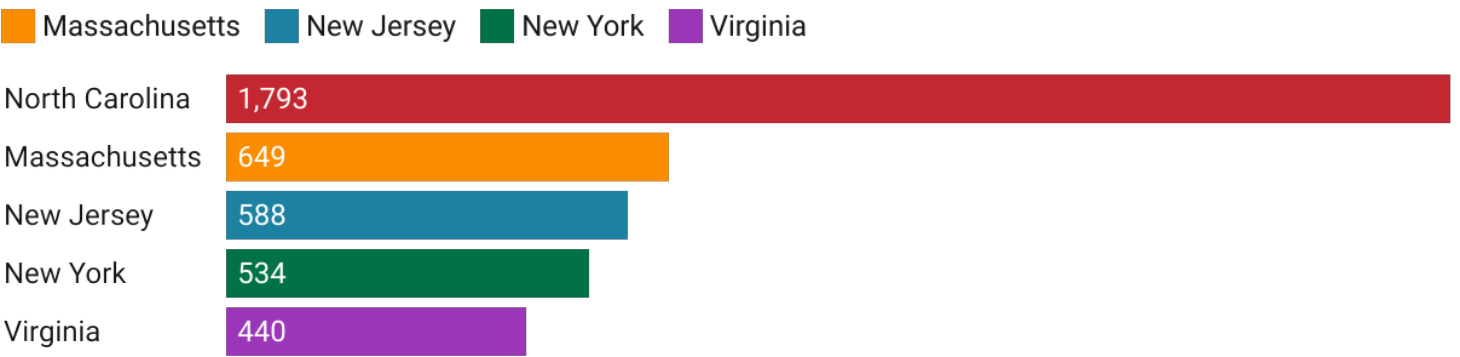
While it’s difficult to see a solution in sight to the gender gap in education, Mortenson said it begins with the introduction of more male role models in K-12 education, which should carry into higher education and increase male presence in educational institutes.

“We have to provide an active, hands-on learning experience for boys if we want to keep them engaged in learning,” Mortenson said. “We need to provide male role models in the classroom so that boys see what adult men do.”

Since widened gender gap numbers were reported in September, colleges across the nation are feeling pressure to scale their rate of male applicants to encourage intellectual diversity and avoid a female dominated student body. But at Elon, dealing with the numbers will only bring more recruitment strategies for the university.

“Elon is nimble,” Zaiser wrote. “We’re constantly evaluating things and work to pivot appropriately. This is not a new topic for us and we have made intentional investments to respond and curtail erosion in the number of enrolling male students.”

TOP FIVE STATES WHERE ELON STUDENTS ARE FROM



KYRA O’CONNOR | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Historical refugee city preps for Afghan arrivals amid the recent crisis

Greensboro’s refugee clinics work toward welcoming new arrivals with large community support

Jess Baker
Elon News Network | @jessmbaker

Bhutanese refugee Birendra Chhetri has spent the last four years giving back to the community that gave him a new start. He arrived in the United States in 2012, having spent the previous 18 years in Nepal after fleeing the genocide in Bhutan with his family while he was still young. Chhetri now works with the same organization, Church World Service in Greensboro, to give refugees and immigrants the same work, housing and sociocultural opportunities he was given. Chhetri works to give refugees a new start.

Church World Service is one of nine nonprofit organizations contracted by the United States government to provide free aid to refugees and immigrants in need like the Afghan refugees. These centers help newcomers rebuild their lives by creating connections with local healthcare centers, schools and housing offices. As over 31,000 Afghan refugees are being processed on seven different military bases, workers like Chhetri prepare to welcome them into North Carolina and help start the green card process.

“It was always my dream to work for refugees, and especially the immigrant population and helping them out,” Chhetri said. “Coming back from the same community and kind of reaching out and helping the same community — it’s really nice.”

Chhetri is a part of the Lhotshampa people, a Nepali-speaking Bhutanese ethnic group persecuted by the Bhutanese government’s attempt to ethnically cleanse the country during the 1990s. He and his family were forced to flee the country and take refuge in Nepal. Chhetri became so immersed in Nepalese culture that he began to work for a non-governmental organization serving refugees like himself.

This culminated in his desire to continue his engagement with CWS Greensboro. Chhetri initially worked as an interpreter in the area before pursuing his bachelor’s degree at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. This enabled him to work for AmeriCorps before being hired by CWS to work as a legal counselor for green card citizenship for refugee clients.

“Finally working as a legal counsel and seeing them grow, seeing them move ahead and get their green cards,” Chhetri said. “It’s really, really heartwarming. It’s motivating.”

Just as Chhetri works to give back to the refugee community he came from, so does Greensboro. With such short notice, the city has had little time to prepare proper housing for an influx of people. Instead, individuals and faith congregations are opening their doors to strangers by offering rooms in their homes for these families and individuals free of charge.

In May 2021, President Biden announced the withdrawal of American troops in Afghanistan, ending the United States’ longest war. Following this announcement, the Taliban led a major offensive, capturing every major Afghan city by mid-August. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled the capital of Kabul on Aug. 15, and the Taliban assumed total control of the country. The government collapsed as Biden pulled the remainder of the United States troops by Aug. 31, which soon began the mass displacement of the Afghani people.

“We haven’t received any Afghan cases here yet,” said Megan Shepard, office director of CWS Greensboro. “But we’ve just received our first assurances — meaning cases have been sent our way for us to either say, ‘Yes, we can accept them’ or ‘No, that we can’t.’ And we’ve accepted them, so we could see those folks arriving in Greensboro within the next day or two, it might be a week.”

CWS Greensboro is not alone in its anticipation. Despite the emergency nature of the situation, refugees are being filtered through a stringent protocol to determine what aid they are eligible to receive. A refugee is an individual who has been forced to flee their home due to a well-founded fear of persecution, however, due to the current



Workers Elizabeth Ayala and Genesis Beltran work at the Church World Service in Greensboro. CWS is one of nine nonprofit organizations contracted by the United States government to provide free aid to refugees and immigrants

immigration laws within the United States, refugees are instead falling under different immigrant categories, such as humanitarian

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MEGAN SHEPARD
OFFICE DIRECTOR OF CWS
GREENSBORO

parole — which may leave them without access to federal support.

Under normal circumstances, U.S. humanitarian parole policy extends for no more than 365 days. As of Aug. 24, the United States extended that time period for up to two years for Afghan refugees and also granted them work authorization — something not normally given. Humanitarian parole does not allow refugees to qualify for refugee resettlement programs or seek federal benefits.

“Under the previous administration, the refugee program and just immigration in general was really highly scrutinized, and the resettlement program was nearly decimated,” Shepard said.

