

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021  
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA  
VOLUME 51, EDITION 10

# THE PENDULUM



## REDEFINING IDENTITY TAKES CENTER STAGE

Students, faculty and staff in the department of performing arts share what identity means to them

Miranda Ferrante | Lifestyle Editor | @ferrantemiranda

**L**AUREN JACOBBE WAS 17 years old when she tore her meniscus. While the tear itself was small, the injury was big in its consequences. Jacobbe had to face the idea of no longer being able to do what she loved.

Having to face the idea of no longer being able to do what she loved, the absence of dancing caused Jacobbe to reevaluate her identity. Now a junior at Elon University, Jacobbe said she recognizes that she had attached her sense of self-worth and identity to dance.

“I’ve learned to not take dance on as my identity and grow myself and other forms of my life, so for the moments of my life when I cannot dance, I am still feeling full and whole,” Jacobbe said. “It has been a journey of loss and then finding myself in other ways, and growing my identity in ways that wasn’t so attached to dance that I felt lost without it.”

But while the idea of being attached to an identity is tied to her self-worth, Jacobbe said she noticed she wasn’t the only one who felt this way when she entered the performing arts department.

Like Jacobbe, junior Parker MacIntyre grew up performing.

The dance performance and choreography major has been the only male in Elon’s dance program since his freshman year. Though it’s presented him with many performance opportunities, MacIntyre said being the only male is hard.

“If people want a boy in their piece, or

they want to do partnering with a boy and a girl, I’m the only option,” MacIntyre said.

MacIntyre is one of many in Elon’s department of performing arts who’s identity is defined by others with a label. But coordinator of theatrical design and technology Charles Johnson said though the department has labels — actor, dancer, designer, director, musician — students, faculty and staff do not define themselves by a single term, it’s just one piece of who they are.

“I think why a lot of us fall in love with theater in high school, it’s a place for all the misbegotten toys, everyone can belong in theater,” Johnson said. “It’s the one place where you have the quarterback and the valedictorian and someone who a lot of people may not know because they’re quiet and shy.”

For senior acting and arts administration double major Hana Eddib, acting is just something she does, while inspiration comes from outside experiences.

“I think it’s so funny because when I interact with people and they hear that I’m an acting major the first thing they think I want to talk about is theater,” Eddib said. “I love it. I mean, that’s why we do what we do, but I also think that actors are some of the smartest and open people because in order to be an actor, you have to pull from everyday life and the experiences that you have.”

See **IDENTITY** | pg. 4A

### KOREAN DANCE • PAGE 5A

Elon Dance Program collaborates with Multifaith Scholars Program to recognize Korean dance history

### FROM WORDS TO LIFE • PAGE 6A

NewWorks lets student playwrights, screenwriters bring their work to life beyond the paper

### BALANCING ACTS • PAGE 8A

Adjunct professors in performing arts department share their experiences outside of Elon



# 2021-22 PERFORMING ARTS PREVIEW

## 42ND STREET

OCT 29-31/ NOV 4-6

**McCrary Theatre**

Peggy Sawyer arrives in New York City from Allentown, PA with hopes of becoming a Broadway star. The young performer learns about show business and discovers which relationships are most important in life.

## FALL DANCE CONCERT

NOV 12-14

**Roberts Studio Theatre**

The Fall Dance Concert features Elon BFA dance majors performing original and experimental work by faculty, guest artists and select students.

## SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

JAN 21-24/FEB 1-5

**Roberts Studio Theatre**

A play adapted from Jane Austen's novel follows the fortunes and misfortunes of the Dashwood sisters after their father's sudden death leaves them financially destitute and socially vulnerable.

## INTO THE WOODS

FEB 11-13

**McCrary Theatre**

The classic musical featuring iconic characters like Cinderella and Rapunzel will be performed by Elon performing arts students.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONCERT

FEB 23-24

**Virtual Performance**

The artistic showcase directed by Professor of Dance Keshia Wall will honor Black heritage.

## SPRING DANCE CONCERT

MARCH 3-6

**McCrary Theatre**

The concert will consist of multiple dance works choreographed by faculty and guest professionals.

## GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING

MARCH 25-26

**Roberts Studio Theatre**

Elon Music Theatre shares a celebration of collaboration, creativity and community.

## THE CHERRY ORCHARD

APRIL 7-10

**McCrary Theatre**

Elon performing arts students will perform the comedic play Russian playwright Anton Chekhov.

## INSTANT LAUGHTER

APRIL 22

**Yeager Recital Hall**

Several performing arts majors work with spontaneous suggestions from the audience to create humorous scenes in this improv comedy benefiting the Performing Arts Department.

## MOVIN' ON

APRIL 29-30/ MAY 1

**Roberts Studio Theatre**

Movin' On picks up where A Chorus Line left off. A humorous and compelling look at the lives of six successful Broadway performers trying to sing and dance their way out of the chorus line.

# VIRTUAL TO LIVE: REMOTE PERFORMANCES FACE AN END

Theater at Elon has returned to campus with COVID-19 precautions to bring back in-person shows this fall

**Caitlin McAuliffe**  
Elon News Network | @caitmcauliffe

Online auditions, masked rehearsals, show cancellations and virtual performances. While the traditional theater experience was modified by the COVID-19 pandemic, this academic year, live performances are making a comeback at Elon University.

While live shows have made their way to the stage for the department of performing arts, any student can get involved with live theater through Elon’s student-run theatrical club Renegade Productions. The club returned this academic year with its recent production of “She Kills Monsters,” by Qui Nguyen, performed on Oct. 8 and 9.

The organization was able to produce a live performance after being entirely virtual for almost two years. The play’s story revolves around Agnes and her recently deceased teenage younger sister, Tilly, a dungeons and dragons player. As the plot evolves, Agnes gets to know more about Tilly, the life of high schoolers, and what she wants in her relationship.

Freshman Erik Houck, who played Miles in the show, said he feels lucky to have a somewhat normal theater experience his first year at Elon, and part of that is due to Renegade Productions.

“Since it was a student production, it is highly different than anything I was ever used to. It was an easier environment, more relaxed, nice, chill, and relaxing. It made the whole experience more fun and enjoyable,” Houck said.

Houck, a music theatre major, said his audition for Elon’s program was different from students in previous years. The university’s solution to COVID-19 restricting students’ ability to hold live auditions, was to have prospective students submit pre-recorded videos.

“

I THINK THEATER IS SO IMPORTANT SINCE IT IS AN ART FORM THAT PEOPLE NEED RIGHT NOW MORE THAN EVER.

**JORDAN KELBERG**  
FRESHMAN

“The college audition process was really weird because I didn’t actually go to any of the schools to audition,” Houck said. “They were all online, which honestly saved me a lot of money.”

To bring back in-person performances, some theaters adopted face shields or transparent face masks for their performers to show their full faces while still adhering to COVID-19 safety guidelines. Other procedures include requiring vaccinations, like at Elon, which offers more freedom for students in the performing arts when it comes to wearing masks throughout their performance.

With the return of almost all activities to in person at the university, “She Kills Monsters” didn’t face as many safety restrictions this year such as not wearing masks during performances. Renegade Productions took initiatives to be COVID-safe for the in-person performances, mandating each cast member to be tested three times during tech week and wearing masks throughout the rehearsal process.

Freshman Jordan Kelberg played Kaliopie in the show and said everyone involved followed the safety regulations throughout the process.

“It was fun to see what everyone’s faces looked like when everyone took the masks



COURTESY OF JORDAN KELBERG

Freshman Jordan Kelberg (left) performs with her peers in “She Kills Monsters.” Kelberg joined Renegade Productions hoping to perform live again this year.

off and I was like, ‘Oh I didn’t know you had a nose,’” Kelberg said.

Being a part of “She Kills Monsters” fulfilled Kelberg’s wish of performing live again, and she said she felt everything was to keep people safe throughout the process. Kelberg came to Elon with the hope that the theater program would be fully in person this year.

