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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM



Maria Ramirez Uribe
Elon News Network | @mariaramirezu

SENIOR SOPHIA GIUFFRE WENT to Circle K to purchase a case of White Claws and a water bottle when an employee behind the counter began peeling the edges of her license. The employee thought the ID was fake.

“Once you turn 21, you want to show people your ID. It’s real. I’m not doing anything illegal,” Giuffre said. “It was just so frustrating because it’s not like there was anything I could do about it. ... She ruined my ID.”

The recently turned 21-year-old, Giuffre said she renewed her ID in August after returning from Elon University’s Study USA program in Los Angeles. That was approximately a month before the Circle K incident on Sept. 20.

According to Erin Bean, a special agent with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety’s Alcohol Law Enforcement, “There is not a specific general statute against defacing an ID.”

Alcoholic Beverage Control laws state that employees of a licensed establishment are not liable for holding a patron’s ID for a “reasonable length of time” if they believe it is fake. The only employee requirement is to inform the customer of the reason for their actions.

“We encourage employees to physically hold the ID in their hand, compare the photo to the person presenting it and check the ID for irregularities,” Bean said. “If the employee suspects the ID is fraudulent or altered, we recommend they simply deny sale or ask the person to leave.”

See **Identification** | pg. 7

peeling back IDENTIFICATION

Laws preventing defacing valid identification during alcohol sales remain unclear, leading to damages and confiscations

Dangerous ‘Tail of the Dragon’ road attracts thrill-seekers

The 11-mile stretch of road with 318 corners provides the ideal challenge for motorcyclists

Oliver Fischer
Elon News Network | @fischerwithc

DEALS GAP — Deep in the Appalachian Mountains dwells a beast known as Tail of the Dragon. It might be named after a mythical creature, but the 318 curves packed into this 11-mile stretch of mountain road present an all too real challenge.

Officially designated U.S. 129, the popular tourist attraction, located on the border of North Carolina and Tennessee, saw 1,080 vehicles per day in 2018, according to the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Darryl Cannon, a former motorcyclist, used to be in one of them.

“This road will mess you up if you

don’t respect it,” he said. “I get why people do it. I don’t knock anybody for doing it, but I’m just of an age now where I’ve gotten it out of my system, and I’m OK with not doing it anymore.”

Cannon, who now runs a photography business, killboy.com, first rode the Dragon after hearing about it online and convincing some of his biker friends to do a road trip there.

They had already ridden Blue Ridge Parkway and similar twisty mountain roads, but he said the Dragon was the highlight of their trip, despite being ill-prepared in hindsight.

“It was almost entertaining just to watch my line through the turns, back then versus now,” Cannon said. “Back then I would put in multiple inputs during one turn on the motorcycle. After a few years of riding, I could see a big difference.”



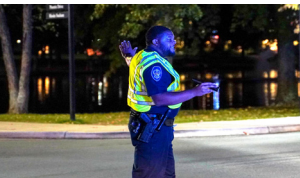
OLIVER FISCHER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A biker speeds through one of the 318 corners on the dangerous 11-mile Tail of the Dragon road.

See **DRAGON** | pg. 10



NEWS • PAGE 12
Elon’s first historian leaves a legacy of more than just history



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 15
Town of Elon Police Department promotes first black sergeants



SPORTS • PAGE 19
An Elon football family that rarely misses a game

THE PENDULUM

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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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WHEN WE PUBLISH:

The Pendulum
publishes weekly on Wednesdays
Elon Local News
broadcasts Mondays at 6 p.m.
ELN Morning
broadcasts Thursdays at 10 a.m.
ELN Online Exclusive
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CORRECTIONS

NEWS

Rayne Stevenson, who was pictured at the annual Pumpkin Festival in the Top

Photos, was associated with the wrong pronoun. Stevenson uses he/him/his pronouns. Elon News Network regrets the mistake.

COMIC

AGNOSTIC



COMIC SAMS - SAM POROZOK

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 Tail of the _____ is an 11-mile stretch of highway that has been the site of nearly 470 crashes between 2014 and 2019. *See Page 10 & 11 for answer.*
2. Gregg Liggs Jr. is a _____ back for Elon University's football team. *See Page 18 for answer.*
3. _____ Weekend saw more than 2,500 alumni return to Elon University's campus. *See Page 16 for answer.*
4. The _____ for the next mayor of Burlington and town of Elon Board of Alderman ended on Tuesday, Nov. 5. *See Page 3 for answer.*
5. The student _____ population has seen a steady growth. *See Page 8 for answer.*

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

CALENDAR: NOV. 6 TO 12

FOOD TRUCKS 10 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M. HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD BASKETBALL COURT 06	PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE CONCERT 7:30 P.M. TO 9:30 P.M. CENTER FOR THE ARTS YEAGER RECITAL HALL 06	GLOBAL FILM SERIES 7 P.M. TO 9 P.M. GLOBAL COMMON'S MEDIA ROOM 07	TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT 3 P.M. TO 5 P.M. MOSELEY CENTER 08	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS WESTERN CAROLINA 7:30 P.M. TO 10:30 P.M. 09
WINTER DAY HIKE 9 A.M. TO 6 P.M. WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA 09	JURASSIC PARK 4 P.M. TO 6 P.M. TURNER THEATRE 10	VETERAN'S DAY REMEMBRANCE 10:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M. KOURY BUSINESS CENTER 101 11	SOCIAL IMPACT CAREER FAIR 3:30 P.M. TO 5:30 P.M. MCKINNON HALL 12	CHORALE FALL CONCERT 7:30 P.M. TO 9 P.M. CENTER FOR THE ARTS 12

THE RESULTS ARE IN

For the winners of the Burlington Mayoral and Board of Aldermen elections, visit:

ElonNewsNetwork.com

Ballots have been cast for the town of Burlington Board of Aldermen candidates and Burlington's mayor. The three Aldermen will serve four-year terms on the board. The Burlington mayor will serve a two-year term in office. The top issues in the Aldermen race were town-university relations, expanding businesses and fiscal health. In the mayoral race, the top issues were crime, transportation and religion.



SCAN FOR THE
MAYORAL CANDIDATES
STORY



SCAN FOR THE
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
STORY

V O T E F O R

BEST OF

2020



SCAN TO TAKE
THE SURVEY

★ ACADEMICS ★ FOOD & DRINK ★ CAMPUS ★ AND MORE ★



A scruffy alpaca peers through the gate of its pen at the Minro Acres Alpaca Farm in Burlington, an 11-minute drive from Elon University's campus.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Paloma Dettloff starts off the 2019 Battle of the Bands during the week leading up to Homecoming Weekend on Wednesday, Oct. 30.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman forward Hunter Woods fakes out Indiana University of Pennsylvania guard Shawndale Jones during an exhibition game in Schar Center on Wednesday, Oct 30. The Elon Phoenix won 79-71 in overtime.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cameron Shirley, a graduate apprentice for the President's Office, attempts to block senior Paula Materin from passing the ball during the Faculty/Staff vs. Student Basketball Game in Alumni Gym on Tuesday, Oct. 29.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

President Connie Book, alongside the LaRose family, cuts a ribbon during the dedication of the LaRose Student Commons during Homecoming Weekend on Saturday, Nov. 2.



The band Night Years plays at the Homecoming Weekend event Rock the Block on Friday, Nov. 1.

IAN MYERS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Miss North Carolina Alexandra Badgett speaks with Janelle Ellis-Holloway, assistant director of academic advising, during her visit to Elon University on Tuesday, Oct. 29.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Elon University junior setter Kodi Garcia serves the ball to the University of North Carolina Wilmington in Schar Center during Homecoming Weekend on Friday, Nov. 1. The Elon Phoenix lost to the UNCW Seahawks 1-3.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Jeremy Owens, a three-year bartender at Paulie's Pub and Grill, fills a glass with tap beer during the owner's wedding celebration on Thursday, Oct. 31.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Senior lecturer in computer science Michele Kleckner speaks to sophomore Ethan Porter during College Coffee on Phi Beta Kappa Commons on Tuesday, Oct. 29.

IAN MYERS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

First-generation college students presented with new programs



First-generation students and seniors Eliza Quigley (left) and Sofia Montalbo (right) do homework in The Center for Access and Success on Monday, Nov. 4.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Center for Access and Success promotes new first-generation support services

Lily Blake
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

This year, for the first time, The Center for Access and Success at Elon University is adding support services for any first-generation college student who is not affiliated with other programs such as the Odyssey Program. The Center is an office on campus to help higher education become accessible and navigable for students of all backgrounds.

The Center serves not only the students enrolled at Elon, but also the people in the surrounding community through initiatives such as The Village Project, Elon Academy and the Odyssey Program.

Oscar Miranda '17, assistant director for student access and support, was brought onto the access and support team this August to help kick-start the new first-generation support initiative.

"I'm here to execute the vision for this, but I think also, having been an alum, I got the chance to go through it and actually understand what it's like to be a first-gen student," Miranda said. "This new initiative... [is] really an opportunity for us to create what that brand looks like."

One of the opportunities the office has made available are dinner receptions for first-generation students.

"It will be an opportunity for first-gens to meet one another and hear from senior staff members, several of whom are themselves first-generation. These senior staff members will share their first-generation college stories," said Jean Rattigan-Rohr, vice president for The Center for Access and Success.

According to Miranda, First Generation Support Services aim to celebrate first-generation students and all that comes with their identity.

"The first-gen identity is invisible, so we are really hoping this gives students the chance to connect over that identity and see that the first-generation identities span far and wide," Miranda said.

Miranda and other staff members at The Center are still brainstorming the structure of the program. Miranda said they have discussed ideas such as a first-generation graduation or pinning ceremony, financial literacy programs, forming first-gen allied groups and establishing alumni groups.

"Down the road, I hope to have some Elon 101 classes that are just first-gens," Miranda

BY THE NUMBERS

300

students are currently involved with the Village Project. Since starting the project in 2007, the project has had more than 1,400 total students.

325

students have been involved in the Elon Academy since its start in 2007.

182

scholarships were given out through the Odyssey Program in 2019. This is up from the eight scholars the program had when it started in 2000.

said. "This new initiative is really targeted with a purpose to help support the first-gen community and empower them and, at the same time, help create a culture where the first-generation identity is celebrated."

The Center for Access and Success also helps first-generation students succeed in college through the Odyssey Program and Elon Academy. Elon Academy is a college access program for low-income students that provides tools and information about college applications, financial aid and the transition into college.