Shepard has been involved with CWS for the last seven years helping refugees and immigrants resettle in Greensboro. North Carolina resettles 4% of refugees within the United States, and Greensboro is the second largest resettlement city in the state. This blending of cultures has ingrained a sense of “welcoming people from other parts of the world” in Shepard’s mind. A sense of diversity and inclusion is especially important as CWS prepares for an influx of Afghan refugees.

“Everyone’s coming in at a very different point, but that’s not really what defines a refugee,” Shepard said. “It’s that experience of being forced to flee and that persecution they might face. It encompasses anyone who’s been in that position and has had to flee their country.”

Elon Law
In 2010, Elon University School of Law created the Humanitarian Immigration Law Clinic which provides immigrants and refugees with free legal consultation. Law students worked under the supervision of professors and lawyers to help clients procure green cards and seek political asylum, permanent residency, citizenship and employment authorization. Serving the Triad region, which encompasses Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point, this clinic sees about 400 refugees and immigrants every year.

Katherine Reynolds, director of the Humanitarian Immigration Law Clinic and assistant professor at the law school, has overseen this program for the last year and a half and worked with the clinic since 2017. Though the clinic has yet to process any Afghan refugees, as resettlement agencies are often the first step, Reynolds anticipates working with them within the next year.

Reynolds called the situation “complicated” due to the abnormal processing refugees are undergoing. They must be screened to determine which of four classifications they fall under: special immigrant visas (SIV) for those contracted by the U.S. government for less than one year, those who qualify for an SQ — those employed by the US government — or SI — specifically immigrants who worked as translators and/or interpreters — parole, and those who will be granted humanitarian parole.

An SIV applies to any immigrant who worked in Afghanistan or Iraq by or on behalf of the United States government, such as translators or interpreters. Despite being established in 2009, this program has been backlogged since then and is now flooded with new applications — significantly more than its Congressional allocation. Thousands of immigrants are at risk of being turned away from this visa, threatening their safety within the United States.

Reynolds anticipates that a majority of the work at the Humanitarian Immigration Law Clinic will be involved with individuals seeking humanitarian parole for family members left behind. Even then, it is an “unknown” area, as Reynolds is uncertain as to what the clinic’s true role will actually be.

“Humanitarian parole — that means that someone has been inspected and lawfully admitted to the United States but is a temporary immigration status,” Reynolds said. “There’s no path beyond parole to adjust their status. Parole lets you be here for a finite amount of time lawfully.”

As a partner organization with refugee resettlement clinics and other businesses, the law clinic receives its clientele through word

BY THE NUMBERS

31,000

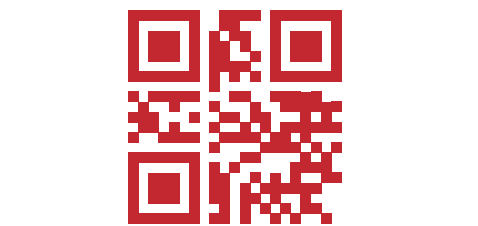
Afghan refugees that have entered the United States since President Joe Biden withdrew the last American troops from Afghanistan.

of mouth and its partners, such as Senior Resources of Guilford County, Reading Connection and New Arrivals Institute, where people can take citizenship and English classes. In order to gain citizenship in the United States, one must demonstrate an adequate ability to read, write and speak English, so the law clinic doesn’t often need interpreters. In the rare case it does, many of its students and staff have language abilities, or the law clinic will use federal grant funding to outsource interpreters. Reynolds said this has led her to propose a program that would enable undergraduate language students to work pro-bono with the law clinic, providing interpretation and translation services to gain real-world experience.

This partnership is one way students can help. However, it is not the only way to help; advocacy, volunteering, donation and political action are direct ways to influence and change the outcome of a refugee for the better. If donation and volunteering aren’t feasible, Shepard says the best way to create change is to advocate.

“I think, if anything, over the past few years especially, it’s really highlighted just how important advocacy is and that it works, too,” Shepard said.

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3. Click the pop-up link

Elon Votes! adapts to campus during non-presidential year



Elon Votes! moved their office to the Kernodle Center for Civic Life where the Elon Volunteers office is. With 2021 being an off-year, the organization plans to continue engagement with the campus community, discussing the importance of participating in politics.

GRAYSEN SHIRLEY | POLITICS EDITOR

The group continues to work in an off-year election, focusing on more social events

Avery Sloan
Elon News Network | @averylsloan

Elon Votes! spends each election year providing car rides to the polls, assisting with voter registration and educating individuals on the importance of participating in an election. This year with no presidential election to prepare for and no census to think about, Elon Votes! has an entirely different focus.

Elon Votes! has shifted its programs to more social events, such as watching an episode of “Parks and Recreation” and then discussing the importance of local politics. Senior Trevor Molin, director of civic engagement for the organization, said local politics is now a big focus for Elon Votes!, with no presidential race this year.

“Especially in 2021, where you have two governor races happening and then you know a ton of local races,” Molin said. “It’s not the same way, where we can just blast out to all students that you have an election — a lot of students probably don’t.”

Senior Sophie Gerth, lead voting ambassador for Elon Votes!, said despite the absence of the large-scale events that focus on an election, the student organization continues to seek and create conversations on campus.

“Our goal is to transform campus culture to be politically aware,” Gerth said.

Voting ambassadors like Gerth engage with the student body trying to reach a variety of people. According to Gerth, Elon Votes! is open to all majors and working to increase its membership with people across a variety of interests.

“At times, you can go to spaces of campus that are not politically aware or having these critical discussions,” Gerth said. “Our goal is to kind of infiltrate all these spaces of campus and make civic engagement, something that everybody participates in.”

One way Elon Votes! pushes information to students about local elections is using the National Study of Learning Voting and Engagement program. NSLVE was created by the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education at Tufts University and supplies tailored reports to the over 1,100 colleges and universities who use

this data to create civic change within their own campuses.

NSLVE data shows voting numbers of each participating school, specifying how students voted and where students are registered to vote. NSLVE can target specific groups of students to help make sure they understand every aspect of these elections and voting, such as how to request an absentee ballot.

“All that stuff to give us a little bit of a better idea of how people are voting, what way people are voting just so we can better cater our services to them,” Molin said.

“
OUR GOAL IS TO
TRANSFORM CAMPUS
CULTURE TO BE
POLITICALLY AWARE.

SOPHIE GERTH
ELON VOTES! LEAD AMBASSADOR

Elon Votes! will continue to host events like Deliberate Dialogues to foster civic engagement. Most recently, they hosted an event, Unpacking Cancel Culture, where professors spoke about cancel culture, the idea of separating the art from the artist and their thoughts regarding the productivity of cancel culture.