“After a year of not performing in person, it was great to be back with the people I love in the place I love most,” Kelberg said. “I cannot begin to explain how exciting and relieving it was to be back.”

Kelberg said she believes the obstacles theater faced last year will help the industry overcome similar challenges in the future.

“I think theater is so important since it is an art form that people need right now more than ever,” Kelberg said. “I think it’s important, no matter what happens. To use technology to our advantage and make sure that if we can’t be there in person, theater has to be there; it just has to be.”

## IF YOU GO

**LIVE: Performing Arts Department:  
42nd Street Performance**

**Where:** McCrary Theatre

**When:** Oct. 29-31, Nov. 4-6: 7:30 p.m.

**Admission:** \$15 or Elon ID



COURTESY OF SCOTT MOTHERSBAUGH

Senior Briston Whitt performs in-person in “Heart of Shrapnel” by Noé Morales Muñoz on Tuesday, Oct. 5.

# Elon students, faculty and staff in the performing arts reflect on how their identities inform, impact their craft

IDENTITY | from cover

## When identity informs art

Eddib's identity is also circumvented in the Muslim culture she was raised in.

"I think that piece of my identity has really helped me in trying to see the point of views that every other person has both in character and in the art, but also as individuals in this department," Eddib said.

Though Eddib was raised in a predominantly white neighborhood, she said her exposure to experiences that differed from her own upbringing allowed her to be more mindful of different perspectives.

"I think having that experience and bringing it into the department and my artistry, what I found is that it usually lends the artists to be a little bit more empathetic, and a little bit more understanding of different perspectives," Eddib said.

According to Susanne Shawyer, professor of theatre, considering systems of power is an important aspect when thinking about identity — as beliefs, practices and cultural norms all play crucial roles on how lives and institutions are built.

Shawyer said these systems of power determine how people think about identity and experience the world around them.

"While identity can feel really personal and individual, it's really connected to those larger systems of power that can help construct identity for us and how we understand it," Shawyer said. "We live in a culture that is structured by capitalism. And we have systems of power around race, racism, and systems of power around gender, heteronormativity."



COURTESY OF LAUREN JACOBBE

Jacobbe performs in a past dance concert in a show directed by Elon University's performing arts.

Under the mentorship of Shawyer, Jack Morrill, a junior studying acting and arts administration, used undergraduate research to explore creating a more inclusive and equitable future in performing arts. In doing so, Morrill said he explored more about his own identity in the process.

"For the longest time, I've defined who I was based on what other people expected of me," Morrill said. "When I think back to who I thought I was supposed to be at the time as a gay male, I definitely based aspects of who I was and things I did based on who I thought I was expected to be."

Morrill said these expectations were rooted in stereotypes seen on television or online. Through his own experience, Morrill said he observed a lack of authentic

queer stories being told on the stage.

"If queer is anything, it's fluid and it's not a binary, and so that is something I'm looking to change in how we do theater — is not looking at it from this linear perspective," Morrill said.

Morrill's research looks at these systems of power. He said while people often perceive the performing arts as a place of complete inclusivity, that is not the case. Through research, Morrill hopes to evaluate and analyze how values from queer communities can be used to create work that is more inclusive, while making theatre more accessible to all people.

Jacobbe said though dance will always be a part of who she is, she has learned being a dancer is not her entire identity.

"When I attach my identity onto something that is outside of myself, I am left to think that me alone is not enough," Jacobbe said. "When it is inevitable that what is outside of me is no longer there, I am left alone and hurt. So I have learned to look inward instead of outward and find that ground and security within myself."

SCAN TO LEARN ABOUT  
ELON PERFORMING ARTS  
OR VISIT  
[WWW.ELON.EDU/U/ACADEMICS/  
ARTS-AND-SCIENCES/  
PERFORMING-ARTS/](http://WWW.ELON.EDU/U/ACADEMICS/ARTS-AND-SCIENCES/PERFORMING-ARTS/)



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

Junior Lauren Jacobbe performs her passion: dancing. Despite her injury, she has continued to dance throughout her college career.



# Dance research collaborates with multifaith scholars program



COURTESY OF JIWON HA

Performing arts instructor Jiwon Ha performs a dance in an outside environment. Ha will be featured in the “Tradition and Innovation in Korean Dance” event on Thursday, Oct. 28.

Multifaith scholar Emily Wilbourne will share her study abroad, Korean dance study on Thursday, Oct. 28

**Nyah Phengsitthy**  
Managing Editor | @nyahphengsitthy

Senior Emily Wilbourne spent the summer dancing in Busan, South Korea. Studying Seungmu, a national Korean folk dance, Wilbourne combined her interreligious

in Korean dance. The two serve as Wilbourne’s co-mentors in Multifaith Scholars, a two year mentored research program that integrates a religious studies lense.

“Emily is just exceptional. She’s so intelligent. She’s a beautiful writer,” Avaunt said. “I think she just really impressed me with her high level thinking. I learned that a lot of students are really high level, and they can do this research, and they’re very professional, they can go to another country and do ethnographic fieldwork.”

While this event will recognize Wilbourne’s studies, it will also highlight instructor in performing arts Jiwon Ha. Ha, who is from Busan, South Korea, virtually guided Wilbourne while she studied there in both the fall and the summer.

“I could not have done it without her help,”

Wilbourne said. “Her sister actually ended up being my interview translator, which was just like, what a perfect Elon connection.”

Since Wilbourne was the first student in 10 years to study abroad in South Korea, Ha helped her navigate the program, where she assisted in finding sources for Wilbourne’s research. Ha said her drive to serve as another mentor to Wilbourne came from wanting to spread her culture.

“Why do I have a strong desire to share my culture? It’s because people don’t actually care

about it that much,” Ha said. “I think it’s very important for students to see more cultures. The more they know, the more they see. They have better eyes for the world, different culture forms ... If they don’t educate, they’re not going to see anything happen in the world. I want them to educate and see more.”

Along with Wilbourne and Ha, Korean guest artist, Hyoin Jun, will share his contemporary artistic expression through the performance of his piece, “Battery.” Avaunt, who is moderating the event, said she hopes the lecture-demonstration will give a variety of experiences to those attending.

“Between the three of them, they are covering a wide landscape of Korean dance practice,” Avaunt said.

The event will showcase Wilbourne’s ethnographic research on Buddhist origins. Ha will also demonstrate a selection of traditional Korean dances, as well as a performance of Korean fan dance featuring Elon dance students.

Ha hopes by sharing her culture and different choreographic elements used in Korean traditional dance, this event will open doors for people who aren’t familiar with the country’s history of dance.

“Like all other folk or traditional dance forms, we have a very rich culture, it’s very old history,” Ha said. “I think students here are ready to globalize. When they are away from this beautiful community, I

want them to see more culture.”

Wilbourne said she saw that rich culture in dance history when she studied in Korea.

“If you look at Korean dance as like a group, there’s so much more depth to it than just grouping it like that,” Wilbourne said. “You end up becoming a lot more empathetic for people from other cultures because you have a more personal connection to it.”

The event was also created with the goal of promoting a more diverse intellectual climate on campus, and different organizations across the university have collaborated in putting this together — Elon’s Dance Program, the Division of Inclusive Excellence, the Center for Race, Ethnicity, & Diversity Education, Department of Asian Studies and the Center for Study of Religion, Culture and Society. The collaboration for the event will also recognize social issues that occurred this past year relating to anti-Asian hate crimes.