When Superior Court Judge Howard Manning threatened to shut down a local high school in Alamance County for under performing in 2006, Elon reevaluated its place in its community, according to Rattigan-Rohr.

"How could Elon, a thriving institution with tremendous resources, reconcile its place in a community where only seven miles away a high school struggled to survive?" Rattigan-Rohr asked. "What could Elon, as an institution and as a society of individuals, do to address such a serious inequity?"

The Elon Academy is specifically for high schoolers in Alamance County with financial need or no family history of higher education to help them achieve a college education. Through summer programs and year-long Saturday programs, the Elon Academy helps advise students throughout each step of the college process.

"We want them to gain the academic strengths, interpersonal skills and sense of self-worth that will position them to succeed in college and beyond," Rattigan-Rohr said. "We believe that with the proper support, every student who aspires to go to college can accomplish that goal."

The Village Project helps preschoolers through 12th graders in the community surrounding Elon learn to read. Elon students and other volunteers tutor a child one-on-one every week at no cost to the family.

Since 2007, when the program began, over 1,400 students and their families have participated in the Village Project. In addition to reading, Elon also offers Music in the Village, Science in the Village and, new last year, Engineering in the Village.

The Odyssey Program is "a highly selective merit-based program consisting of talented

individuals who are academically strong, civically engaged, action-oriented leaders in their communities, who will benefit from an Elon education and demonstrate financial need," according to the program's website. It is a four-year scholarship that incoming first-years apply for when they send in their initial admissions application.

"Odyssey provides opportunities and resources that we otherwise wouldn't be able to have. Most of us are first-generation students, and it helps us navigate college because we don't really have people in our lives that can

help us navigate through college," sophomore and Odyssey scholar Shreeja Shah said.

Through retreats, monthly meetings and a shared space in The Center for Access and Success, Odyssey scholars not only better navigate all that college entails but become a close-knit group while doing so.

"This is like family, it's more than just being in a program with people," said India Good, freshman,

former Elon Academy student and Odyssey scholar.

Many Odyssey scholars said the program was one of the biggest factors in deciding what path to take out of high school.

"Having support is very important, and if I were to go to any other school, especially being a first-generation student, I would be lost. But I have this group of people that are my family that I can lean on for anything," Good said.

The different programs within The Center for Access and Success may not overlap, but regardless of which program a staff member is an affiliate with, they are there to help any student.

"We are part of the Odyssey Program, but I could go up to anyone in this office that wasn't even affiliated with Odyssey and they would help me out," Shah said.

According to The Center for Access and Success, the office has a place on Elon's campus to make Elon a community that more students can join with ease.

“

IF I WERE TO GO TO ANY OTHER SCHOOL, ESPECIALLY BEING A FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT, I WOULD BE LOST. BUT I HAVE THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE THAT ARE MY FAMILY THAT I CAN LEAN ON FOR ANYTHING.

INDIA GOOD
FRESHMAN ODYSSEY SCHOLAR

DEFACING A GOVERNMENT ID, MISTAKEN AS A FAKE



About a week's worth of confiscated fake IDs are fanned out by Tammi Jaskulski, the manager of Paulie's Pub and Grill, on Tuesday, Nov. 5. Identifying information was blurred by Elon News Network.

GRACE TERRY | DESIGN CHIEF

IDENTIFICATION | from cover

Any establishment licensed by the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission is allowed to “refuse sale of any alcoholic beverage as long as the refusal isn’t based on race, religion, color, national origin, sex or disability,” according to Bean.

Defacing and confiscating

Before this incident, Giuffre said she never had any issues purchasing alcohol with her ID. According to Giuffre, the employee at the counter didn’t ask for another form of identification to verify her age, although she had a federal ID — a passport card — with her.

After peeling back the driver’s license, the Circle K employee called the town of Elon Police Department. According to Bean, there is no specific protocol law enforcement take in the case of identification defacing.

Elon News Network contacted the Circle K in Elon and was told to “contact the corporate number.” Circle K’s Southeast Division did not respond to two phone calls, a voicemail message and an email regarding the incident.

According to Giuffre, Patrol Lt. Mike Brewer, who responded to the call, confirmed the ID’s authenticity, but said it did look fake.

“Unfortunately, that’s the Division of Motor Vehicles here in Kentucky. I have no ruling on that,” Ellie Giuffre, Sophia’s mom, said. “That’s not on me, that’s not on [Sophia]. I mean, that was a government-issued ID.”

After hearing about the incident from her daughter, Ellie called Circle K and began a back-and-forth with the regional office, which ended on Oct. 12.

Ellie said Circle K’s regional manager eventually apologized, and he agreed to cover Sophia’s travel expenses to Kentucky and the \$12 cost of duplicating her driver’s license.

“He also said he will address the protocol his clerks use when checking IDs,” Ellie said. “I really hope he makes good on that and provides the proper training.”

Senior Hana Previte had a similar experience at Paulie’s Pub and Grill. Previte, 21, said during the first week of school the edges of her license were also peeled off.

“I showed [the bouncer] my ID, and he looked at it and ... he started peeling it down more. And he said, ‘This is fake. I’m taking it,’” Previte said. “He didn’t have another person look at it and didn’t call the police or anything; he just took it.”

Previte said the bouncer returned her license after she showed him a blurry iPhone photo of her passport from a study abroad application. Ever since that night, Previte carries her passport card with her in order to purchase alcohol.

“It was just frustrating because it just kind of ruined my night,” Previte said.

Paulie’s manager Tammi Jaskulski said the bar’s follows ALE guidelines when trying to verify whether or not an ID is fake.

“We bend them front and back to see if the little plastic stuff comes up, and then we try to peel it with our fingernails, each corner, and then we have a scanner we run them under if we still think it’s fake after that,” Jaskulski said.

Identifying fakes

North Carolina law states that the consequences for an establishment selling alcohol to minors could include the suspension of the establishment’s license or a Class 1 misdemeanor for the individual who made the sale.

Jaskulski said all individuals who sell alcohol at an establishment have to go through ALE training sessions — a decision made by management after Jaskulski received a \$2,000 fine for selling alcohol to an underage customer. The case was dropped, but Jaskulski said the bar “will still get a ticket.”

Jaskulski said on a Tuesday night, Paulie’s confiscates between 20 and 25 fake IDs.

“If I was coming to you and I was underage and you got a ticket, how would you feel?” Jaskulski said.

The Fat Frogg, another bar in Elon, also receives its ID training from the North Carolina ALE. Owner Jason Thomas said



GRACE TERRY | DESIGN CHIEF

Tammi Jaskulski, the manager of Paulie's Pub and Grill, demonstrates the difference between a real and fake ID being scanned on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

“

ONCE YOU TURN 21, YOU WANT TO SHOW PEOPLE YOUR ID. IT’S REAL. I’M NOT DOING ANYTHING ILLEGAL. IT WAS JUST SO FRUSTRATING BECAUSE IT’S NOT LIKE THERE WAS ANYTHING I COULD DO ABOUT IT.

SOPHIA GIUFFRE
SENIOR

he and his staff try their best to do their “due diligence” in looking out for fake IDs.

Thomas said his establishment has accumulated a stack of more than 200 fake IDs. He said if he thinks customers are using a fake ID, he will hold it until they show another form of identification and will refuse to sell them alcohol or ask them to leave.

“Destruction of an ID, you’re not supposed to do that. We don’t do that,” Thomas said. “As a bar owner, you do what you can to protect yourself.”

According to a 2018 study by the Center for Alcohol Policy, underage drinking costs the U.S. almost \$57 billion annually — \$14.6 billion of that being lost work costs.

Thomas said he and his staff try to be proactive by carding people at the door and have noticed the consequences of being strict.

“We’ve lost business because they know they can go somewhere else and probably get in,” Thomas said. “It hurts, but this is our family business. I can’t serve underage kids if I can help it.”

Agnosticism among Elon students on the rise

Elon University’s self-reported agnostic population numbers are on the rise

Elliott Rivette
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

BY THE NUMBERS

283

students identify in the category of “Agnostic” according to the 2019 Fall Registrar’s Report.

Agnosticism is on the rise among Elon University students this year, mirroring religious tradition trends across the country.

An individual who is agnostic is broadly defined by Merriam-Webster as “one who is not committed to believing in either the existence or nonexistence of God or a god.” Agnostics can hold varying beliefs and backgrounds but are connected by the abstinence from organized religion.

Brian Pennington, a professor of religious studies, said this trend is common in the national 18 to 25 age category.

“One reason we may be seeing a rise in the numbers [at Elon] ... [is] that those numbers are also rising nationally,” Pennington said.

According to the national survey data from the Pew Research Center and the Public Religion Research Institute, since the mid-2000s, the agnostic population of the U.S. has increased from approximately 7% to around 15% of the population.

Elon’s Fall 2019 Registrar’s Report shows a higher percentage of the agnostic student population than any previous Registrar’s Report. The category of agnosticism was not present in any Registrar’s Report before 2013, but it has steadily increased to become one of the top five religious traditions among students.

The 283 students identifying as agnostic in 2019 make up 4.2% of the Elon student body. Despite not being as high as the national percentage, it is the fourth most popular religious category after Catholicism, Christianity and Judaism.

Eleanor Irion, a sophomore and student worker in the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual life, said while there are many agnostic students, they regularly show up for religious or spiritual events on campus. Irion is Episcopalian herself but said

she attends Catholic, Muslim and Jewish religious events at Elon.

She said she doesn’t think the data on student religious practices accurately reflects the behavior of the student population. Even if agnostics have trouble “wrapping their minds around” a higher power, Irion said, they still participate in community events.

Rabbi Sandra Lawson, the associate chaplain for Jewish life, thinks agnostics are more present than the data reflects.

“Believing in God is part of the Jewish tradition,” she said. “[It’s] not a requirement.”

Andrew Monteith, a professor of religious studies at Elon University, is well-informed on the history of agnosticism.

“Atheism and agnosticism are better respected than they used to be when you consider that a major theme during the Cold War was a ‘Judeo-Christian America’ set against Communist atheism,” Monteith said.

According to Monteith, if students responding to the Registrar’s Report survey were offered the option of “I don’t know,” many young people would find themselves lumped into one category.

“Since [agnostic] technically means ‘I don’t know,’ it’s a good descriptor for someone who maybe hasn’t figured out their religious inclinations yet,” Monteith said.

Hillel provides a home for Jewish students

Students credit Hillel as a major contributor to the rise in Elon’s Jewish population

Molly Sposato
Elon News Network | @mollysposato

BY THE NUMBERS

335

students identify in the category of “Jewish” according to the 2019 Fall Registrar’s Report.