These events are focused on helping better inform Elon students on current issues and teaching them how to have difficult conversations, according to Molin. A core aspect of Elon Votes! is remaining non-partisan, and these events are meant to inform and bring students together rather than force a specific viewpoint as Gerth said.

Gerth said her involvement in Elon Votes! has shown progress, where she can finally see a tangible difference in the work she put in. One way this was seen was when Elon University placed fifth in the nation for TurboVotes, meaning that Elon had the fifth highest amount of new voter registrations percentage-wise. Elon was ninth in the nation based off of total signups, behind universities such as Harvard, Stanford and the University of Chicago, schools that have considerably larger student bodies and have institutes of politics.

“It’s just the idea that everyone

BY THE NUMBERS

#5

Elon had the fifth highest amount of new voter registrations percentage wise, according to TurboVotes.

should be able to vote, everyone should have the tools to do so, and that we can work hard and collaborate to make that more accessible to people,” Gerth said.

Molin and Gerth are both optimistic about the future of Elon Votes! and believe in the work they are doing.

“Every year we wait for data to come back, about how we did in the election, you know like how many students registered to vote, how many actually showed up. We haven’t got that data back yet, because it just takes so long for the whenever the organization that compiles all this information to process. But I will say that like, I just felt this amazing energy on campus last election,” Gerth said.

Elon Votes! has been building on this momentum from last year and hopes to carry that same energy through the work they continue to do this semester.

“This has gone back so many years, and so many students and it’s a privilege to be able to continue that,” Gerth said. “I do feel like we’re in the midst of a culture shift on campus.”

SCAN TO LEARN
ABOUT ELON VOTES!
OR VISIT

ELON.EDU/U/ELON-VOTES/



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

Students react to second year of university’s flu vaccine mandate



NYAH PHENGSIITTHY | MANAGING EDITOR

Students can receive the flu vaccine on or off campus. The deadline to get the flu vaccine is Oct. 29.

With the deadline approaching for the vaccine mandate or exemption, students share their thoughts on the requirement

Naomi Washington
Elon News Network | @nwashingtonnews

For the second year in a row, Elon will require students to get the flu shot. With two recent vaccine mandates for students at the university, some students want the flu vaccine to be voluntary and a personal choice.

For freshman Kinga Srednicka, the vaccine is another inconvenience for students.

“Initially, I was annoyed,” Srednicka said. “I’ve gotten the flu vaccine shot once in my life. I think it should be encouraged for students to get it but definitely not mandatory ... I think I’ll just take it to not be a hassle but I’m definitely pissed about it.”

According to Dean of Students Jana Lynn Patterson, the university community saw a dramatic drop in flu cases, from nearly 300 cases the previous year to only one confirmed case of the flu in the spring of 2021.

“I think it was a combination of things, but I think the number one reason is that flu vaccine,” Patterson said. “Just like the COVID vaccine, we know it reduces your risk.”

The vaccine requirement this year is earlier than last year due to students traveling back to campus following Thanksgiving break, unlike last year when students remained off campus through December.

“Last year, either everyone was in compliance, who was on campus, either everyone was in compliance, or they had a waiver,” Patterson said. “It had a profound effect in our success last year, and being able to manage the flu.”

While the vaccine is required for students, it is not required for faculty and staff. Patterson said this decision was made due to the living situations of students in congregate housing, versus faculty and staff, who do not live in residence halls.

Receiving the flu vaccine is new for junior Rachel Sommer, who has never received the flu vaccine because her parents didn’t think it was a good idea.

“I didn’t really have an opinion about it, but my parents did,” Sommer said. “My mom doesn’t think the flu vaccine is a good idea for us and we never really got it in the past.”

But for freshman Aniya Arnold, the flu shot is just another task on her to-do list.

“I don’t necessarily have a problem with it,” Arnold said. “It was kind of just a part of my day to just go and do that but it was still positive. I think it’s a positive thing.”

Similar to Arnold, freshman Sebastian Schroeter believes the university is headed in the right direction with the vaccine mandate.

“I feel like they made the right choice by making it required just so that we can have a safer campus and we don’t have to have any close calls with stuff like that,” Schroeter said.

Students can register for a vaccine appointment on the Healthy Elon’s vaccination central website or receive it off campus by Oct. 29.

Elon University updates Title IX, sexual misconduct policy

The changes coincide with those of federal guidance surrounding the Title IX and sexual misconduct policy

Graysen Shirley
Politics Editor | @graysenshirley

Elon University updated the Student Handbook on Sept. 28, changing the university Title IX and sexual misconduct policy section on testimony parties and witnesses. According to Felicia Cenca, HR consultant for HR compliance and Title IX, the university modified their Title IX and sexual misconduct policy to comply with new federal regulations released last year by the U.S. Department of Education. Cenca said the university must comply with federal law and modify their policies and procedures accordingly to follow the new federal regulations surrounding Title IX.

One of the major shifts in university policies under compliance with federal law was changing the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX. According to Cenca, the behavior now has to be severe, pervasive and objectively offensive. All three of these characteristics must be met to comply with the new definition of sexual harassment, which Cenca said narrows the definition of sexual harassment.

Another shift in university policy under Title IX is that the behavior must occur on campus for the university to take action and in the U.S. or against a person in the U.S. for federal action to be taken.

The university released the 2020 fire and safety report, which details crimes on

campus from last year, on Oct. 1. Molly Zlock, director of HR compliance, equal opportunity and Title IX, wrote in an email to Elon News Network the annual fire and safety falls under the Clery Act, a consumer protection law that provides transparency around campus crime policy and statistics.

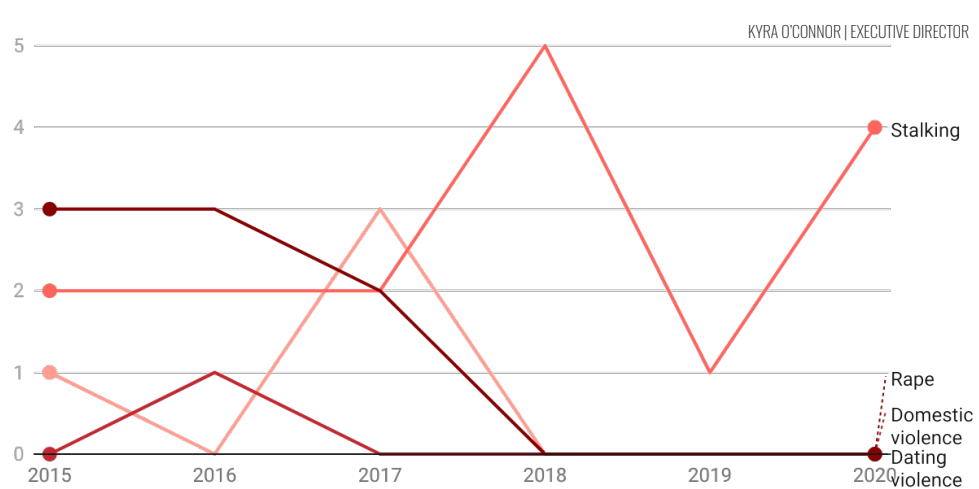
The Clery Act requires colleges and universities to release information to the public through an annual safety report and the definitions of crimes under the Clery Act are not as narrowly defined as under Title IX, according to Zlock. She also wrote that data in the annual fire and safety represents a smaller component to the total reports received by the Title IX office and the data disclosed in the annual fire and safety report represent only those that fit under the Clery Art.