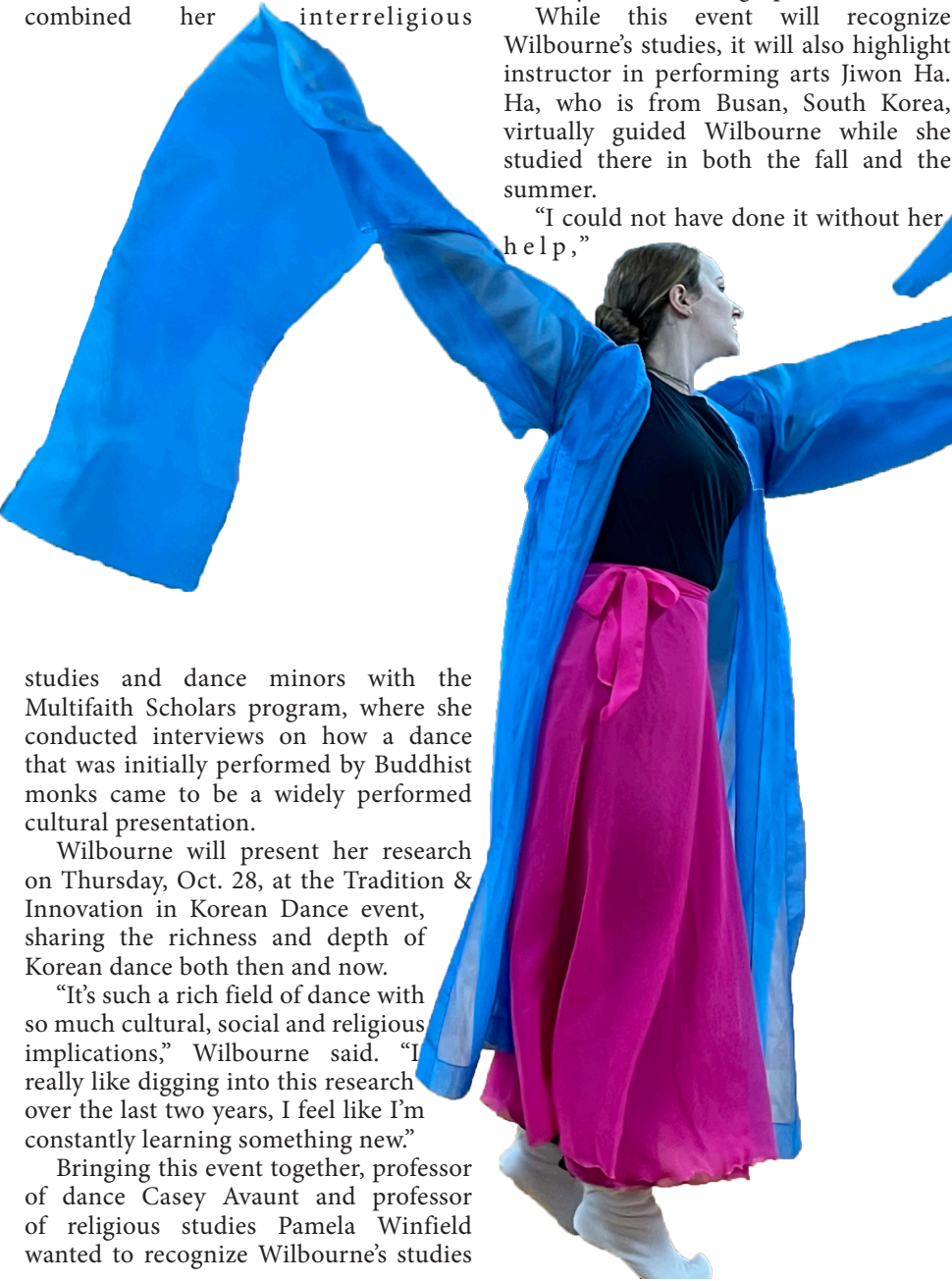
“We’re really excited about this event because we really wanted to promote Asian and Asian American issues,” Avaunt said. “Dr. Winfield’s research also involves Asia, my research involves Asia, and we felt like it was a really important time considering all the events of last year with anti-Asian hate, that we really needed to promote Asian dance on campus.”

Returning to Elon’s campus this fall, Wilbourne said she feels more culturally competent, and is looking forward to sharing what she’s learned so that others can achieve that as well.

“Not many people are going to go to Korea in their lifetime,” Wilbourne said. “But maybe they’ll come to this Korean dance event and feel like they’ve received that knowledge, or a portion of that experience and at least understand why it’s valuable and how it has impacted people, even if it doesn’t directly impact them.”

IF YOU GO

**Tradition and Innovation in Korean Dance**  
**Where:** McKinnon Stage  
**When:** Thursday, Oct 28 6:30-7:30 p.m.





ABBY REED | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

During a session of the Contemporary Play Reading and Discussion Series, professor of English Scott Proudfit leads a student reading of “The Gift” by Janice Okoh on Monday, Oct. 18 in the Center for the Arts.

NewWorks lets student playwrights, screenwriters hear their work beyond the page

#### Emery Eisner

Elon News Network | @eisneremery

Alumna Lauren Memery ‘21 cried when she finally got to see her characters come to life on film last year. After months of refining and research, Memery watched as her screenplay, “They Told Us We Were Girls,” went from the page to a television pilot. This, she said, would have not been possible without the support she found in NewWorks, a drama and theatre studies-based club at Elon.

But before seeing her work make it to the screen, she had to go through the first, and hardest, step for her: hearing a handful of student actors read and critique her script.

“No way would I have gone that far without just the first step,” Memery said.

#### Together again

When Memery’s script was first read through the club, meetings were held exclusively on Zoom. Having debuted over the summer in 2020, just a few months after students were sent home at the onset of the pandemic, members of NewWorks had never come together in person before this semester. According to President of NewWorks Savannah Rowlette, hearing scripts read aloud in person offers a connection difficult to achieve over Zoom.

“Actually being able to read out loud with people in the room helped us not only better understand the characters, but better understand the story as a whole,” Rowlette said. “I feel like we were able to give better critique to the playwright, because it was a more inclusive atmosphere, rather than just looking at a screen.”

Reading with people physically in the room helps students understand each other, said NewWorks adviser Scott Proudfit.

“This is your chance to be with a group of smart, young people talking about the things that really matter,” Proudfit said. “You’ll be able to text people your whole life, you’ll be able to do social media your whole life, that’ll always be there.”

Proudfit, a drama and theatre studies professor, said that this experience — gathering, knowing there are limited chances

to do so — is the heart of what makes theater special.

“Theater is always ephemeral,” he said. “Something that’s always what makes it special is the fact that it ends.”

This applies to the NewWorks meetings as well. Proudfit said he encourages students to come to the meetings in person, since they are only held once a month during the school year.

“These things should be important,” Proudfit said. “You can do all that other stuff for the rest of your life. It’s going to be there.”

#### Hearing is believing

Reading student scripts aloud is beneficial due to the very nature of theater, Proudfit said.

“Drama text is weird. It’s kind of unlike any other form of creative writing in that its meaning is incomplete on the page,” Proudfit said. “It’s always a blueprint or a map to a performance.”

“

WE WANT THEM TO BE READING THESE PLAYS AND KNOWING THAT THERE’S REALLY EXCITING WORK BEING DONE.

#### SCOTT PROUDFIT

NEWWORKS ADVISER &  
THEATRE STUDIES PROFESSOR

Because of the missing elements in the script alone, when a student hears their work read aloud, Proudfit said it can add even more depth as they move on to the editing phase.

“That is so important for a writer to have not just one reading of their work, but multiple readings of the work,” he said. “It needs to be read for at least one set of meanings to be realized in a room with a group of people.”

As a writer, Rowlette said hearing student work from multiple perspectives can help a writer think outside the box.

# BRINGING WORDS TO LIFE

“When you’re writing and everything’s in your head, it may sound right to you until it’s read out loud,” Rowlette said. “It’s so much different actually hearing it. Our visual and our auditory senses are very different.”

#### From mind to world

Though the first reading of Memery’s “They Told Us We Were Girls,” a television pilot about sexism and racism in the American punk rock scene, was on a Zoom call, the Elon grad is now pursuing film festivals with the goal of getting the pilot produced. Memery’s undergraduate research continued to write and rewrite drafts of the script. Eventually her peers performed the opening scene in the Center for the Arts and filmed it with the help of Cinelon, a student-run film production company at Elon.