The student body of Elon University has grown significantly in the past ten years, diversifying the religious landscape, specifically the Jewish population. Students credit the Hillel House for this increase.

According to the Elon 2019 Fall Registrar’s Report, released on Sept. 10, 5% of the current student body identifies in the category of “Jewish,” which is an 86% increase from 2009.

“The growth is a good thing,” junior Laurel Alin said. “However, as a Jewish person in our class, I don’t think we are that diverse as a whole, but I do think the university’s push for more diversity and growth of programs like Hillel is helping the rising population of students who identify as Jewish.”

Alin, who is originally from Boca Raton, Florida, said she grew up in a “very Jewish” area and found it hard to transition to Elon with such a small number of Jewish Students. She said it was Elon’s Hillel program that helped Alin find other students who identified as Jewish.

“While I don’t go quite as much anymore, when I went as a freshman Hillel really helped with finding familiar faces on campus and building an immediate community,” she said.

The Sklut Hillel Center at Elon is a student-run organization with the goal of empowering students to make Jewish connections and find a place in their community. It is open to all Jewish students, and according to student president Claire Brodsky, the organization has been working hard to grow alongside the student body.

“Hillel has been doing a great job engaging first-year students and prospective students,” said Brodsky. “I also think as a school, Elon has become more popular to Jewish students.”

Hillel is the largest Jewish campus organization in the world, and for many Jewish students, it is a priority when looking at colleges. This was the case for Elon senior Julia Dick, who has seen the Hillel program grow in her four years.

“Hillel has definitely become a bigger drawing factor for Jewish students looking at Elon,” Dick said. “The Hillel events are so much busier now than they were even when I was a freshman, and that’s been a really big change in a nice way.”

As a senior, she still credits Hillel as a crucial part of her Elon experience, and so does her family. In fact, it is because of this growth that Dick’s parents, Leonard and Lisa Dick, and grandparents, Richard and Marcia Schulman, recently endowed a scholarship to support Hillel’s student mentors and the growth of Hillel moving forward.

“Hillel is basically the reason I was able to survive freshman year,” Dick said. “I think the hope is that it continues to grow, and even more so, to give the great opportunity I had with Hillel to other students.”



ILLUSTRATION BY SAM POROZOK

Alternative Breaks aim to alleviate nationwide social issues



Students with the Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement spend their Spring Break volunteering.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KERNODLE CENTER FOR SERVICE LEARNING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Alternative Break program plans trips to DC, Atlanta, South Dakota, Appalachia and Costa Rica

Livi Lesch
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

In March of last year, junior Ashley Billie watched the landscape of the Pine Ridge Reservation reflect the blood orange hues of the South Dakota twilight sky. While watching what she said she considers to be the most beautiful sunset she has seen, Billie said she felt a newfound responsibility to help communities other than her own after her experience with Elon University's Alternative Breaks.

Billie realized her passion for service through Elon's Alternative Break program, which helps students immerse themselves in new communities through domestic and international service learning. Trips take place during spring and fall breaks and range in cost depending on the destination.

"It was a lot of physical labor, but it was totally worth it," Billie said. "It definitely sparked my passion for service learning and service trips because after that, I was like, 'When can I go on the next one? When can I lead one?'"

Billie said she gained new perspectives after leaving the East Coast for the first time to go on two Alternative Breaks, one to South Dakota and one to rural Appalachia.

"It was so interesting to see the juxtaposition of [leaving] Elon's bubble, and now we go to the reservation where there's no GPS, some houses don't have running water, some houses don't have plumbing," Billie said. "Culturally, they have so much to bring to the table, in that, historically, we have marginalized them, and they aren't able to sometimes express those voices."

Kyle Anderson, Elon alum and assistant director of student community engagement programs at the Kernodle Center, said his commitment to service dates back to his participation in the program and other volunteer opportunities during his time at Elon. Although



Student volunteers mix cement during their Spring Break with the Kernodle Center Alternative Breaks program.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KERNODLE CENTER FOR SERVICE LEARNING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Billie was quick to note that her participation in Alternative Breaks was impactful, Anderson said other students may not share that perspective at first.

"Folks don't always know the impact it has right away. It might take a little time after they get back and process the experience," Anderson said. "Reflection is very important for people while they are away, ... but you often don't know what impact it had maybe until weeks, months, even years later."

Anderson said his own participation in Alternative Breaks as an Elon student allowed him to develop an appreciation for how the program changes participants for the better.

"I went on an [Alternative Break] program my senior year of college in Tennessee, and I had never seen rural poverty up close before, so that was just a powerful experience," Anderson said. "I went with a really great group of students, so it was a really great chance to connect with people on a deeper level and build friendships."

Anderson said he uses his current role in planning Alternative Breaks to improve the understanding

current Elon students have of less privileged communities.

"It's important to be exposed to people with different viewpoints, different identities, and I think Alternative Breaks, in a short-term fashion, can give some exposure to that, which is really valuable," Anderson said.

He said he finds that having such experiences will make students more inclined to return to Alamance County and continue service initiatives within the community.

"My hope is that students get that exposure and then can come back here and make that impact locally," Anderson said. "There are a lot of folks that will come back and want to get more involved in our office or just get engaged locally here in Alamance County."

Anderson said each trip has a different angle or purpose. Some of the Alternative Breaks happening in the spring of 2020 are in Washington D.C., Atlanta, Appalachia, South Dakota and Costa Rica. Alternative Breaks typically take place on the East Coast due to pricing, however, there are a few exceptions year-to-year.

In addition to a wide variety of locations, Alternative Breaks focus on a variety of issues. For example, trips to Washington and Appalachia focus on urban and rural poverty, while trips to Atlanta and Costa Rica focus on immigration and community development respectively.

The program generally tries to maintain consistent attendance for each trip. Typically, a trip has eight participants, two student coordinators and two faculty advisers. However, as Alternative Breaks become more popular, Billie said the Kernodle Center hopes to expand those numbers and its budget.

Billie said she hopes to bring an opportunity like hers to the forefront of Elon students' minds. She said Alternative Breaks are a great way to learn how to think about social issues and begin to solve problems as a community.

"What I learned going on an Alternative Break is not being afraid to speak my mind because when we were having discussions, they were heavy topics. We met some local teens from the local high school, and they were talking about how teen suicide is a huge, huge issue," Billie said.

"It's such a deeply woven issue that you can't just snap your fingers and be like, 'Oh, let's get some mental health initiatives out there,'" Billie said. "Being able to process that then speak my mind about how I feel about that and work through potential solutions is, I think, a very important skill that I learned, being on that trip."

Billie said she sees opportunities with the Kernodle Center as a way to help communities less privileged than Elon, which is something she encourages all Elon students to do. She said she believes service

BY THE NUMBERS

\$1,000

is the minimum cost for international trips that take place during Spring and Fall Breaks.

\$100-600

is the minimum cost for domestic trips that take place during Spring and Fall Breaks.

is not only a way to connect with a culture different than one's own but also a way to understand a new perspective on privilege.

"An Alternative Break definitely opens your mind to other cultures because we are very intentional with the partners we work with and the cultures that we interact with," Billie said. "There are other communities I think we should reach out to and help. Elon is in such a huge place of privilege ... and I can use my voice, which is usually leveraged in society, to go out and help people for good. Service helps ground people and humble them."

TAIL OF THE DRAGON ROAD

ATTRACTS THRILL SEEKERS & MOTORING ENTHUSIASTS

DRAGON | from cover

Humble beginnings

Cannon rode a Kawasaki Ninja 600 sport bike back then, mostly for the image. “Originally, I got into sport bike riding more for the cruising around, looking cool part,” he said. But with such a purpose-built machine, it wasn’t long before Cannon started craving more.

“I started experiencing what it was like to feel carving a corner and how it feels like you’re flying on the road on a motorcycle,” he said. “That rush of a sort of push into a corner, I wanted to feel that more. The Dragon was an obvious choice for somebody who wants to experience that feeling.”

Cannon rode the Dragon for the first time around 1998. While he said he did not encounter any surprises, it was still an intense learning experience.

“To have all these turns thrown at you at such a rapid pace, it was good practice for learning quickly,” he said. “It was a little over our heads, but we managed to stay upright and in between the ditches and not cause any problems.”

According to Cannon, it’s that rapid pace of cornering and constant sharp turns that makes Tail of the Dragon so unique and attractive for riders.

“This road, the first couple times you ride it, is all reactive,” said Brian Wylie, a carpenter and frequent rider on Tail of the Dragon. “You can’t think about your lines. You can’t think about anything else. Especially if you come from flatland, and it’s all coming at you so fast.”

Riders do not have time to think between corners, but that’s part of the allure.

“It’s so immersive that that’s one of the big appeals of it,” Wylie said. “It’s a roller coaster that I can control. And then you spend time riding it, and it just becomes magic.”

For Cannon, his attraction to bikes

comes from the feeling of flying. “It’s probably as close as I’m going to get to piloting something,” he said. Cannon said it’s a feeling that cannot quite be matched by other types of vehicles, including sports cars.

“There’s hard forces in all directions in a car,” Cannon said. “It’s more violent, and so your inputs are immediate reactions in the change of direction.” Riding a bike, on the other hand, involves a certain laziness or flow, according to Cannon. After making an input, the motorcycle does not immediately start to carve a corner like a car. Instead, it leans and starts carving the corner once the input is stopped.

The Dragon bites back

Even on a motorcycle, smooth handling can come to an abrupt end. Cannon, like many others on Tail of the Dragon, has been involved in a series of accidents.

“I laid over to go into the turn, and I had my knee on the ground, and then the bike just started leaning over further and I was like ‘What’s going on here?’” Cannon said. He said he had all his gear on in that moment, including his back protector, but he was sliding back first across the road, heading straight for the trees.

“I just remember sliding backwards with my feet in front of me, and I was like ‘Oh, this is gonna be ugly,’ and I went sailing off the road, flying through the air,” Cannon said. He hit a fallen tree with his lower back, flipped over it and tumbled a couple times.

“It knocked the breath out of me,” he said. “I remember thinking this might be it. I may be knocked out, and nobody’s gonna find me.” His bike followed him and hit a different tree. It split in half. “I remember crawling up to the road, and somebody stopped and saw me and helped me from there,” Cannon said. “That was one of the final straws.”