There were two offenses of rape reported last year, both taking place in residential facilities. No offenses of dating violence were reported in 2020, but there were two offenses in 2019 and three in 2018. There were also four offenses of stalking reported which is an increase from the one reported in 2019 but a decrease from the five in 2018.

Cenca said any behavior that occurs off-campus or not in the United States would not fall under Title IX. Additionally, the university has created a secondary procedure, which is referred to as the sexual misconduct and gender based violence process, to address incidents that occur off-campus, not in the United States or do not meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX.

“Elon has to comply with Title IX federal regulations,” Cenca said. “However, we see that as kind of as a floor, not the ceiling.”

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS OF STALKING, DATING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



The purpose of the sexual misconduct and gender based violence process is to offer additional support to students in reporting incidents that go beyond the university’s Title IX policy — such as if something occurs abroad or off-campus.

“It just creates a wider net of behaviors that the university can offer support to students who’ve experienced those things and respond to and offer accountability measures,” Cenca said.

Cenca specified that live hearings do not take place for incidents that occur under the sexual misconduct and gender-based violence process, but rather for ones under Title IX.

Under the new Title IX federal regulations released last year, postsecondary institutions, such as public and private universities, must provide live hearings with cross-examination during the Title IX grievance process. According

to federal regulations, live hearings are to be conducted either in-person if both parties are within the same geographic location, at the postsecondary institution’s discretion, or with both parties attending in an online setting. Federal regulations also state that cross-examination is to be done by a party’s advisor and never by a party.

The most recent version of the Title IX policy is from Aug. 1. and the university reserves the right to “modify, amend or terminate” the policy at any time.

According to the Elon University Student Handbook, the Title IX and sexual misconduct policies and procedures prohibit all forms of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence — including sex and/or gender-based discrimination and harassment — committed against employees, students or third parties, as well as retaliation.

Grappling with grief: Elon University reflect on support, tragedies

Elon University students, faculty and staff reflect on support, experience following community tragedies

Kyra O’Connor
Executive Director | @ko_reports

A community death. A hurricane. A school shooting. A pandemic. As campus communities grapple with the aftermath of tragedies, students, staff and faculty alike work to find ways to process grief and support one another along the way.

Reaching out

Director of Student Care and Outreach at Elon University Paul Tonsgri at Elon University said individual support is the office’s “bread and butter.” Tonsgri considers offering individual support to be one of the roles his office can play after a tragedy, such as a community death, a traumatic event or even a natural disaster that impacts the Elon community.

Several variables impact how the office chooses to support individual students. In the case of a death in the community, it can be based on how connected the person was across campus, the needs of the person’s next of kin, or even their year or position at the university.

“It’s never as straightforward as simply applying a standard plan,” Tonsgri said. “But we do try to maintain some semblance of organization and structure that seems familiar and relevant, and then we just try to apply that to the different situations that can come up.”

Dr. Tammy McCoy-Arballo, Psy.D., a licensed clinical psychologist who works with first responders, said there is not one way to experience or support someone through grief because every individual is different.

The varied reactions of students can be attributed to many factors, such as background, previous life experiences, culture and genetics. Depending on whether or not a student is directly experiencing the trauma or experiencing vicarious trauma also impacts the reaction each individual

will have. When addressing a community, there is no “right” way to support those impacted, McCoy-Arballo said.

One of the first challenges Student Care and Outreach faces when trying to support students is identifying those who need the most support or who may want support.

“If I were to ask you, who are you most closely associated with, some of that would be really obvious,” Tonsgri said. “But beyond those obvious circles is not as obvious. Who your friends are from first year that you maintained is not going to be as obvious. We could look at your social media and try to figure something out, but that’s a limited capacity.”

An hour after his best friend committed suicide, Elon University junior Paris Taliadouros remembers being reached out to by a member of the university. While the person offered resources, like counseling and connecting with the Student Care and Outreach office, Taliadouros said he didn’t want to accept any help.

“There’s just so much anger inside of me of how this can happen?” Taliadouros said. “I just didn’t really want to acknowledge that he was actually gone. I didn’t want to acknowledge the feeling, I didn’t want to have to go and have the official title of being a suicide survivor.”

Survivor’s guilt or feeling like a “survivor of suicide,” like Taliadouros did, is not an uncommon reaction. A year later, Elon University senior Catherine Stallsmith experienced a range of impacts when dealing with her own experience with grief, from survivor’s guilt to shock. While she was reached out to by Student Care and Outreach after the event took place, she knew others who were not — who felt like no one was there for them.

“I was offered many things by Elon, including counseling, which is all well and good until you realize you have to wait [two] weeks to get an appointment because counseling services is so overwhelmed,” Stallsmith said.

For Tonsgri, his worst case scenario is when a tragic situation emerges on campus and he is able to identify one group of students who need support, but he misses another.

“As a result, we’re not able to give them

the individual attention that they might feel would be warranted in the circumstances,” Tonsgri said. “Anyone who is doing this outreach is trying to do the best they can, and work really hard to try to connect to as many people as possible while not, for lack of a better word, shortchanging an individual’s experience.”

Student Care and Outreach also relies on community partners, especially since there are only three employees in the office. A community partner can be a staff or faculty member a student knows, such as a residence community director or professor.

“I don’t think that there’s a long time to reach out to an individual, but I do think that from a student’s perspective, it can feel as though there’s a little bit of a time lag,” Tonsgri said. “But it’s not for lack of trying or lack of desire to want to provide a level of support.”

Balancing a personal response and an “institutional” response from someone like a university administrator is difficult, as well, because not all students want the same type or level of support, Tonsgri said.