“Just seeing them in their costumes under that hot pink light and with that look in their eye of like, ‘Alright, we’re not just reading your words. We are what you created.’ Oh my

god, I cried all day in that girl’s bathroom in the CFA,” Memery said.

Though the thought of sharing a written work can be scary, Rowlette encouraged student writers to send in their scripts or other types of work, and said anyone interested can join.

“It’s such a safe space to have that personal, vulnerable side of you shown,” Rowlette said. “It’s a really beautiful, collaborative experience.”

Proudfit said students who wish to hear contemporary theater read aloud can also attend the Contemporary Play Reading series, in which professional scripts — often from a writer of color or a queer writer — are read and analyzed in a group setting.

“We want them to be reading these plays and knowing that there’s really exciting work being done,” Proudfit said, adding that when students read this “exciting” new work, he’s noticed they have often been inspired to write their own.



COURTESY OF LAUREN MEMERY

Preparing for a live performance, alumna Mary Pomykacz and senior Kenny Harvey dress for one of Lauren Memery’s written scripts.

RESEARCHING

OUTSIDE THE BOX



EMMA FARRELL | DESIGN CHIEF

Students in the performing arts conduct research projects, despite the lack of awareness

**Samantha Sussman**  
Elon News Network | @samanthasusma

When people think of research, they don't tend to associate it with the performing arts, but according to professor Renay Aumiller, research, while it may be informal and unconventional, is conducted on a day to day basis.

"Every time we seek ways to deepen our craft, are curious about the history of a script we are reading, or reserve studio space to improvise movement invention, we are conducting various forms of creative research," Aumiller wrote in an email to Elon News Network.

Any student at Elon can participate in undergraduate research. In the performing arts, the research can be seen in the form of a paper, production, piece of art or any other medium.

Senior Weston LeCrone is conducting undergraduate research on "Theater for Young Audiences: Utilizing Minimalist Techniques to Build Community Through Theater," which is focused on using minimalism to increase accessibility and education in the arts that may be unavailable to different communities.

"That way we can sort of shift our narrative in the performing arts and in commercial theater in general because if you want people who are more diverse with more diverse backgrounds," LeCrone said. "I think you need to start at the roots and in our communities because not everyone has the access to the arts that a lot of others have been privileged with."

Performing arts are not often associated with undergraduate research because the creative process looks different than a traditional research project that includes collecting data, performing tests and writing a paper, according to LeCrone. He believes the creative process and structure of performing arts might make it harder

to conduct research in the field.

"There are definitely far fewer students who are conducting research in the performing arts just because they sort of directly combat each other," LeCrone said. "As a creative person you're really focused on the process and things sort of pop up randomly, like you get creative sparks. It doesn't lend itself well to the traditional research process."

Junior Kelly Belarmino has found undergraduate research is done less often in performing arts because research is secondary to other priorities.

"I think, I mean, being a performing arts major, you're really busy, you're pursuing a BFA, you have rehearsals, you have internships over the summer ... you're not really thinking about research, and it's not a research based field usually," Belarmino said. "That's not why people go into it. So I think there's just, it's just a cultural thing in our program."

Senior Cassidy Perry holds a similar belief and said performing arts research can be harder to put on paper and provide evidence for.

"You hear a lot about the sciences doing a lot of undergraduate research," Perry said. "I think part of it is because not all performing arts research is quantitative and it's a lot harder to propose qualitative research and get people to understand it."

Perry's research, however, does lean more toward data and numbers as she has incorporated exercise science with dance.

"I'm looking at the body composition of professionally trained dancers from Elon, so dance majors, minors, people in dance works and a few dance science and dance team people," Perry said. "I'm looking at how their training impacted their body composition which then impacts how they perform."

Perry's research project is entitled, "Creating an Optimal Performer: A Body Composition and Performance Analysis."

Perry is using a mixed-method approach by collecting data to look at training methods' impact on different

functions required for dance.

LeCrone's research focus has changed a lot with the COVID-19 pandemic impacting what was feasible, but his main goal was to get back to the root of storytelling by creating a theatrical piece. Perry will craft a research paper and a recommended training plan from her findings. She thinks it's important to point out that performing arts research doesn't have to fit into a stereotypical mold and emphasize its importance.



ONE THING TO NOTE ABOUT RESEARCH IN THE PERFORMING ARTS IS THAT IT IS JUST AS VALID TO DO A PIECE OF MOVEMENT, A PLAY, A SONG CYCLE, SOME SORT OF PERFORMANCE AS RESEARCH, AS IT IS TO DO LIKE TRADITIONAL SCHOLARLY TEXTBOOK, WHAT WE CONSIDER, QUOTE-UNQUOTE, ACTUAL RESEARCH

**CASSIDY PERRY**  
SENIOR

"I think just reminding people that it's definitely necessary and it's possible to do research in performing arts, and you don't have to make a production or a show or a tangible object to do performing arts research, it can be a paper or an article," Perry said.

Belarmino is conducting undergraduate research on harmful practices in the musical theater

industry that specifically affect Asian and Latinx people. She will be taking an unconventional approach and talking to subjects about their experiences.

"It's interview based research so I'm interviewing around, I aim to interview 30 Broadway professionals that are all of Asian and or Latinx descent, as well as Asian and Latinx casting directors, and a few white casting directors, just to understand our specific place in the industry and certain practices that we are uniquely affected by," Belarmino said. "And then eventually the interviews will accumulate into a piece of art, like some theatrical play that's inspired by the words of people and their experiences."

Research can be seen in different mediums, especially in performing arts, according to Belarmino. She wants people to acknowledge and accept the different mediums because they are still justifiable research projects.

"I think research as a whole in performing arts is a different, it's an entirely different research entity," Belarmino said. "A lot of it is performance based because that's the media that we work with. So I think one thing to note about research in the performing arts is that it is just as valid to do a piece of movement, a play, a song cycle, some sort of performance as research, as it is to do like traditional scholarly textbook, what we consider, quote-unquote, actual research."

Belarmino is using the opportunities being both an Honors Fellow and Lumen Scholar offer her to prepare herself for a future on Broadway.

"I want to be on Broadway, so talking to people on Broadway is, what better way to do that, get up, get my foot in the door and talk to them," Belarmino said. "I totally think it's going to help me in the future."

LeCrone hopes to encourage students to conduct research in performing arts because of the scarcity in research he has seen.

"I would just say if people are interested, just go for it," LeCrone said. "We always need more research in the performing arts and that you can do it and you'll figure out the process that works for you."



Jiwon Ha, an adjunct instructor of modern and Korean dance, holds a rehearsal for the Fall Dance Concert on Monday, Oct. 11 in the Center for the Arts.

NYAH PHENGSIITTHY | MANAGING EDITOR

Performing arts adjunct professors share their work balance with Elon

**Nyah Phengsitthy**  
Managing Editor | @nyahphengsitthy

Kate Shugar drives two hours from Hickory, North Carolina to Elon every Tuesday and Thursday morning. When she's not commuting, she's teaching at a dance studio in Hickory or working as a virtual tutor. This is Shugar's life as an adjunct professor in Elon's performing arts department.

"I have three jobs," Shugar said. "Sometimes I would really like to come to Elon for events on campus, whether it's to support my students in a performance or come to a panel discussion, but I can't, because I have responsibilities to my other jobs."

“

ALTHOUGH I WOULD  
LOVE TO MOVE  
CLOSER TO ELON, I  
CAN'T NECESSARILY  
DROP THE OTHER  
JOB BECAUSE ELON  
DOESN'T PAY FOR  
EVERYTHING.

**KATE SHUGAR**  
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF DANCE

Shugar joined Elon's faculty in the fall of 2020. After connecting with full-time Elon professors while teaching at University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Shugar was invited to teach a class at Elon and later became an adjunct professor — a part-time professor not considered a permanent professor or on tenure track.



NYAH PHENGSIITTHY | MANAGING EDITOR

Adjunct professor of dance Kate Shugar does her work in an empty adjunct office. Hired in fall 2020, Shugar works for Elon by a semester basis.