Around the same time, Cannon’s wife also got into a few accidents on the Dragon. Another driver lost control and hit her. A few months after that, she hit a boar at night on Cannon’s bike. “Those things just kind of hit us all around the same time frame and we were just like, ‘You know, maybe we need to take a break for a while.’”

They stopped riding for about eight years.

Cannon is slowly getting back onto bikes, but he said he isn’t planning on attacking the Dragon head-on any time soon.

“It’s just too risky on the motorcycle,” he said.



THIS ROAD WILL MESS YOU UP IF YOU DON’T RESPECT IT. I GET WHY PEOPLE DO IT. I DON’T KNOCK ANYBODY FOR DOING IT. BUT I’M JUST OF AN AGE NOW WHERE I’VE GOTTEN IT OUT OF MY SYSTEM, AND I’M OK WITH NOT DOING IT ANYMORE.

DARRYL CANNON
FORMER MOTORCYCLIST

Accident-prone but rarely fatal

According to the Tennessee Department of Transportation, there were 468 crashes on the Tail of the Dragon between 2014 and 2019. 372 of them involved motorcycles, and 13 of them were fatal.

The highest reported speed during a crash, according to the North Carolina Department of Transportation, was a crash into a fixed object at 45mph.

Physical consequences are not the only repercussions of an accident. Cannon’s wife is still attending therapy weekly and suffers from anxiety.

“She struggles now just to see other people coming towards her after being hit by somebody,” Cannon said. “Even in an SUV, it still makes her very anxious. Sometimes she just cries. Sometimes she

just can’t handle it.”

According to TailoftheDragon.com, the Dragon averages about one to four deaths a year. Cannon said the road is relatively safe due to the confining nature of constant turns that keep the speed of riders in check.

“People respect it a little bit more because of all the negative press that it gets,” he said. One of the bigger dangers are cars and motorcycles sharing the same road.

“Even if you’re in little cars like Miatas and S2000s and things like that, you don’t think of it as being potentially big,” Cannon said. “But in an environment where you’re surrounded by motorcycles, suddenly you’re driving the equivalent of a tractor trailer on the highway. You’ll probably be fine, but you’ll kill somebody else if you lose control.”

The Dragon through time

Ron Johnson, who runs the tourist information website TailoftheDragon.com with his wife Nancy, has been digging into the history of Tail of the Dragon. He is currently writing a book about it and has a brief summary available on his website. Long before motorcycles and cars, the trail that would become the Dragon was formed by animals, Native Americans and European explorers.

“It’s amazing to me how they made it through these woods,” Johnson said. “There’s not a lot of detail on this particular road.” He did manage to find out that it was originally an animal track formed by buffalo herds, just like most roads in America.

“When the buffalo would move from spot to spot, they’d take the easy way around,” Johnson said. That meant walking around hills rather than cutting straight through. “Then the Indians would start



THE DANGER OF THE DRAGON

468

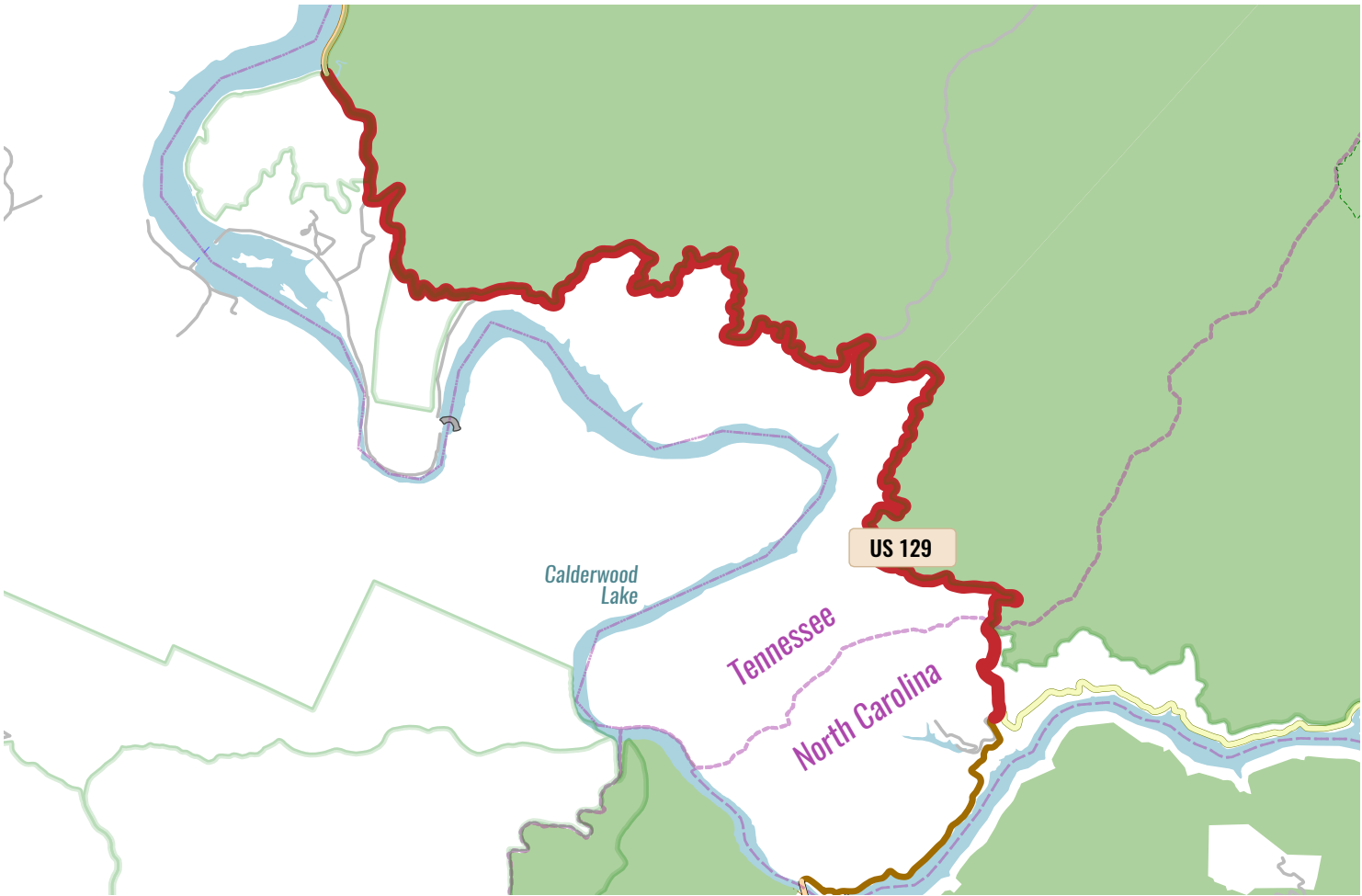
crashes have occurred on the Tail of the Dragon between 2014 and 2019.

45 mph

is the highest reported speed of a crash into a fixed object on the Tail of the Dragon, according to the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

13

fatal crashes have occurred on the Tail of the Dragon between 2014 and 2019.



The Tail of the Dragon road stretches 11 miles in North Carolina and cuts through the Appalachian Mountains.

following the buffalo trails,” he said. “And then the explorers started following the Indian trails.”

The result are trails formed by wild animals centuries ago, although the Dragon has been altered slightly from the original trail. “It was difficult even for a wagon to get through,” Johnson said. “I don’t know how they did it.”

Regardless of difficulties, the road was paved because there was no road connecting North Carolina and Tennessee between U.S. 441 and U.S. 64.

“It was another way to get from one state to the other,” Johnson said. Before World War II, there were also plans for tourism in

“

IT’S SO IMMERSIVE THAT THAT’S ONE OF THE BIG APPEALS OF IT. IT’S A ROLLER COASTER THAT I CAN CONTROL AND THEN YOU SPEND TIMING RIDING IT AND IT JUST BECOMES MAGIC.

BRIAN WYLIE
CARPENTER AND RIDER OF THE TAIL OF THE DRAGON

in preventing crashes. Blount County officers are the most common sight on Tail of the Dragon.

“They’ve got a tough job,” Cannon said. “They can’t just leave it and let it be the Wild West and everybody’s just crazy, but they don’t want to run everybody off and kill their tourism.”

In the early days of Dragon tourism, police officers could get a little heavy-handed at times.

“Little ladies in a van, if their wheel touched the yellow line, they’d pull them over and give them a ticket,” Johnson said. But law enforcement has become much more lenient in recent years, focusing less on the 30-mph speed limit people rarely abide by.

“They started focusing a little bit less on speed and a little bit more on maintaining control of your vehicle, especially in your lane,” Cannon said. Cutting the double yellow lane can be problematic with blind corners and oncoming traffic. Police will sometimes station a dozen officers on the Dragon to get people talking and perpetuate the myth of high police presence, while also saving them money and keeping riders under control.

“All they have to do is do it one weekend, and it perpetuates this myth that the police are all over the place out there for years,” Cannon said. “They are pretty cool about letting people have their fun. Just don’t cause problems, that’s the big thing.”

the area around Deals Gap.

“There were some very far-sighted people that would never believe what’s happening now,” he said.

Taming the Dragon

Today, the Dragon attracts visitors from all over the country and the world. With such heavy traffic, it took law enforcement some time to figure out the best strategies



OLIVER FISCHER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
A biker riding the Tail of the Dragon around a corner with views of the Appalachian Mountains.

ELON'S FIRST HISTORIAN LEAVES MORE THAN JUST HISTORY BEHIND



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Elon University historian George Troxler and his wife Carole.

“

THE MOMENT I CAME ON CAMPUS, HE EMBRACED ME AND WAS MY BIGGEST ADVOCATE AND CHEERLEADER AND PARTNER.

”

CHRYSTAL CARPENTER

COORDINATOR OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

George Troxler spent half a century chronicling Elon University's history

Kyra O'Connor

Elon News Network | @ko_reports

For 50 years, George Troxler served Elon University as a professor of history, dean of cultural programs, chief grand marshal and the first university historian. Troxler died on Oct. 27 at the age of 77.

"I'm from California. He was from North Carolina. We were very different in our life experiences and where we were professionally. But the moment I came on campus, he embraced me and was my biggest advocate and cheerleader and partner," said Chrystal Carpenter, coordinator of university archives and special collections.

Troxler was one of the first people Dan Anderson, vice president of university communications, met when he started at Elon 22 years ago. Anderson and Troxler collaborated over the years; Anderson said he had Troxler on "speed dial, so to say" to answer any of his questions.

"For over 50 years, George Troxler was the embodiment of the Elon community spirit," Anderson said. "He was a great role model for the people of Elon because of his intellectual capacity and his ability to always strive for truth and understanding."