“I definitely can see some combination of both is probably most appropriate,” Tonsgri said. “You probably have some level of acknowledgment and support from the institutional standpoint, and then you have communities that are hopefully coming together to fill the gaps and provide that more sort of intimate relationship aspect.”

Connecting students to resources

Tonsgri said one of his roles is to connect students with resources that can best support them, from counseling services to coping strategies they can employ as they experience grief.

“In these circumstances, we’re often connecting with students, acknowledging some of the impacts that they might be experiencing,” Tonsgri said. “We’re trying to normalize or validate their response to that grief, letting them know that there’s a lot of different ways to experience grief, and that there’s no normal way to experience grief.”

Tonsgri said he often reminds students to practice healthy habits overall, such as practicing healthy sleeping and eating habits, and spending time with a support

system.

“As weird as it may seem, oftentimes there’s a lot of value of just being together as a community in these situations,” Tonsgri said. “That in and of itself is a resource that people don’t really think about.”

Taliadouros did end up working with the university counseling services, and he even reached out to others in the Elon community to offer his support from the perspective of someone who has gone through loss. He said the persistence the university showed in supporting him was something he greatly appreciated.

“You can’t just say, ‘Hey, I’m here to help,’ and then never do anything again — you have to routinely check on them,” Taliadouros said. “It’s so important to let people know you are there for them.”

Experiencing grief on campus

For college students, grief can feel all consuming, especially for those who have not experienced a traumatic or tragic event, McCoy-Arballo said.

“When you’re as young as you guys are, it’s hard to know that because you maybe haven’t experienced that,” McCoy-Arballo said. “That’s where you need to lean on the people that you love.”

Rev. Kirstin Boswell said she notices that students often want to continue living life “as usual:” going to all of their classes, rehearsals and club meetings, rather than sitting with the uncomfortable emotions associated with grief, like anger, sadness and confusion.

“It feels alien to us, it’s something that we want to do, we want to try to rush through it, get past it, not feel the emotions,” Boswell said. “As I’ve done this work longer and longer ... I’ve begun to realize that it’s really not best to just try to rush through grief or to not feel it.”

Boswell describes grief like the ocean waves: the feelings come in and recede. But she finds that students often fear they will get swept away in the tide.

“There’s this fear that perhaps we will lose ourselves to the grief, or that it will become so much that we can’t imagine what’s on the other side of that,” Boswell said. “I think sometimes we have to just get to the other side of that.”



Students part of the SexEu program at Elon plan for their next class lecture. The organization is on a mission to spread comprehensive sex education around campus.

DELANEY DANIELS | PHOTO EDITOR

SEXEU BEGINS AT ELON UNIVERSITY

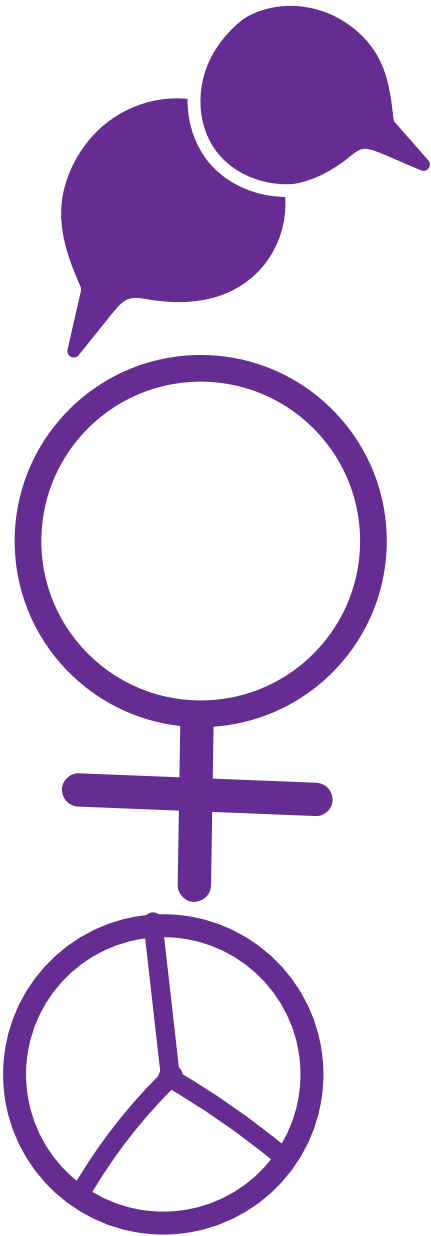
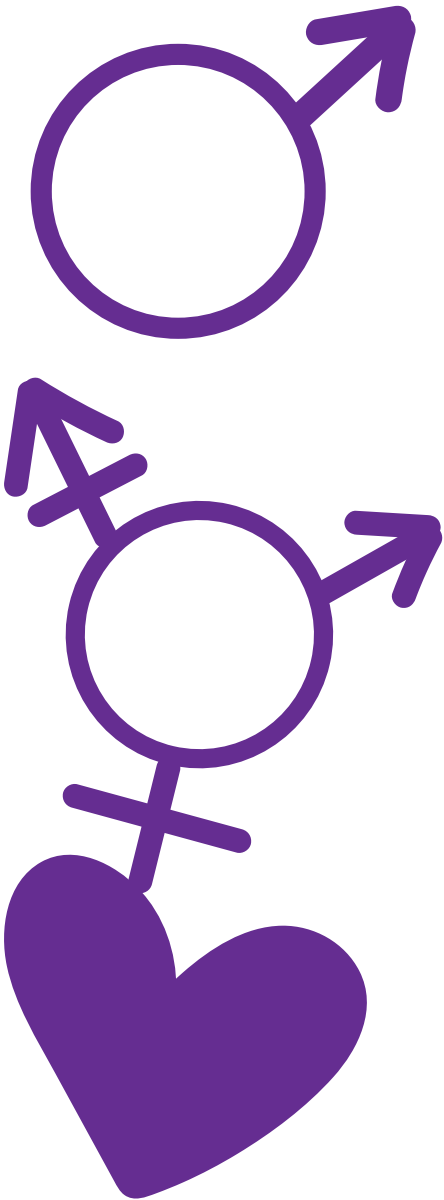
The new organization aims to create comprehensive sex education accessible for Elon, greater community