While Elon has brought new connections with students and full-time faculty for Shugar, her position is only one example of a commitment in her life that she has to balance.

"Although I would love to move closer to Elon, I can't necessarily drop the other job because Elon doesn't pay for everything," Shugar said.

For other adjunct instructors, like Jiwon Ha, balancing additional jobs while teaching at Elon is nothing new — especially in the arts.

"Being in this industry and being a dancer, it's really hard to pay bills," Ha said.

A modern and Korean dance professor at Elon, Ha joined the university four years ago when she moved here from Korea. Since then, she has been an adjunct instructor and also served as the contemporary director at Artistic Motion School of Arts — a dance school in Greensboro. Ha graduated from Pusan National University in Korea, where she served as a professor similar to an adjunct's position, and later brought those skills to Elon to continue her dream.

"This was the goal — dancing and teaching at the same time. I love what I do and I'm enjoying what I do with students and I'm still getting paid," Ha said.

Teaching and dancing have always been the goal for both Ha and Shugar, but doing that as an adjunct at Elon also comes with setbacks. With at least 20 adjunct positions within the performing arts department — assistant professors, instructors and accompanists — there are many limiting factors in the position, such as the lack of job security and the low number of credit hours an adjunct professor may fulfill.

"From a student perspective, it's really nice to have so many different professors, so many different perspectives. In one sense, it's always great to have different people teaching because you learn from so many different people," Shugar said. "But from the perspective of a working person, it's hard because that means you don't get as many credit hours to teach per semester because they are divided among so many different adjunct professors."

To express the needs of many adjunct professors, Shugar said she has thought

of joining the faculty union at Elon — part-time, limited term or visiting faculty at Elon were granted eligibility to form a union in February 2021 after the certification of Elon Faculty Forward. The only thing holding Shugar back from joining the union is not knowing when she will teach since she is hired on a semester basis.

"The more I teach here, the more I'm inclined to join, but there's always that sense of uncertainty — I don't know if I'll get a class next semester," Shugar said.

But even with the drawbacks for adjunct professors, there still exists the joy of teaching what they love.

"I've always wanted to be a professor," Ha said. "I'm always amazed how the students are so out there engaging and sharing ideas."

Shugar said although adjunct professors are separated with tenure by rank, she still feels the sense of community at Elon, which is an experience she values.

"I like that Elon in comparison to a public university is smaller," Shugar said. "I feel very much, even as an adjunct, part of the Elon community."



Resident Shirley Shaw sits outside her home in Morgantown, a residential neighborhood located in east Burlington. Living in Morgantown her whole life, Shaw doesn't want to move away, especially with developers contacting her every day to buy out her home. As the Burlington mayoral election gets closer, Shaw and other residents continue to raise issues and concerns to the city of Burlington officials.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# BURLINGTON RESIDENTS RAISE CONCERNS FROM THE EAST SIDE

Residents from east Burlington continue to raise concerns about underdeveloped areas, safety hazards

**Nyah Phengsitthy**  
Managing Editor | @nyahphengsitthy

THE SOUND OF BULLDOZERS digging into the ground and steel banging against itself filled the air. Smoke and dust slowly permeated the sky. As she sat in her home, Burlington resident Shirley Shaw watched and listened, unaware of what was going on in her backyard until she

stepped outside. “I came out and I said ‘what in the world is going on back there?’” Shaw said. “You’re right in my back door.” Shaw realized her lifelong home was slowly turning into a place she could no longer afford. Morgantown, a residential neighborhood located in east Burlington, is changing. Higher-income individuals have moved into the area next door, with the efforts of pushing lower-income people of color out of the neighborhood. Saving her community has been her goal the past few months, especially with developers contacting her to buy out her home. “I get calls all the time, I get text messages all

the time and I just text them ‘I’m not selling,’” Shaw said. “I get mail and everything, and I don’t even know where the texts come from. I just text them back because I’m wondering where they get the phone number from.” As the Burlington mayoral election gets closer, the increased gentrification is only one of many concerns east Burlington residents have raised to the city. For more than a decade now, the former Western Electric Company-Tarheel Army Missile Plant has also brought urgent health and environmental risks to residents.

See **EAST BURLINGTON** | pg. 4B

# Board of trustees to raise tuition, unclear by how much

Information regarding the budget adopted for the 2022-23 academic year has yet to be announced

**Kyra O'Connor**  
Executive Director | @ko\_reports

Following the board of trustees meeting, as of Oct. 26, the university has not announced any change in tuition for the 2022-23 school year. According to a university spokesperson, while the board did adopt a budget for next year, the information from the budget will be shared with the Elon community “in the

future.” According to sources familiar with the meeting, the board considered a tuition increase of near 7% for the upcoming year. Last year’s increase was 3.7%. Freshman Kai Whiteside said an increase in tuition that is as large as 7% — over \$2,000 more — would mean even more of a financial burden for himself and other students. “I know some people come from homes that don’t have enough, so even to get their child here at this moment was already a struggle,” Whiteside said. “For them to give even more is kind of crazy.”

See **TUITION** | pg. 2B

## Percent increase in tuition over the past 10 years

According to the University Factbook, tuition increase by 3.7% from the 2019-20 academic year to the 2020-21 academic year.

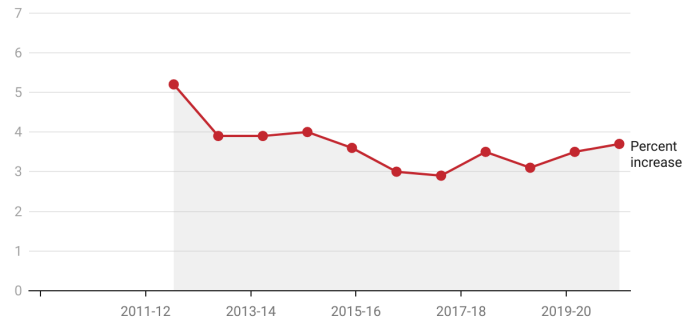


Chart: Ryan Kupperman • Source: Elon University • Created with Datawrapper



**NEWS • PAGE 2B**  
Students submit flu shot forms, exemptions right before deadline



**LIFESTYLE • PAGE 6B**  
Spectrum club creates safe, open community for students



**SPORTS • PAGE 7B**  
Football brothers hold bond on and off the field

# THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF

ELON NEWS  
NETWORK

Established 1974  
Volume 51, Edition 10

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](mailto: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.

## KYRA O’CONNOR

Executive Director of Elon News Network

## NYAH PHENGSI’THY

Managing Editor of The Pendulum

## ELLIS CHANDLER

News Director of Elon Local News

## SOPHIE ROSENTHAL

Chief Copy Editor

## JENNA MANDERIOLI

Social Media Coordinator

## CLARE GRANT

Video Production Manager

## BEN MUSE

Analytics Director

## EMMA FARRELL

Design Chief

## DELANEY DANIELS

Photo Editor

## GRAYSEN SHIRLEY

Politics Editor

## MIRANDA FERRANTE

Lifestyle Editor

## JACOB KISAMORE

Sports Director

Rayna Russo, Ted Thomas, Tucker Price and Betsy Schlehuber contributed to the design of this edition. Madalyn Howard, Olivia Romano, Samantha Sussman, Abigail Hobbs, Caroline Mitchell, Gram Brownlee, Alexa Ferraiuolo and Ryan Kupperman contributed the copy editing of this edition.

## EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

## CORRECTIONS POLICY:

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

Contact

[corrections@elonnewsnetwork.com](mailto:corrections@elonnewsnetwork.com)  
to report a correction or a concern.

## 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.

### ENN On Air

broadcasts Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.

### ENN Radio Podcast

publishes Friday afternoon

## CORRECTIONS

There are no corrections from the last edition of The Pendulum.