Troxler was the recipient of the university's highest honor, the Elon Medallion, for mentoring decades of students and devoting his time and energy to recording the history of the institution.

A service celebrating his life was held at Elon Community Church on Friday, Nov. 1.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations be made to Elon Community Church Building Fund or the Troxler-Watterson Scholarship.

In the archives

Carpenter heard of Troxler before she even finished interviewing for her position.

"For George, you couldn't have history without archives," Carpenter said. "He would come every day, just walking down to my office for a new project or something that he

was working on where he needed archives or materials. That's how we started our relationship."

Troxler had already been at Elon for nearly 50 years by the time Carpenter began working at Elon in 2015.

Carpenter and Troxler worked on a number of projects together. Most significantly, the duo brought the Bible of James O'Kelly, founding father of Elon College, back to the school.

"We got the Bible donated to us. George and I, with the donor, we went to these woods in Durham to go find O'Kelly's grave site," Carpenter said. "The three of us would go out traipsing through the woods to find these little hidden gems to bring the history to life. We would have adventures, and he was kind of my 'partner in archives crime.'"

Most recently, the pair worked on the return of the Chandler and Price printing press, a flatbed printing press that was once used at Elon to print internal publications. The printing press is currently displayed in Snow Atrium.

"It was a real passion for him to be able to educate people, especially with artifacts that had such a presence, like the press," Carpenter said.

Elon's story

In 2014, Troxler published a comprehensive history of Elon University in the book "From a Grove of Oaks, The Story of Elon University." Anderson said the book stands as a definitive history of Elon, and is available in Belk library.

Troxler researched the history of two of Elon's most important artifacts, the Elon bells: the bell that once stood in the old administration building, which currently resides in the Alamance building, and the bell from Graham College, Elon's predecessor, which can be found in the university archives and is rung at the start of every school year.

Partnering with former student Raymond Beck '75, who served as North Carolina State Capitol historian and site manager, the pair restored both bells. Troxler also helped to restore a chandelier that hung in the Old Main building before the fire burned it down in 1923. It now hangs in the archives room in Belk Library.

"He was at that intersection of



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIM WALKER

March 12, 2014: George Troxler book signing in the Isabella Canon room in the Center for the Arts. His book, "From a Grove of Oaks: The Story of Elon University," the first detailed study of Elon's history in more than 30 years, was published in early 2014.

“

HE WAS A GREAT ROLE MODEL FOR THE PEOPLE OF ELON BECAUSE OF HIS INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY AND HIS ABILITY TO ALWAYS STRIVE FOR TRUTH AND UNDERSTANDING.

DAN ANDERSON

VICE PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

the world, of that kind of archival, specific and concrete knowledge," said Charles Irons, associate professor of history and geography.

Troxler worked with Irons on the Committee on Elon History and Memory, of which Irons is the chair. This initiative was started in 2018 by President Connie Book to explore questions related to historical memory and collective identity at Elon.

Irons said Troxler's involvement

with the committee was indicative of his desire to be as involved in Elon's operations as possible.

"This is characteristic of his way of being in lots of different environments, to be very gracious and supportive and encouraging," Irons said. "He was a wonderful resource to me and was a real advocate for making the way we tell our story as inclusive as possible."

The Troxler duo

George is survived by his two daughters and his wife Carole, retired Elon history professor and published author.

"They both just made a powerhouse team," Carpenter said. "I was just lucky enough to get to tag along for some of it."

The couple have a seminar room in Lindner Hall dedicated to them as well as two scholarships established in their name — the Troxler-Watterson Endowed History Scholarship and the Watterson-Troxler Scholarship — both created to assist students studying history.

According to Irons, George and Carole both shared a passion for North Carolina's history.

"That's actually something he and Carol both had in common," Irons said. "It's not enough to know that there were a lot of loyalists in North Carolina, for example, which everybody knows, but Carol says,

'I want to know their families and know their names.'"

Embodying the Elon way

Leo Lambert, president emeritus and professor of education, spoke to Troxler's impact at Elon during the memorial service.

"The Elon University mission statement calls for us to nurture a rich intellectual community, to work for the common good, to live lives of service and to foster a passion for a life of learning," Lambert said. "George Troxler modeled these ideals every day — with his wonderful family, on campus, in the Elon Community Church and in scouting."

Troxler left a lasting impact on the Elon community, from writing a comprehensive history of Elon, to bringing speakers such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former U.S. presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush and Queen Noor of Jordan to the university, to mentoring countless students and establishing scholarships to help students pursue history.

"George was a mentor, collaborator and most importantly, a friend," Carpenter said. "I will miss our conversations, phone calls and adventures. But I am comforted in knowing his legacy and memory will be with us always."

Addressing the censorship of literature in US prisons



Anna Geneva Renz, a volunteer from Brookline, searches for books through the Prison Book Program in Quincy, MA, on July 2, 2019.

LAUREN OWENS LAMBERT | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The largest book ban in America is potentially hurting incarcerated people

Ali Butler
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Literary censorship is not a new controversy, but the people most affected by the banning of books has shifted. Access to literature in U.S. prisons has become increasingly restricted in the last few years as books are heavily monitored and are considered contraband. Most of the censored books include those that discuss marginalized groups and questionable behavior. With these bans affecting over 2.2 million incarcerated Americans, advocates have spoken out, claiming the access to controversial literature among those in prison is harmless



Craig Morehead

and even necessary for the transition back to normal life. Craig Morehead, assistant professor of English, focuses on the similarities in law, criminology, class and literature.

Q: As someone who studies and teaches literature, do you believe there are books that should not be on our shelves?

A: On the whole, no. I think there's been a long tradition of worrying about the content of books shaping behavior for the worse. There's always been fear about people copying bad ideas and behaviors, and I think that is a way of excusing personal responsibility. It also completely forgets the great benefit that books have, even when reading about odeus ideas and behaviors. The impulse to censor is really an impulse of restriction and control, and within a prison context, that might seem like it makes sense. Yet, what is really being restricted is not some aspect of future behavior for these prisoners but really access to knowledge, access to books as a means of self-reflection as a provocation for engaging with the self and the world through the covers of a book.

Q: The largest book ban in America is not affecting schools or libraries but rather our prisons. Does this surprise you?

A: Not really. Prisons want to stifle any kind of content that might cause an uproar or rebellion within the prison population. If a lot of these banned books reveal or represent structural inequalities, racism or faults within the criminal justice system, then it does not surprise me that they want to stifle that kind of content. It's exactly the wrong thing to do because a lot of those prisoners are there for those exact structural inequalities. So, not having access to books that talk about those things is really a disservice to the human beings behind bars. It's not as if they don't know these problems exist. Reading about it is not going to tell them anything they don't know. However, it might allow them to reflect and process through how these situations can be understood and coped with.

Q: Studies have shown that allowing people in prison to have access to outside materials and ideas, such as books, actually reduces recidivism. With that in mind, do

you think that everyone should be entitled the right to read?

A: Yes. And not only the right to read but the access to reading programs that could teach prisoners who cannot read how to, thus raising literacy levels within the prison population. I think we should provide prison libraries. There's also a great tradition of authors writing prison notebooks. Some of the most fascinating literary and philosophical treatises have come from people behind bars. Part of that is a function of access to materials for writing and for reading. Every prisoner should have access to those.

Q: Pen America, an organization that advocates for free expression, is running an active petition to convince our congressmen to allow books in prisons. Is this something you could see yourself signing?

A: Yes. As someone who knows the value of stories and literature, for both self and society, more people should be aware of this issue and do what they can to advocate for the kinds of changes that Pen and other organizations are calling for.

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OPINIONS



ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR

Rapper T-Pain dances during his Homecoming Weekend performance at Elon University in Schar Center on Saturday, Nov. 2.

T-Pain ruins great Homecoming performance with insulting comments online



Annemarie Bonner

After watching T-Pain perform and reading his post-concert comments about the town of Elon, I've developed a negative opinion of the rapper. He took to Twitter after the concert, saying he was "bored af in Elon (whatever that is)," which caused a frenzy among students, including myself.

The above tweet ruined any appreciation I once had for T-Pain's performance and the great time I had while watching it. There was no need to attack us on Twitter.

Though I did enjoy the concert, T-Pain's tweets angered me and showed me his true colors.

I now have zero appreciation for T-Pain, as he has ruined my opinion of him by being unprofessional and ungrateful to students who spent their Saturday night in Schar Center.

A decent number of students attended this year's Homecoming Concert. The event surprised me, as I had zero expectations.

The opening act, Gianni and Kyle, was irrelevant to me before this day, but I thoroughly enjoyed their music and will definitely listen to them in the future.

The opening act felt slightly dragged out. Though maybe I just wanted to see the main act.

Once Gianni and Kyle were done, there was, of course, another waiting period, then it was time for T-Pain.

After some crazy dancing and singing by him, the show improved greatly. The crowd was excited, and everyone appeared to be enjoying themselves, as I was.

As he sang his greatest hits such as, "Buy U A Drank" and "I'm 'n Luv," it felt as if he was singing only bits and pieces of his top songs and his newer, less popular songs were lasting forever.

As a concert buff myself, I appreciate it more when the top hits



ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR

T-Pain belts out vocals to end his Homecoming Weekend show at Schar Center on Saturday, Nov. 2.

are more heavily featured than new songs.

It is a more valuable and impactful experience if the artist plays songs the crowd can sing along to and enjoy.

I have been to many concerts in the past, and the ones I enjoyed the most featured songs I know well.

This is what T-Pain lacked by focusing less attention on his hits.

Another key element to the concert that I found hilarious was when he sang "All I Do Is Win" and had a slideshow in the background with him and every Grammy he has ever won. It was an interesting element but was too conceited for my liking.

Even though T-Pain has not released a ton of big hits recently, he still was able to put on a good show, as I did enjoy his music.

Prior to him being announced as this year's Homecoming performer, I would've anticipated a no-name artist to come, or someone with less popularity. However, the announcement of T-Pain was an extremely pleasant surprise.

He put his heart into each song he performed, immersing himself in the choreography and beat.

T-Pain's performance got the audience involved, and everyone appeared to be enjoying themselves.

For me, however, T-Pain's performance is no longer memorable for the show. It is only memorable for the disrespect he showed online to our community afterwards.

Celebrities like him need to be more aware of how their words on social media can impact the community they are discussing.

Maybe next year we will find an artist who is more grateful to come to our campus.