Avery Sloan
Elon News Network | @averylsloan

Anna Vassallo’s only previous experience with sex education consisted of her high school gym teacher teaching abstinence and showing a few pictures. Her lackluster experience in high school led her to do her own research and motivated her to help others have a more comprehensive sex education. To achieve this, the Elon University sophomore joined SexEU as a peer educator. “My hope is that through educating people here, they won’t have the same experience I did, and they won’t have to research or not know about sex before having it,” Vassallo said. SexEU is a new organization at Elon with the goal of creating comprehensive sex education with a focus on marginalized identities, specifically including Black, Latinx and LGBTQIA+ individuals. The organization is made up of six peer educators, including sophomore Lindsey Mathew, who create workshops focusing on topics like consent, contraception and protection, maintaining healthy relationships and pleasure. Mathew was inspired to be a part of this organization after her own negative experience in high school, similar to Vassallo. “I was taught pretty terrible things about my body. A lot of us were taught shame and guilt,” Mathew said. Mathew went on to say how

her high school didn’t cover topics such as contraception, pleasure, desire or partner violence and the combination of this exclusion of information and the shame she was taught to feel regarding the things she was taught, led to her involvement in this organization. Vassallo said the goals of the organization include reducing STI rates in both Elon and the greater Alamance county community through educating people about different forms of birth control. According to Vassallo, with the goal of reducing STI rates by at least 2%, SexEU’s main priority is to educate students about a crucial topic that many high schools students were inadequately prepared for. Mathew said one aspect she also felt was missing from the sex education conversation was any mention of the LGBTQIA+ community. In her experience the LGBTQIA+ community was not covered and she knows in some instances this was something that wasn’t even allowed to be talked about. Mathew explained how this can have a detrimental effect and how this lack of acknowledgement of the LGBTQIA+ community can lead to one feeling shame and repression, and in the long run, an increase of partner violence. “We hope to kind of bridge the gap by teaching about things like trans bodies, and also sex that isn’t just heteronormative sex,” Mathew said. The organization also works to educate students through their

instagram about topics such as why people experience menstrual cramps, the history of dildos and first uses of vibrators. The program coordinator for SexEU, Jessica Neupane, a graduate student at UNC who oversees the peer educators, explained how SexEU’s instagram account serves 2 main purposes. Their social media was created with the intention of informing people about the work SexEU is beginning to do and as another avenue to inform people about sex education. Neupane shared how this can take the form of informing people on current issues relevant to sex education and also things like LGBTQIA+ history. “We also have this series called Fact Friday where we like to just share like an interesting fact about sexual reproductive health or about LGBTQIA+ history...so our Instagram is like an extension of the pure education that we do,” Neupane said. As SexEU is an organization that began this semester, Neupane explained how they are currently focusing on presenting to different classes and Living Learning Communities and are working to do more events with other organizations, such as the Trivia Event they most recently hosted in partnership with Late Night. A way to get involved with SexEU is to follow their instagram account, @elon_sexeu or stop by at the GLC where SexEU is housed to see the work they are beginning to do.



CONNECTING THROUGH MELODIES

Jesse Fox, lead vocalist of Love & Valor, unites with audiences through writing meaningful songs

Graysen Shirley
Politics Editor | @GraysenShirley

Jesse Fox, lead vocalist of Love & Valor, grew up listening to the tunes of James Taylor, Jim Croce and Billy Joel in his parents’ home. These melodies, and seeing his father play guitar, are what inspired Fox to pursue his own music career.

Music has become more than just a job for Fox — it is an outlet to get away from doubts and fears.

“It’s a huge escape because it’s creating something out of nothing,” Fox said. “Creating a story and then playing live is the ultimate way for me to turn my brain off and stress or whatever may be going on and be in the moment.”

When Fox and his childhood friend started Love & Valor, a Burlington-based Americana and folk band, in 2012, they hoped to integrate storytelling into their music. He said folk music incorporates a creative outlet that he and his bandmates can share with others and offer refuge from negativity.

“I think it’s really important to have people that provide outlets that you can dig into and forget, at least momentarily forget the things that hurt and that are ugly and that are going on in the world,” Fox said.

Though Fox felt nervous performing during the band’s first year, his passion for the band’s music keeps him going. When he plays in front of audiences, Fox said he instantly feels connected to them.

“No matter if it’s for nobody or people that I know don’t like our music or for a big crowd... I know I like doing it,” Fox said.

Love & Valor is preparing for the release of their fourth album, Old Oak. Though the album follows no cohesive story, Fox said it is a representation of the band’s current style of acoustic instrumental songs.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Love & Valor performed almost every weekend throughout the state. Though performances were on pause, the band was still able to



GRAYSEN SHIRLEY | POLITICS EDITOR

Jesse Fox, lead vocalist of Love & Valor, plays his guitar. The band is a Burlington-based Americana and folk band that hopes to integrate storytelling into their music as they perform in local areas.

“
EVERY TIME I GET TO
PLAY, IT’S MY FAVORITE
THING TO DO. IT’S JUST
THE BEST FEELING EVER.

JESSE FOX
LEAD VOCALIST OF LOVE & VALOR

come together this past spring in outdoor settings to play, performing with Elon Tiny Dorm.

More recently the band played at Wiseman Brewing, a craft brewery and taproom located in Winston-Salem, on Oct. 2. Andrew Johnson, a bartender at Wiseman Brewing, said the band made the audience move their feet and body to the music.

“People were dancing, just kind of happy to be out and about. Everybody seemed to be in a good mood and I think Love & Valor helped that out and helped to facilitate that good vibe,” Johnson said.

Love & Valor also performed at Oak House, a coffee shop located in downtown Elon, in September. Fox said getting to perform at Oak House is a special moment for the band because they have cultivated a fanbase with students at Elon University over the years.

“It’s always been a really special time and it’s really fun,” Fox said. “Last year we weren’t

able to do that and I wasn’t sure what it was going to be like this time, but it was so much fun. These are some of my favorite shows.”

Performing in front of audiences — whether it be friends, family or community members — is something that allows Fox to unite with others and create a positive atmosphere.

“Every time I get to play, it’s my favorite thing to do,” Fox said. “It’s just the best feeling ever. At shows, I want to give that same feeling and good time to the people that show up and listen.”

IF YOU GO
Love & Valor Performance
Where: The Honeysuckle Tea House
8871 Pickards Meadow Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27516
When: Saturday, Oct. 9

Classics club strives to understand diversity in classics

The classics club attempts is to engage students with the classics

Clara Watkins
Elon News Network

Often when people think of the classics, they think of Greco-Roman society and the elitism of reading, writing, language and art. Elon’s classics club, however, is trying to change this.

Bringing inclusivity and having everyone love the classics, are the main goals of the president of the club, sophomore Ava Crawford. She hopes that everyone can find a way to love and enjoy the classics as much as she does.

“What we are really trying to do with the classical studies club is to demystify classics,” Crawford said.

The club is trying to create a diverse and safe environment for everyone to find an aspect of the classics to love. Conversations of race and ethnicity have also been incorporated to discuss the misrepresentation of diversity.