# Elon University board of trustees could raise tuition by nearly 7% in 2022-23

## TUITION | from cover

Documents from last weekend’s trustees meeting provided to Elon News Network outlined several options for increasing revenue to the university — including increasing enrollment, increasing the amount students pay or decreasing financial aid. The documents note that decades ago, “the university chose both slow growth and the fiscally responsible model of lower cost and low tuition discounting.”

Freshman Katie Reed said she would like to see Elon offer more scholarships if tuition increases. As a freshman, however, the potential raise is worrying.

“That’s a little scary for the fact that we still have three years left to pay for that,” Reed said.

Universities such as Elon are highly dependent on tuition. Compared with peer institutions the university also has a low overall tuition “discount rate,” which determines how much a university collects in tuition and fees after accounting for financial aid.

Elon’s discount rate for the 2020-2021 academic year sat at 21% with overall tuition and fees set at \$38,725. By comparison, the average cost of tuition and fees among Elon’s peer institutions was \$49,305, but the average discount rate among those universities was 42%.

Elon University’s endowment is also smaller, as compared with peer

institutions. The university’s endowment for 2020 was about \$260 million, less than half of the \$695 million average among peer institutions.

Trustee Noel Allen ‘69 said the board looks at many factors when considering the university budget — from income trends to inflationary factors. This year in particular impacted the budgetary process, coming out of such “odd, strange times” as far as the pandemic.

Inflation has increased nationally with the consumer price index rising nearly 5.4% according to the Labor Department, and many institutions of higher education have seen a decrease in giving due to the pandemic, both of which are factors that can impact Elon.

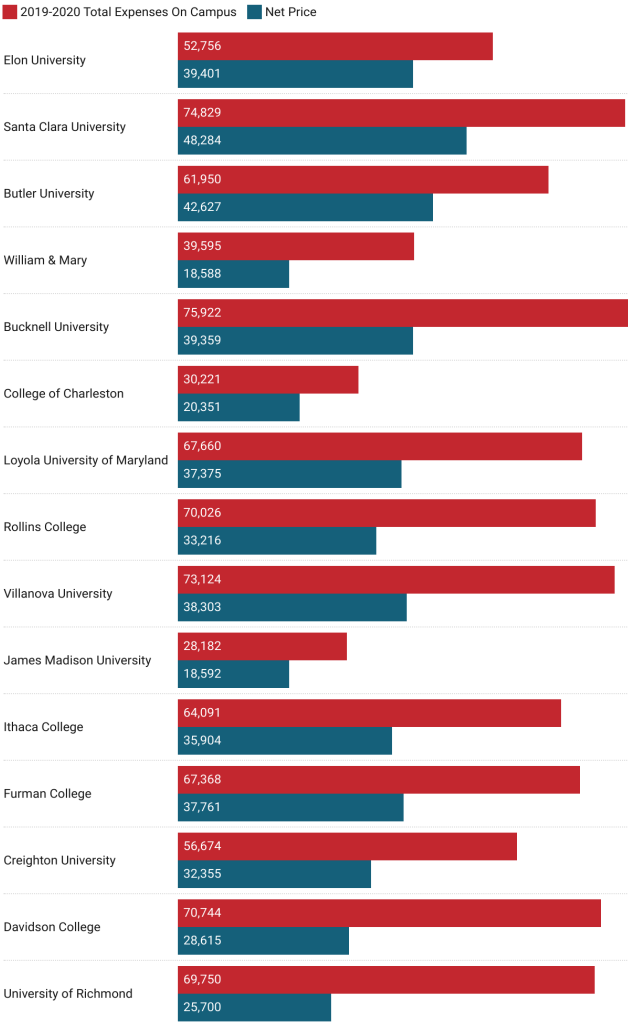
As an alumnus, a parent of an Elon student and a trustee, Allen has seen the budget through multiple perspectives and acknowledges that it is “a balancing act” between student needs and educational resources.

“The school always is sensitive to someone who is in financial hardship, figuring out ways to make it work,” Allen said. “But at the same time, you can’t afford to cut back, and lose good quality faculty ... that just doesn’t work out in the long run.”

Junior Chloe Durand said she is not concerned about a potential tuition increase, as she is an international student and pays the tuition rate of her home institution. However, she wishes the

## Total expenses on campus and net price

Data from the National Center for Education Statistics details the total cost of attendance and the net price, which is generated by subtracting the average amount of federal, state/local government or institutional grant or scholarship aid from the cost of attendance.



\*William & Mary, Loyola University of Maryland and James Madison University data is based on in-state tuition.  
Chart: Kyra O'Connor • Source: National Center for Education Statistics • Created with Datawrapper

university were more transparent with students.

Several members of Elon University’s senior staff declined comment last week on any potential tuition increase, citing it would be premature to discuss tuition increases prior to the board of trustees meeting. Senior staff members also declined to interview in person following the board

meeting.

While Allen understands increasing tuition may worry students, he hopes they will understand the greater context of ensuring the quality of an Elon education.

“Things will be up,” Allen said. “But you don’t want to come back to school that you don’t recognize because the quality isn’t there.”

# Elon students slow to submit flu vaccination, exemption compared to first mandate

The second go-round of requiring the flu shot is not as easy as last year’s flu shot mandate

## Kyra O’Connor

Executive Director | @ko\_reports

Days before the Oct. 29 deadline to submit documentation of receiving the flu shot, student uploads are still trickling in. This is the second semester Elon University has required the flu shot for students.

According to Patterson, 74% of students had not gotten their flu vaccine as of Oct. 21. The number of students who have not uploaded their documentation did not surprise Patterson, however.

“I was hopeful that there would be more,” Patterson said. “As things pick up this week, we really want to assess what our next steps are going to be after we see where we are probably Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of next week, because we want to make sure that the records are right.”

The university originally saw most students receiving the vaccine on campus; however, the documentation uploaded this week shows a more even split between students who

received the vaccine off-campus and those who attended university clinics, Patterson said.

According to Patterson, the university community saw a dramatic drop in flu cases — from nearly 300 cases in 2020 to only one confirmed case in spring of 2021.

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

The vaccine deadline 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, all students on campus were in compliance with the flu vaccine mandate or had an exemption, Patterson said. This year, around 100 students have an exemption for the flu shot as of Oct. 26, however, Patterson said the university will not know the final amount until early next week. According to Patterson, the number of students who have an exemption for the COVID-19 vaccine is over 300.

Additionally, students may be granted a temporary exemption,

Patterson said. If a student is allergic to eggs, which can be found in some flu shots, they may be granted an extension to receive a variation of the flu shot, without eggs, at home. Similarly, if a student is abroad and does not have access to the flu vaccine or if a student is not recommended to get the vaccine while ill, they too could be granted an extension.

Patterson said she encourages students who are unable to get the flu vaccine before the deadline to still receive it when they can and submit documentation.

“The most important thing is that we really just want people to be protected and be healthy,” Patterson said.

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 74%

of students have not yet submitted documentation of their flu vaccination, as of Thursday, Oct. 21.



LUCAS CASEL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Left to right: Tight end JohnCarlos Miller II, defensive lineman James Watts and outside linebacker ZyMere Reddick run through the smoke on Saturday, Oct. 23 as they enter Rhodes Stadium for their game against the New Hampshire Wildcats. The Phoenix beat the Wildcats 24-10. Elon football will play James Madison University on Saturday, Oct. 30 in Harrisonburg, VA.



LUCAS CASEL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior and guard for Elon's mens' basketball team Zac Ervin goes for a shot at the basketball scrimmage on Saturday, Oct. 23 in Schar Center. The mens' basketball team continues to prepare for their upcoming season, with their first game against the Florida Gators on Tuesday, Nov. 9.



ADDIE BUCCO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Yadira Fernandez decorates a haunted house at El Centro's Haunted House Decorating Contest on Wednesday, Oct 20.



ADDIE BUCCO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

An Elon student sits on a bench by Lake Mary Nell and reads late on a Sunday afternoon as the leaves begin to change color and the fall season approaches. The campus is painted with red and orange leaves as the temperature drops and the days get shorter.