Left to right: Sergeants Ditra Graves and Kendrick King secure Schar Center on Tuesday, Nov. 5 for Elon University's women's basketball game against Winston Salem State University.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BEHIND THE POLICE BADGE

First black town of Elon Police Department sergeants talk law enforcement and identity

Lauren Singles
Elon News Network | @lauren_singles

Elon Police Department Sgts. Ditra Graves and Kedrick King are the first Black police officers promoted to sergeant in the town of Elon Police Department. Though stemming from different backgrounds, Graves and King share similar experiences and look to make Elon a safer, more connected environment.

Different journeys, same destination

Graves and King are both graduates of North Carolina A&T University, sharing an interest in criminal justice. However, their journeys to the Elon Police Department differ. Originally from Caswell County, N.C., King's childhood pushed him to pursue a career in law. He said he remembers when he was a child and his grandfather was killed by a police officer. It was hardships such as this one that directed him to where he is today. "I had some situations in my family that kind of inspired me to transition — a lot of my family is actually incarcerated. So, it was an opportunity for me to be on the other side of the fence," King said. King has been in law enforcement since 2012. After graduating college, King began working in a county jail, which he said taught him the value of communication and gave him a new perspective. With a family history of incarceration, King learned valuable lessons that helped him advance his career. "This career isn't about taking people to jail. It's actually about helping those in need," King said. "When you work in the jail, you see a bunch of those people, but they also need some other form of help." Graves took a different path. After graduating from college, she started off in Burlington. "The call volume is a lot different. On the

“THIS CAREER ISN'T ABOUT TAKING PEOPLE TO JAIL. IT'S ACTUALLY ABOUT HELPING THOSE IN NEED. WHEN YOU WORK IN A JAIL, YOU SEE A BUNCH OF THOSE PEOPLE BUT THEY ALSO NEED SOME OTHER FORM OF HELP.”

KEDRICK KING
ELON POLICE DEPARTMENT
SERGEANT

BY THE NUMBERS

125
years of service from the Elon Police Department.

average night for me, you could do anywhere from 15 to 20 calls for service versus Elon, you're not going to get that 15 to 20 calls back to back," Graves said. "I learned a lot in Burlington, and I really feel like Burlington prepared me for being in Elon."

Life in a college town

Working with a student population presents different challenges compared to working in a city, but both officers said they see this as a unique experience. Over the years, the population has changed, and the department has had to adapt. "During the day you don't deal with students as much, not on a large scale. It's mostly we deal with them during the night, which makes our other citizens react," Graves said. King worked for Elon University Campus Police after his job at the county jail before transferring to the town of Elon Police Department. "The majority of the people that you deal with on a day-to-day basis are a lot of students, some of which love law enforcement, some of which hate law enforcement," King said, in reference to his time at Campus Police. "Now, it's more about branching out into the bigger community. It's not so much focused on the university in particular— it's about a focus on everybody."

Living history

The Elon Police Department has been around for 125 years, but it was just this year that black officers were promoted to sergeants. Both Graves and King are grateful for the opportunity but stressed that their race hasn't been on their minds. "I don't really [think about it]. It's hard for me to even focus on the race aspect of it," King said. Graves said they were not aware they were the first black sergeants at EPD until after their promotion. "I'm honored for the opportunity," Graves said. She said being promoted has given her confidence to succeed in the department.

Overcoming obstacles

Representation in law enforcement has taken to the national stage in recent years, continuing the conversation about race relations in the U.S. After constant news coverage of police action, protests and grassroots movements, race relations in law enforcement have become intertwined with the media. Though both Graves and King have faced adversity in their careers as a result of being minorities, they have not let it define their experiences. "Some people we say we have an issue with law enforcement, but some people have issues with the person in the uniform," Graves said. Despite this, neither she nor King thinks that race is the biggest factor in the conversation. The symbolism of the uniform is what holds more weight. "Someone's not coming to hurt me because of the color of my skin. They're coming to hurt me because of what I represent," Graves said. "We know the cost. And people just have to understand every day we choose to put the uniform on." King holds similar sentiments. "I don't think people can see past the uniform sometimes," King said. Road ahead Overcoming past prejudices and establishing better community relations is something that law enforcement agencies struggle with. Ending violence and connecting with citizens is something both sergeants strive for. "Whatever your experience is, if it's bad, put it aside and just remember, at the end of the day we're here to help," Graves said. "We want everybody — students, citizens — to feel like 'okay if I have an issue. I want to talk,' because we don't want you to wait to the very last minute." Despite his family having a complex relationship with the law, King doesn't hold any grudges. Forgiveness and understanding, he said, will make the community safer. "If you keep dwelling on the past you will never progress. Believe me," King said. "The world will be so much better if we just learned to love. That is truly the ultimate sacrifice that everybody has to make."



POSITIVITY AND PRIDE DURING HOMECOMING WEEKEND

More than 2,500 alumni visit campus to celebrate reunions and donations

Borghild Kvaeven
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Homecoming Weekend marks the yearly occasion on which graduates of Elon University return to campus. As the school expands, more and more alumni make the trip to North Carolina each fall, intrigued by the growing campus and the events planned by the school.

“Homecoming is definitely a tradition that grows every year,” said Associate Director of Annual Giving Chandler Thompson, who organizes class reunions.

This weekend, Mary Chayse Haithcock, coordinator of alumni engagement, said more than 2,500 alumni returned to campus — consistent with the past few years — to take part in Homecoming festivities.

“Homecoming exists to build the relationship that alumni keep with Elon after they graduate,” Thompson said.

The tradition of Homecoming in the U.S. dates back to the 1920s. According to the Traditions Council, Elon’s Homecoming history started in the early 20th century as an annual fall event held in October or November called “Homecoming Days.”

Brian Feeley, senior director of

alumni engagement and annual giving, who helped organize more than 80 events over Homecoming Weekend, said the reunion is a time for alumni, students, faculty and staff to reconnect and come together as a family.

“There’s not one or two events; there’s dozens of dozens of events,” Feeley said.

Some of the major events this weekend were the Rock the Block party on Friday, the Brick Run/Walk early Saturday and the All Alumni Tailgate and football game on Saturday.

Feeley highlighted the block party, which included food trucks, live music and fireworks, as a great celebratory kickoff to the weekend.

The newest event added to the Homecoming schedule this year was the Saturday morning Namast’ay at Elon, a morning yoga session taught by alumna Samantha Murray ’15.

Saturday continued with the All Alumni Tailgate, which Feeley described as a festive environment.

“
HOMECOMING IS A WAY FOR ALUMNI TO BUILD CONNECTION AND SENSE OF PRIDE WITH YOUR UNIVERSITY, THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO GIVE BACK TO HELP BUILD THE SCHOOL STRONGER.”

CHANDLER THOMPSON
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ANNUAL GIVING

One of the weekend’s main events was the Homecoming Concert, featuring rapper T-Pain, which was sponsored by the Student Union Board.

SUBstaff members — President Ryan O’Leary, Performance Chair Erin Eady and Special Events Chair Emily Sanderson — were unavailable for comment over email and social media regarding the attendance and profits of the concert.

According to Feeley, “several hundred tickets” were sold to alumni.

Another key feature of Homecoming were the class reunions. Thompson organizes milestone and affiliate class reunions — specifically the 25th and 50th class reunions. Thompson said one of the Office of Alumni Engagement’s biggest goals was to bring alumni back for their milestone reunion, held every five years post-graduation.

“Homecoming is a way for alumni to build connection and sense of pride with your university. That makes you want to give back to help build the

BY THE NUMBERS

\$1.1M

is the amount of money raised by 2,367 donors from the reunion-classes since the beginning of the year.

school stronger,” Thompson said.

The oldest class to visit the campus for Homecoming was the class of 1969 — marking their 50th reunion and status as Golden Alumni. The reward for attaining this status is a pin and a medallion.

Thompson said Homecoming is an important tradition to help both alumni and students stay connected to Elon and help strengthen the institution.

“Some alumni haven’t been back in 20, sometimes even 50 years, and they come back and learn that, even though every building may not look the same as when they were there, they learn that it’s still the same Elon, and students are still getting a great education,” Thompson said.

Thompson pointed out that last year’s biggest lesson from Homecoming was to always have a rain plan. He said this year’s biggest lesson also concerned the weather, as the temperature dropped on Friday, something not everyone was prepared for.

Announced over Homecoming Weekend was the amount of money raised by the classes

LAUREN SINGLES | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Top left: Seniors Derrick Luster (left) and Katherine Klinger (right) and are crowned Homecoming Royals during halftime of the football game on Saturday, Nov. 2.

IAN MYERS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Top right: Lead guitarist of the band Night Years plays at Rock the Block on Friday, Nov. 1.

ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR
Bottom left: The sweat from T-Pain’s dreadlocks scatters across the stage during his performance of the song “Cyclone” at the Elon University Homecoming Concert on Saturday, Nov. 2 in Schar Center.

ZACH OHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Bottom right: Gianni DiBernardo of gianni & kyle points to the camera while opening for T-Pain at the Elon University Homecoming Concert on Saturday, Nov. 2 in Schar Center.

celebrating reunions since the start of the year — totaling \$1,172,052.74 from 2,367 donors.

According to Thompson, where the money goes is decided by the donor.

“This year, it seemed to be a palpable, positive feeling throughout the weekend. Everybody was in such a celebratory mood,” Feeley said.

Seeing alumni run toward people they haven’t seen in years, people they didn’t know were coming, giving hugs to one another and reconnecting with Elon were some of Feeley’s favorite things about Homecoming.

Even with such great success, Elon doesn’t stop trying to improve, Feeley said.

“We’re always looking to get a little bit better,” Feeley said.

Catholic Campus Ministry reaches 30 years of service

Catholic group celebrates milestone anniversary with alumni

Liz Crouse

Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

On its 30th anniversary, the Catholic Campus Ministry celebrated Sunday mass during Homecoming Weekend in Holt Chapel, later welcoming alumni to Holland House, with its signature life-size cutout of Pope Francis greeting guests and community members.

Catholic Campus Ministry serves as a student organization and resource for Catholic students on campus.

According to the 2019 Fall Registrar's Report, 1,721 Elon undergraduates identify as Catholic — nearly 30% of the student population — making it the largest religious group on campus.

The organization is currently led by Father Peter Tremblay, or "FP" as students call him. It is also organized by "servant leaders" who take on roles such as peer ministry coordinator and president.

Kristen Burke '18 held the role of president in 2017.