“One of the things we’re really passionate about our program is disavowing people of that notion and bringing the diversity and excitement of that ancient world to light for people,” faculty adviser Kristina Meinking said.

Meinking has taught at Elon University for 11 years, and said she feels excited about the exposure the classics can gain from the club making it more accessible.

Alongside Meinking, assistant professor of world languages and cultures Ted Wimperis

oversees the organization and said there are many angles to consider when it comes to analyzing the classics.

“You’re looking at the languages of these civilizations, you’re looking at the literature, you’re looking at the art, the religion, the politics, the law,” Wimperis said. “All these different kinds of aspects go into it so any way you’re really looking at the story of entire groups of people, and the story of how those civilizations developed over centuries.”

“
WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO
DO WITH THE CLASSICAL
STUDIES CLUB IS TO
DEMYSTIFY CLASSICS.

AVA CRAWFORD
PRESIDENT OF THE CLASSICS CLUB

The club plans to unveil events that make the classics seem more accessible and less daunting, such as having a panel that will discuss race and ethnicity in this conversation about the ancient world and modern day.

“I think it can be intimidating when you see this ancient history, ancient languages, ancient heroes. It all seems very highbrow,” Crawford said. “What I wanted to do with the Classical studies club is I wanted to make it accessible and open and get people involved in discussions and find a way to love it.”



COURTESY OF CLASSICS CLUB

Elon University’s classics club is trying to bring inclusivity into their learning about the classics.

YOGA CLUB BRINGS RELAXATION TO CAMPUS



Members of Elon Yoga Club decompress on their mats on Oct. 4 during their weekly Monday meeting in the Numen Lumen Sacred Space.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Two Elon students hope their organization can serve as a space for peace at the university

Julia Diemand
Elon News Network | @juliadiemand

College life can be busy, and with other commitments, senior Katie Grinnell said, life sometimes feels like a balancing act. Grinnell, alongside junior Channing Lamparski, serve as co-presidents of the Elon Yoga Club, where they hope to create a sense of peace for the busy college life.

“

IT IS A REALLY GREAT HABIT TO BE IN WHETHER YOU DO IT FOR THE PHYSICAL WELLBEING OF STRETCHING, EXERCISING OR WHETHER YOU REALLY ARE INTO IT FOR THE MORE MENTAL WELLNESS.

KATIE GRINNELL
CO-PRESIDENT OF ELON YOGA CLUB

“I got involved because I loved doing yoga my senior year of high school and I wanted to continue it,” Grinnell said. “The club is low commitment. It was something I could very easily fit into my schedule. I enjoy having it part of my week.”
The yoga club meets in the Numen Lumen Sacred Space every Monday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mats and blocks are provided and a teacher is present — either

from the community or a student who is a certified yoga instructor. A flow of yoga is then led for the hour.
According to Grinnell, yoga is a great way to start your week and clear your mind. The Elon Yoga Club provides a sense of comfort and community. Anyone is welcome to join or even just stop by to give it a try, Grinnell said.
“It is a really great habit to be in whether you do it for the physical wellbeing of stretching, exercising or whether you really are into it for the more mental wellness,” Grinnell said.
Planning and organizing are done behind the scenes by the executive committee. Grinnell and Lamparski said they both decided to take leadership roles and help out with the club, while simultaneously fulfilling their love for yoga.
For Grinnell, the Yoga Club is a “sense of home” and allows her to relax and clear her mind.
Both Grinnell and Lamparski said they hope the Elon Yoga Club serves as a space for students to unwind, gain peace and start their week on a healthy note.
To learn more and get involved visit the Elon Yoga Club page on PhoenixCONNECT or @elon_yoga_club on Instagram.

SCAN TO JOIN YOGA CLUB
OR VISIT
[ELON.CAMPUSLABS.COM/ENGAGE/
ORGANIZATION/ELONYOGACLUB](https://ELON.CAMPUSLABS.COM/ENGAGE/ORGANIZATION/ELONYOGACLUB)



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



Elon students partake in a group yoga exercise during Elon Yoga Club's weekly meeting on Oct. 4.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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

NC Jelly Donuts serves Pumpkin spice and everything nice



Eddie Keefe
Freshman

IF YOU GO
NC Jelly Donuts
Where: 3260 S Church
St. Burlington, NC
27215
When:
Monday - Saturday:
6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

I thought it would only be right to start off the new season with some fall-flavored doughnut at NC Jelly Donuts. A staple among Elon's community, NC Jelly Donuts is known for its delicious, fluffy doughnuts. This week, I visited its location only 10 minutes away from campus where the staff is very patient and accommodating.

Surprisingly, it is one of the only doughnut shops near Elon with seasonal flavors right now, so I had to try it out.

Its variety of doughnut flavors ranges from glazed to cinnamon bun and everything in between. Unfortunately, the only fall flavors in stock when I was there were apple bear claw and pumpkin spice cake, so I ordered both of those, along with the red velvet and vanilla with M&M topping. I got four doughnuts in total and they cost just \$5 altogether.

First, I tried the apple bear claw doughnut and it was 10 times better than I was expecting. I have found that apple flavored doughnuts tend to be sugary and processed, but NC Jelly's was fresh and delicious. The middle had pieces of apple oozing out of it and the doughnut had a light coat of glaze all over it.

Next, I ordered the pumpkin

spice cake, and it was one of the most moist doughnuts I've ever had. It was rich like a cake and the pumpkin flavor was present in every bite and it was topped with glaze.

I also had the red velvet doughnut, which tasted exactly like a red velvet cake. It was addicting and was also covered in glaze.

Lastly, I ordered the vanilla doughnut with M&M topping. This was my favorite one — I ate the whole thing. The M&Ms provided a delicious crunch to the fluffy doughnut.

All in all, I rate NC Jelly Donuts a 10/10 for its amazing service, affordable prices and perfect fall doughnuts. I would order the same doughnuts again next time and even more knowing it's worth every cent!

If you have any questions or a review idea, please reach out to me at ekeefe5@elon.edu.

EDDIE'S SCORE
10 of 10

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



An assortment of doughnuts from NC Jelly Donuts in Burlington.

EDDIE KEEFE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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SPORTS



Sophomore Pedro Rabadan swings his golf club during practice. Rabadan moved from Madrid, Spain to the United States to experience life as a Division I student athlete on the Elon Men's Golf team.

ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PEDRO RABADAN PREPARES FOR HIS FIRST YEAR OF NORMALCY

The Madrid native develops his golf game despite last year's adversity

Caitlin Rundle
Elon News Network | @caitlinr_21

As the only international student on Elon University's men's golf team last year, sophomore Pedro Rabadan moved almost 4,000 miles across the world, having to adjust to both American culture as well as life during the COVID-19 pandemic. Without a fall season to help him adjust, Rabadan, like the rest of athletics, was left at a standstill, unsure if there would be a golf season at all.