Senior Josie Malone and junior Jay Bennett shared a laugh with freshman Jenna Dahl, who joined them at the Fall Pride event on Oct. 2 on Phi Beta Kappa Commons. The event was hosted by Elon University's Gender & LGBTQIA Center.

GRAYSEN SHIRLEY | POLITICS EDITOR

# Western Electric hazards, development issues concern residents

EAST BURLINGTON | from cover

## Bulldozing to polluting

Growing up directly across the street from Shaw was Elon alumna Donna Vanhook '07, who previously ran as a candidate in the 2021 Burlington mayoral race. One part of her campaign was raising issues about affordable housing and environmental issues occurring in east Burlington. No longer part of the race, Vanhook said she and other residents have yet to see many changes on their side of town.

“You may not live here; however, you will see injustice,” Vanhook said.

Since the 1990s, many residents have raised concerns about the Western Electric plant on Graham-Hopedale road when the military started their cleanup. The building was used in the 1950s to conduct research that would guide systems for Nike air missiles — bringing in hazardous chemicals to the property, which spilled and leaked into the surrounding area over time. Though the plant once provided jobs to more than 4,000 workers in the late 1900s, the remains of what’s left has harmful effects. According to North Carolina state records, chemicals from cyanide, caustics, acids, radioactive materials and more have been detected throughout the property.

State records have also shown that current day chemical hazards include high levels of PCE and TCE solvents, PCBs carcinogens, asbestos — chemicals that can cause harm to humans such as respiratory issues, fetal development problems, brain and nervous systems issues and cancer. The facility also includes Americium-241 and Cesium-137, radioactive chemicals used in nuclear reactors due to the plant formally working around air missiles. These chemicals harm the half dozen nearby residential homes by polluting the air they breathe and the water they drink.

“A lot of things happen on this side of town that are either not investigated, that are not addressed, and that’s problematic,” Vanhook said. “There’s a lot of talk about east Burlington but not a lot of action.”

But the cleanup and investigation has yet to be finished.

According to Burlington’s Economic Development Director, Peter Bishop, the issue of cleaning up the plant goes beyond Burlington’s control. Because the Western Electric site is a federal superfund site, the state Department of Environmental Quality and North Carolina DEQ are in charge of a federally mandated cleanup.

“We’re not a party to the cleanup, we didn’t cause it,” Bishop said. “We’re not the agency that isn’t forcing them to clean it all up. This is very much a federal and state process.”

Living within eyesight and just a five minute walk from Western Electric,



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

An abandoned home along Austin Street in Morgantown sits on its own as a new housing development is built right behind it.

Vanhook’s nephew, Tavoires Vanhook, said he recognizes the harm residents face every day.

“I feel more for the people who live right behind that property,” Tavoires said. “We don’t know to this point if there’s exposure to air pollutants and the groundwater.”

Little action on the plant is also attributed to the issue that Western Electric currently sits on private property, with the current owner unwilling to work with the city’s efforts to begin developing the area, according to Burlington mayor Ian Baltutis.

“What we’ve seen with the current property owner is the fact that they’re not going to really take action, they’re not going to be the partner that we need to take the site forward,” Baltutis said. “We’ve got to get it out of their hands.”

The plant also has yet to be designated as a brownfield site, which would classify it as a former industrial or commercial site where future use is affected by real or perceived environmental contamination. According to Baltutis, this would put it on schedule for cleanup and expedite the process. Though the city of Burlington received a \$180,000 grant from the American Institute of Architects in 2018 that will work for the redevelopment of the Western Electric city, plans to move forward are still paused.

“I bring it up every time I go to Washington DC with Senator Tillis,” Baltutis said. “The need for that to be brownfield to expedite the Army Corps

“

A LOT OF THINGS HAPPEN ON THIS SIDE OF TOWN THAT ARE EITHER NOT INVESTIGATED, THAT ARE NOT ADDRESSED, AND THAT’S PROBLEMATIC. THERE’S A LOT OF TALK ABOUT EAST BURLINGTON, BUT NOT A LOT OF ACTION.

DONNA VANHOOK  
ELON ALUMNA '07

remediation has been something I’ve kept.”

The hazardous solvents can also affect residents in surrounding towns. If the solvents find its way into the groundwater, it can filter into streams that feed into Haw River — a watershed that provides drinking water to Burlington residents and beyond, including Pittsboro, Chapel Hill and Durham. Recently, the town of Pittsboro residents have been searching for solutions to upstream water pollution contaminating drinking water.

But fixing these issues of contaminated groundwater and other toxic hazards surrounding the plant also includes understanding that there are limits that come to cleanup, with municipal governments like Burlington’s, according to City Council member Harold Owen.

“We’re not the ones to call the shots here a lot,” Owen said. “This is going to be a process in trying to get all levels of government on board here, to do their part, and it’s going to take not only public money, but also it’s gonna take private money for ownership of that property to do this.”

## BY THE NUMBERS

71.6

years is the life expectancy of the neighborhood surrounding Western Electric, according to Cone Health’s 2019 Community Health Assessment on Alamance County.

## Waiting for developments

Tavoires grew up watching Burlington change. Though more developments have been added to east Burlington over the years, there is not as much growth compared to the west side, in his eyes.

“There is a tilt, if you look at the west side of Burlington and the east side of Burlington,” Tavoires said. “All of the main development is taking place on that side of town, and there doesn’t seem to be a full on push for development on this side of town.”

But the current increased development in only some areas is just part of the way Burlington grows, according to Bishop.

“Over time, as the city has grown, those services have grown to the west, north and south along the interstate, and I think part of that’s the natural growth pattern of the city,” Bishop said.

Living in Burlington for over 30 years now, resident Julie Budd said concerns such as less development in east Burlington are difficult to see because of the lack of diverse geographic representation in city council.



PHOTO FROM GOOGLE EARTH

The red box highlights the homes that live directly on the same land as the Western Electric plant. Residents in these homes face issues of groundwater contamination and other chemical hazards in their yard.



A look inside Burlington's former Western Electric Company-Tarheel Army Missile Plant on Graham-Hopedale Road.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

“One of the things that make Burlington difficult is that all of the city officials, the elected officials, all live in west Burlington,” Budd said. “I can’t tell you the last time there was a representative from east Burlington on city council.”

Budd ran for city council seven years ago, where she said that if she was elected, she would have been the closest member to east Burlington, only living in the central, downtown area of the city.

Decreasing health and life

The area around Western Electric also faces different numbers in life expectancy compared to west Burlington. According to Cone Health’s 2019 Community Health Assessment on Alamance County, the census tract with the lowest life expectancy, 71.6 years, is in the neighborhood around Western Electric. The tract with the highest life expectancy, 83.3, is located only four miles west.

Recognizing the 11 year difference, Baltutis said that employment and different incomes throughout west and east Burlington come into play with life expectancy. Where one lives matters — according to records from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the median home value in east Burlington zones are under \$100,000, but as the zones move west, the median home value increases, with some areas having a median value of over \$200,000.

“Everything we do as a city directly impacts that life expectancy,” Baltutis said. “When we talk about these Burlington opportunities, food, desert issues, affordable housing, health care, transportation access, it all drills back to access to employment.”

Wishing for change

Shaw said she watched Morgantown go from a family neighborhood filled with homeowners, to renters and unknown faces filling the streets. As an old neighbor and a current member on the Burlington Minimum Housing Commission, Donna said she wants to give the neighborhood a second chance, especially after bringing challenges residents face to the city.

“I’m tired of doing public comments,” Donna said. “It’s time to move on from that. If you’re not moving, if you’re not doing something about it, then we’re going

to have to address it another way.”

According to Shaw, some Morgantown residents have met as a neighborhood to address similar concerns and requests they

“

EVERYTHING WE DO AS A CITY DIRECTLY IMPACTS THAT LIFE EXPECTANCY. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THESE BURLINGTON OPPORTUNITIES, FOOD, DESERT ISSUES, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, HEALTH CARE, TRANSPORTATION ACCESS, IT ALL DRILLS BACK TO ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT.