Burke said she started going to CCM events her first year, but

became a "servant leader" during her junior year.

"I knew how much [CCM] had grown under Father Gerry [Waterman]," Burke said. "When I got back from abroad, Father Peter was the chaplain, and I was really excited to be part of the ministry under his leadership."

Waterman was in charge of CCM for 11 years starting in 2006, according to Sarah McKenna Codd '11.

Codd was the peer ministry coordinator after she graduated, which allowed her to stay on campus. Her friend during her time in CCM, Tracy Schell McCool '11, stayed in Burlington as well.

"I'm an Elon community member, so I've gotten to see [CCM] as it has grown," McCool said. "And I like bringing my kids back home and going to mass," she said as she looked at her young children, who accompanied her to the reunion. "I like that they have more mass times now. That's been a real blessing for us."



CCM BROUGHT ME FRIENDSHIPS AND RELATIONSHIPS THAT PUSHED ME TO BE A BETTER PERSON.

EMILY KELLER
CLASS OF 2019

The pair also talked about the importance of Catholic Campus Ministry acquiring Holland House.

Codd described how they picked up James Earl Danieley's old house and moved it across the train tracks to its current location on South Campus across from Holt Chapel.

Emily Keller '19 followed Burke and preceded Lee as president of the organization. Keller also returned to Elon for Homecoming Weekend.

"CCM brought me friendships and relationships that pushed me to be a better person," Keller said. "They're my best friends to this day."

Keller noted how much the program has grown since her first year.

"We've added lots of new programming and small groups," she said.

Keller said her best friends from college were in her small group and they still stay in touch. She reunited with many of them for Homecoming, which she said was "so great."

As Keller turned to talk to a friend, Father Tremblay came by



MARJORIE ANNE FOSTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Father Peter Tremblay welcomes mass-goers to a Sunday service to celebrate the Catholic Campus Ministry's 30th anniversary over Homecoming Weekend.

Class of 1969 celebrates half-century anniversary

Golden Alumni reflect on inequalities at then-Elon College 50 years ago

Emilia Muniz

Elon News Network | @emiliamuniz

Fifty years ago, Elon University was a very different campus than it is today.

Students at the time were faced with the presence of the Vietnam War and the beginnings of nationwide anti-war movements, accompanied by the early stages of countercultures such as the hippie movement.

Despite the adversity the U.S. and many young adult students faced, Don Goldberg '69 still said his experience at Elon was "humbling" and "an absolute blast."

Elon's Golden Alumni returned to campus this Homecoming Weekend and, in between luncheons and other celebratory events, shared stories and memories of their time at Elon.

Though the campus itself has changed enormously since 1969, with only a few historic buildings of the time still remaining, Ken Scott '69 said, "what hasn't changed is the student relationships and teachers."

Many of the alumni of the Class of 1969 were pleased to mention the relationships they built while at Elon were the most fulfilling and memorable parts of their time at Elon.

Goldberg and Scott shared

laughs while looking back on the room checks and lack of air-conditioning during their time living on campus.

"We had room checks ... and they would come in every week to check our beds and make sure they were clean and they were made!"

Scott also spoke about the education he received both inside and outside of the classroom. He said his conversations with fellow students were as fulfilling as what he learned in classes.

Even though Elon's mascot at the time were the Fighting Christians, Scott spoke to the relative religious diversity on campus and how this encouraged rich conversation among his social groups.

"I can remember we had a Catholic boy down at the end of the hall," Scott said. "I'm a Protestant, he's Jewish, and we would get in the room with others and talk about religion ... It was wonderful, a great education which was not in the classroom."

However, while many alumni reminisced on their good times and the hilarious hijinks of dorm life, Denny McGuire '69 remembered the gender disparities of college life and the frustrations of being a female student on a college campus in the 60s.

"There was a lot going on in '69," McGuire said. "Campuses were changing all over the country, but this one took a long time to change," she said.

"They had rules out the wazoo, especially for women," McGuire



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADALYN YATES

Member of the class of 1969 pose with their Golden Alumni medallions during Homecoming Weekend on Saturday, Nov. 2.

said. "There were 20 pages of rules that they handed us the first night if you lived in the dorm ... Guys had only one rule."

McGuire said there were many restrictions and rules for women at Elon in the 60s, including dress code restrictions that included not being able to wear pants.

"[We] could not wear pants. You could occasionally cheat and roll your pants up above your knees and wear a raincoat. ... We called them 'magic raincoats.'"

When asked about her thoughts on the 10 p.m. weekday curfew that applied only to female students, McGuire expressed frustration as an adult woman who was being subjected to stricter rules.

"I didn't like being treated like a child when I was an adult, so that was hard," McGuire said.

Kaye Savage '69, president of the Women's Interdormitory Council

BY THE NUMBERS

20

pages of rules were given to female students on their first night in their dorms.

at the time, was one woman who fought to change many of the unjust rules that applied solely to women at Elon, including the rigid curfews that female students had to comply with.

"The women were the only ones that had the curfews; the men didn't have any. So we figured, you know, if they didn't have any, we at least need to have realistic ones," Savage said.

Savage lobbied her entire junior year with former Dean of Women

Theo Strum, claiming that because they were going to be 20 and 21, they should at least be able to stay out until midnight.

Savage and Strum said they were successful in their lobbying and the curfew was finally changed their senior year.

The Class of 1969 reunited over a luncheon, a bus tour of campus and their own Golden Alumni tailgate. They bonded over a shared feeling of nostalgia and life-long memories of their time in college at Elon half a century ago.

Sam Story '69 said it was this comradery that made Elon so special.

"The most important thing was that people really cared about you. ... People wanted you to be successful. ... We all need encouragement, and I got a lot of that here," Story said.

SPORTS



PRINCE OF PICKS

Senior defensive back Greg Liggs Jr. breaks records in historic three-game stretch

Alex Reynolds
Sports Director | @reynolds14_

October is a month filled with change for defensive back Greg Liggs Jr., a change that came in the form of inflicting fear in opposing offenses. Liggs Jr. recorded seven interceptions in three games this past month. This feat instantly propelled Liggs Jr. to the top of the conference interception list. His career mark is now at 14 interceptions — an Elon Division I record.

The large number of interceptions may have come as a surprise to some, but not to Liggs Jr. He said he had visualized this success even before the season started.

“It was funny, [I decided] I’ll begin to write in a journal, my goals in everything,” Liggs Jr. said. “I went back and looked. And I was looking at what my season goals were, and it actually was seven interceptions. So, I’m looking to exceed those expectations.”

In this stretch, Liggs Jr. intercepted three passes in two consecutive games, one against the University of New Hampshire and the other against the University of Rhode Island. According to Liggs Jr., the key to his recent success was a mix of seizing opportunities and being properly prepared.

“[My teammates] joke with me saying sometimes I am either paying the quarterback or they’re getting thrown right to me,” Liggs Jr. said. He credits great defensive play for putting him in the right spot.

“When the play presents itself, you just gotta make it. Preparation meets opportunity,” Liggs Jr. said.

The senior from Greensboro did not see much action prior to his explosive month. Liggs Jr.’s absence was felt by the Phoenix. Freshman defensive coordinator Billy



Defensive back Greg Liggs Jr., No. 21, leads Elon University’s football team onto Rhodes Stadium.

ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR

BY THE NUMBERS

14

The number of interceptions Greg Liggs Jr. has made in his career so far — an Elon University Division I record.

Crocker’s unit gave up an average of 33.2 points per game. At the end of September, the defense suffered its biggest losses of the year to Wake Forest University 49-7 and James Madison University 45-10.

“The beginning of the season as a whole started off a little slow. We need to find our rhythm as a defense,” Liggs Jr. said.

In the first game of October, Liggs Jr. picked off University of New Hampshire freshman quarterback Max Brosmer three times. His first interception came

on only the second play and set the corner’s mindset for the rest of the game.

“It’s one of those things, especially early in the game. When things go your way, it kind of sets you up to play comfortable for the rest of the game,” Liggs Jr. said.

Liggs Jr. said the first interception helped him pick up on little details from the offense. The next two picks came when Liggs Jr. jumped the routes of the Wildcat receivers. He even ripped the ball out of the hands of tight end Justin Malone-Woods. Despite the efforts of the defense, the Phoenix lost the game 26-10.

The following week, Liggs Jr. experienced similar success against University of Delaware. Late in the third quarter, Liggs Jr. snagged an overthrown pass on the left hashmark and ran it 42 yards up the sideline for his first pick six of the season.

In the final matchup of the month, Liggs Jr. turned in his second hat trick — which means three similar consecutive successes — in two weeks when the Phoenix traveled to the University of Rhode Island. These three picks were coupled with a fumble recovery by sophomore defensive back Shamari Wingard. The defensive dominance led to a 38-13 win over the University of Rhode Island.

Besides receiving Colonial Athletic Association Defensive Player of the Week honors on Oct. 28, Liggs Jr. also received honors within the locker room.

The concept of rewarding defensive players for turnovers was popularized by the University of Miami with its turnover chain. Hurricane players that forced a turnover would come to the sideline, be presented with a gold chain and have their photo taken.

Head Coach Tony Trisciani,

JESS RAFFOGEL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Defensive back Greg Liggs Jr. stops a Towson University touchdown with an interception at Rhodes Stadium on Nov. 10, 2018.

a former defensive coordinator, brought this idea to Elon ahead of the season. Forced turnovers resulted in players coming to the sideline for a picture. This picture is then displayed proudly in the locker room. With seven interceptions and a forced fumble on the season, Liggs Jr. is no stranger to the wall.

“[The team] has been joking a lot saying [it] is my wall now because I have a lot of pictures up there,” Liggs Jr. said.

According to Liggs Jr., the wall gives the team an incentive to force turnovers, which has contributed to helping the defense establish an identity this season. Defensive players are now getting excited to see who will get the next turnover and be featured on “the wall.”

Liggs Jr. said he is pleased to see how young members of the defense have bought into this culture and revel in its collective success.

“Everybody’s buying into the culture, the success of their teammates,” Liggs Jr. said. “When it’s not me, I’m just as happy as when I catch [an] interception [or] when somebody gets a fumble recovery. So, I think that spreads around the whole team.”

In his last year in maroon and gold, Liggs Jr. has set personal, team and program records. With two games remaining in his career, he is now looking forward to seeing the progression of his teammates and the strengthening of the program.

“It feels good that it’s starting to come together. I’m excited about this last go-round these last three games. [I’m] looking forward to taking one day at a time,” Liggs Jr. said.