Rabadan said that he had been to the United States a few times, but going to college was his first trip away from home for a long period of time.

Rabadan came to Elon with a successful junior career backing him. Ranked the number two player in Madrid and seventh under-18 player in all of Spain, he caught the attention of men's golf head coach Don Hill through social media.

"The Internet is a pretty amazing thing," Hill said. "There are so many different junior golf organizations that run high level tournaments. You're starting to see more and more international players come over and play events in the summer in the states, it might be for a month where they get three events in four weeks or something like that."

When deciding to play at Elon, Rabadan said he knew what to expect as the only international player on the team for his freshman season. He said that the biggest adjustment he had to make was with his classwork.

"Obviously I would watch movies and all that in English, but getting used to reading in English was a little different because I felt like I had to

focus a little more."

This year, Rabadan is one of two international students with the addition of freshman Juan Callejo Roper, also from Madrid. Rabadan was the first international student on the men's golf team since it's 2016-17 season, when William Knibbs from Jamaica played his senior season. Hill said that adding more international students to the team is something that's been in the back of his mind.

"I would like for our program to match the footprint of the university, with North Carolina kids, South Carolina kids, Virginia, kids from Connecticut, Boston or Spain," Hill said. "We don't really care where they're from, and if we manage the footprint great, if not, that's fine too. But, that's been our plan for some time now."

The team's spring season proved to be a successful rookie outing for Rabadan. He ranked third of the nine on the team, averaging a score of 75.27. In the Colonial Athletic Association tournament, he tied for 17th with fellow Phoenix redshirt senior William Frodigh, with six over 222.

Hill said that Rabadan has been steadily improving since stepping foot on Elon's campus, and that he hopes for the growth to continue.

"You want him to have self belief, self confidence, that can buoy you in many ways, it's just believing in what you do and how hard you're working," Hill said. "His work ethic is really second to none. He really cares a lot about his craft, he works hard on the mechanical parts of his golf swing, putting stroke, short game, all of those things."

Rabadan said that although he is used to being one of the only international students on the team, it can become the center of attention when it comes to friendly teammate rivalries.

"We're like family, we like to be together just, hang out like watch TV," Rabadan said. "Last week, we had the Ryder Cup, which everyone here is from America and I'm from Europe, so Europe lost so they were just getting all over me but it's fine. It's fun, it's fun to hang out with them."

Rabadan said that there are still some things he has to get used to, but that he is excited for the year to come.

"The time it is here and the time it is at home, right now I get done with playing and I can't call my parents because they're asleep. But at home, I would be able to do that," Rabadan said. "Right now I'm just excited to play golf. I'm happy we can be here, we have a great team, and I'm happy for that."

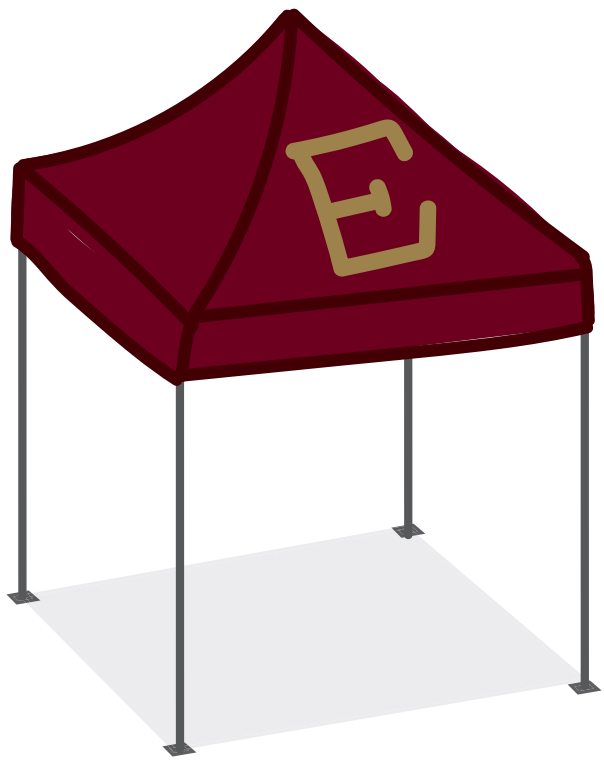
Rabadan will be back on the golf course at Elon's home opener, the Phoenix Invitational, at Alamance Country Club in Burlington. The tournament will take place over two days, Oct. 11 and 12.

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Tailgating returns for Elon football



Elon alumni restore tailgating traditions after a year of pandemic

Joanna Dwyer
Elon News Network

After a long wait, tailgating is finally back at Elon University — but with a little twist. Since the COVID-19 pandemic sidelined some traditions, last year students were unable to attend games and tailgates as usual, but many are excited to be back at Rhodes' Stadium this fall. The revival of good food and a lively environment tends to attract a wide audience, including students, staff and alumni.

One group of viewers has been tailgating together for 10 years. Alumni Brian Martindale '95 and Burlington resident Mike Cross bring their crew to the tailgate lots at the crack of dawn.

"Our group is always there by 7 a.m. no matter what the game time is," Cross said. "We got satellite TV, watching European soccer in the morning, the college game day, ESPN, before the game."

A key symbol for the group is the Elon flag that they proudly display for every game.

"We gotta make sure that flag is up by 7 a.m.," Martindale said. "That's our ritual."

Cross said they change the food at their tailgates depending on the opponent.

"We try to cook something that reflects the theme of the opponent's mascot or where they're from," Cross said.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Elon Athletics did not offer tailgating for the spring football season, meaning the group has not been able to tailgate since 2019. After putting their festivities on hold for so long, Cross and Martindale said the group is happy to be back at the tailgates.

"We enjoy it," Martindale said. "Good fun to hang out with friends. It's very nice to be around and see people again in a social setting. I'm excited for the friendship and camaraderie."

The atmosphere of the tailgating scene is what keeps drawing the group back after 10 years.

"What we like to do is look all around the parking lots near the stadium and see a lot of groups doing the same thing that we are," Cross said. "That's really why we do it."

A favorite event among the group is homecoming. The group even has their own specific tradition for the big game.

"We cook a pig every homecoming," Martindale said. "We actually start it the night before. It's great. We all get together and have a little mini-event ... you get to see folks you haven't seen in a while."

The tailgating crew brings a love for Elon Athletics and years of traditions to games.

"We're a group of guys that have a passion for Elon athletics," Martindale said.