KEEPING FAMILY CLOSE TO FOOTBALL

The family of starting quarterback Davis Cheek rarely miss a game

Grace Terry
Design Chief | @gfterry9

On the Friday night before an Elon University football game, the Steed family begins their eight-hour car ride to North Carolina from Alabama at about 11:30 p.m.

Ben Steed, the 12-year-old half-brother of Elon's starting quarterback Davis Cheek, is asleep for most of the ride.

Driving the car is Davis' stepdad, Stuart Steed, and to his right in the passenger seat is Monica Steed, Davis' mother. They arrive at Davis' grandmother's house at around 8 a.m. in Hickory, North Carolina. This gives Stuart time to rest before they need to be at Rhodes Stadium at 11:30 a.m. to participate in the Phoenix Walk, which is how the family starts off their home game traditions.

The family said they rarely miss a game. For every home game they drive, and for every away game they either fly or drive.

"I just like watching [Davis] play," Ben said. "I like yelling at him when he is about to get sacked."

For Ben and many of Davis' other relatives, football season is more than just an opportunity to see Davis play.

It is an opportunity for the family to get together. Davis' parents — Monica Steed and Eric Cheek — are divorced. He splits his breaks between his dad's house in Chicago and mom's in

GRACE TERRY | DESIGN CHIEF
Above: Ben Steed, Davis Cheek's 12-year-old half-brother, cheers on the Phoenix during the Homecoming football game on Saturday, Nov. 3.

Alabama, where his little brother Ben lives.

"Throughout the entire year, I was away from Elon for maybe a week and a half or two weeks, and that was split between my dad and my mom," Davis said.

For Eric and Monica, this is one of the few opportunities they have during the year to have all their family together, as they both live hundreds of miles from Davis and his older brother Tyler, who lives in Raleigh.

"When it's not football season, it is really hard for me to see Tyler and Davis," Monica said.

In a family with children with so many different interests, football is one of the things that bring them together.

"The thing about me and my brothers is that we're completely different humans," Davis said.

Tyler currently works as a software developer.

"My older brother was always kinda the brains," Davis said.

Ben, on the other hand, plays the trumpet. He is one of two middle schoolers to play in the high school band.

"My little brother, he's always loved music, and he's always loved theater, dancing, that kind of stuff," Davis said.

There is a 12-year age gap between Ben and Tyler and an eight-year age gap between Ben and Davis.



GRACE TERRY | DESIGN CHIEF
Monica Steed, Davis Cheek's mother, cheers for her son after he throws a touchdown pass during the Homecoming football game against the College of William & Mary.

Tyler said the age gap allows Ben to do "his own thing and not be reliant on anyone else."

"He can go down and hang out with the people at the game himself and be an icon," Tyler said.

At any given home game, you can see Ben in the front row of the student section yelling at his brother to pass the ball or shaking a maroon and gold pom pom.

He used to wear Davis' jersey to every game, but after a couple of losses, Ben decided the jersey was no longer lucky.

Despite this, you can still always find him at the games covered in Elon gear.

While Monica stresses that Ben has to show support for his siblings, she said she also wants him to be able to do what he loves

— just like Davis.

That's why the family leaves so late on Friday evenings, so Ben can finish out with the band during Friday night football games.

The Steeds are not the only ones who have driven all night to get to Davis' games. Earlier this year, Eric's flight to the James Madison game got canceled.

So, instead of accepting the fact that he would miss the game, he jumped in his car and drove 14 hours to Elon and arrived at 2 p.m. when the game began. Eric has never missed a game.

Games aren't the only thing that Eric doesn't miss out on. Eric even got a tattoo to match his son's.

The father and son duo's matching tattoo is of the word

"doubted" on one of their arms.

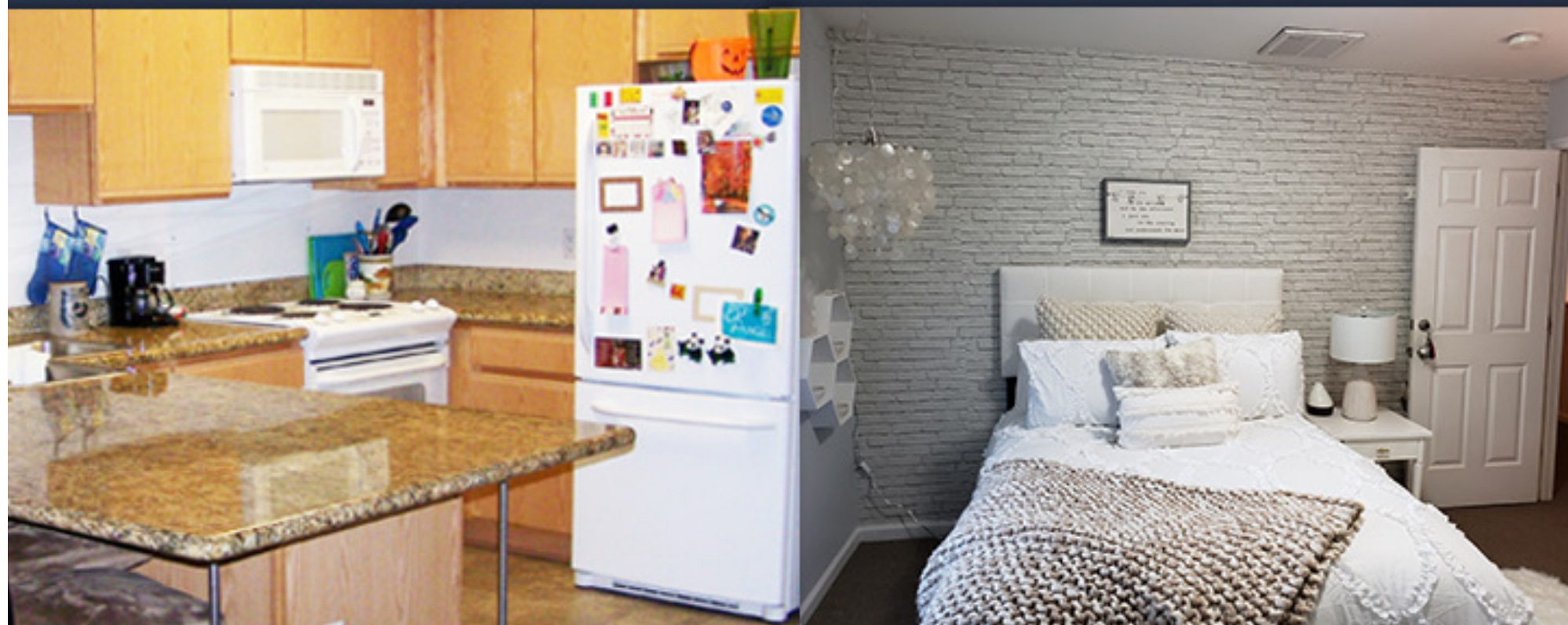
According to Davis the tattoo "relates to football and how I've embraced the doubt."

This isn't the only tattoo Eric has — hidden away on his calf is a tattoo of the Elon Phoenix. He said he supports Davis with every step he takes.

"I always try to show the appreciation for that because I do really appreciate them," Eric said. It is important to him that he does this because of months planning and hours of driving and flying are put in every week for his family to get to his games.

His family knows it's all worth it because of their son's love for football.

"Davis' teammates are his family, and he would die for them," Eric said.

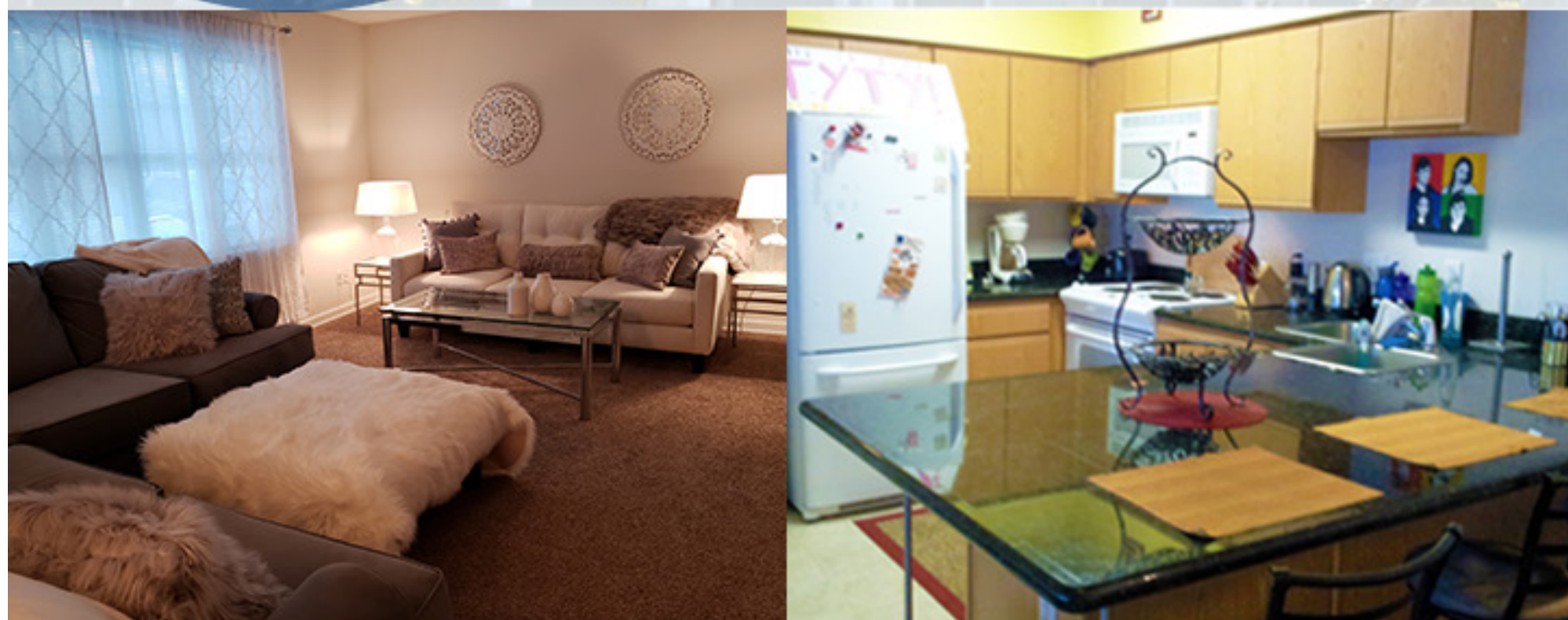


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