IAN BALTUTIS  
MAYOR OF BURLINGTON

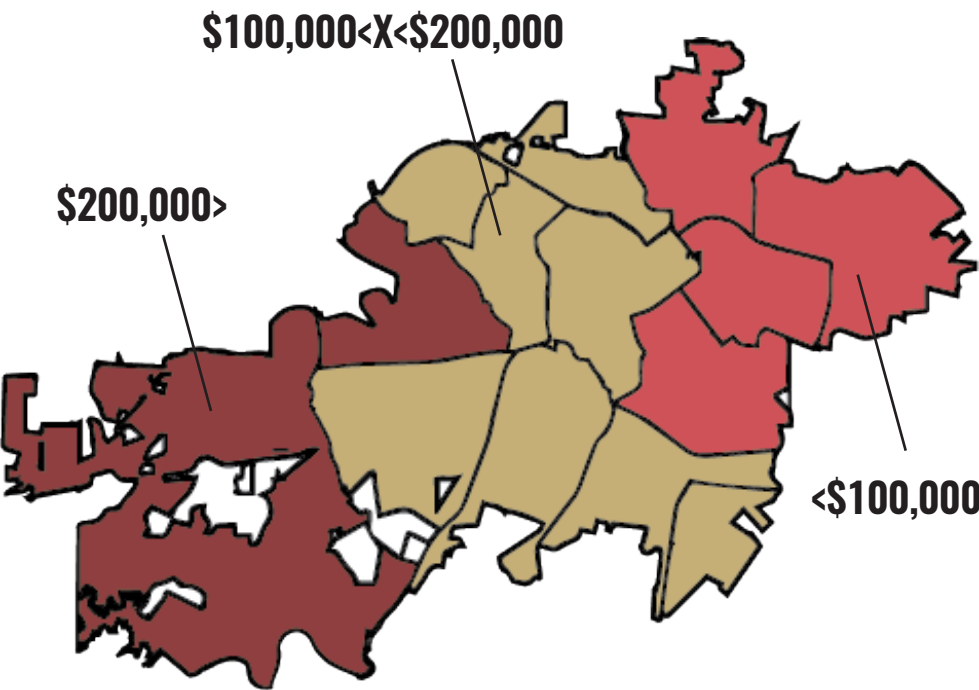
share to make the area safer, such as creating more streets to increase traffic flow, revamping infrastructure, adding speed bumps to deter speeding in the community and introducing additional street lighting. Residents have also raised environmental concerns, such as water runoff issues in backyards and soil collapsing.

But building new houses to increase “economic development with opportunity to build wealth” for residents is what the city needs right now, said Bishop.

“I see new housing growth as a positive,” Bishop said. “I think we have an eye toward gentrification and what that might look like in the future, but we’re at a point where we need new housing starts in the city and growth is going to be important for us.”

Baltutis said Burlington is also trying to keep up with the number of people moving to North Carolina because of the

2020 BURLINGTON MEDIAN HOME VALUE



City of Burlington map. According to records from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the median home value in east Burlington zones are under \$100,000, but as the zones move west, the median home value increases, with some areas having a median value of over \$200,000.

SOPHIE ROSENTHAL | CHIEF COPY EDITOR

BY THE NUMBERS

83.3

years is the life expectancy in Burlington, located in a census tract four miles west of the neighborhood surrounding Western Electric, according to Cone Health’s 2019 Community Health Assessment on Alamance County.

city’s current real estate market, through building new homes. According to Baltutis, it’s “pure economics that comes into play,” even if some residents are not ready for the change.

“I’ve been knocking on doors talking to seniors in the last couple days, and they are absolutely pushed to their limit to being able to afford their apartments with the cost increases that have gone up over the last couple years,” Baltutis said. “We have to build more housing, in order for us to actually make a difference because without more supply, there’s gonna be more demand.”

But for some residents, this doesn’t change the possibility that their home could be taken over by developers any day now.

“Why do you want to take us out of our neighborhood that we grew up in?” Shaw said. “Since I’m here, I just want to stay here. It was my parent’s property and I really want to keep it as long as I can.”

LIFESTYLE

Spectrum creates safe space on campus

The organization has worked for over 20 years to build a community on campus for LGBTQIA+ students

Alexa Morrissey  
Elon News Network | @alexamorrissey

When junior Lucas Leveillee attended his first Spectrum meeting, he wasn't sure what to expect. Coming from a high school that lacked a similar space, Leveillee found a safe space in Elon's queer-straight student alliance club: Spectrum.

To Leveillee, Spectrum was the first place he found for individuals who support equality and fairness for members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Existing for over 20 years on Elon's campus, Leveillee said Spectrum provides a welcoming and engaging atmosphere for students to feel "at home." Personally, Spectrum allowed him to become more comfortable with his identity and self-expression.

Now, as the organization's president, Leveillee wants other students to be able to experience that as well.

"Our goal is mainly to create a really casual space that students can now participate in and spread the word so that they know that they are accepted," Leveillee said.

Creating a safe place for all people to come together and support one another remains a common theme throughout Elon's campus, Leveillee said, and that is exactly what organizations like Spectrum hope to do.

"I feel more comfortable just being who I am in general because of Spectrum, especially when looking back at the beginning of my freshman year when I was still kind of closeted," Leveillee said.

Leveillee also hopes the organization will continue this work and showcase the broad range of identities existing on campus.

According to Leveillee, Spectrum brings people together in a profound way. During meetings, individuals and allies are encouraged to participate in conversations surrounding issues within the LGBTQIA+ community in an effort to educate and spread awareness.

Like Leveillee, other individuals in Spectrum meetings expressed that they too did not have a safe community prior to coming to college, and some may still not feel accepted today.

In an effort to promote inclusivity and awareness, Spectrum hosts events. Most recently, Spectrum hosted their annual Pride Fest on Oct. 22, where people tie-dyed shirts and played games. Freshman Ashley Josey, who attended the event, said she had "a great time connecting with such a wonderful community of authentic and accepting people."

"Events like this have really helped me cultivate a sense of belonging on campus, and that's something I'm incredibly grateful for," Josey said.

According to Leveillee, Spectrum highlights that people need to know how to be respectful of everyone, regardless of their background. Engaging with diverse perspectives and identities is "a crucial first step to becoming a more global citizen and a more well rounded



Students tie-dye shirts at Pride Fest on Oct. 22. Pride fest was an event hosted by Spectrum in order to connect members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

person in general," said Leveillee.

Spectrum works in tandem with Elon's Gender and LGBTQIA+ Center. The GLC's graduate apprentice Jamie Wire serves as the direct liaison between the two entities. Wire said the GLC and Spectrum continue to stay active on social media and both are thrilled to be able to host more in-person events this semester.

"Spectrum runs their own newsletter, their own GroupMe and their own Instagram," Wire said.

Spectrum's presence on social media platforms gets the word out effectively about special events, Wire said. The GLC often highlights Spectrum's events on their own

social media platforms, according to Wire, to increase participation and outreach initiatives.

Wire said the GLC and Spectrum have a positive and collaborative relationship with one another, and both strive to make sure students feel validated across all areas of campus. The GLC and Spectrum's main mission is to ensure support and acceptance.

For Wire and Leveillee, creating a positive atmosphere within Spectrum and the GLC for all students to collaborate, listen and grow together is imperative to Elon's core values.

"It is good to know that you have people that you can talk to on campus, and that you can recognize those people on campus as well," Leveillee said.

# THE OPEN-AIR RENAISSANCE FAIRE IS BACK!

JOUSTING KNIGHTS!

FALCONRY!

MERMAIDS!

28TH ANNUAL CAROLINA

## RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL™

& ARTISAN MARKETPLACE

EIGHT FESTIVE WEEKENDS

# OCTOBER 2-NOVEMBER 21

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS  
10:00AM-5:30PM

MUSIC • COMEDY • JOUSTING • FEASTING  
GAMES • RIDES • CIRCUS ENTERTAINMENTS  
OVER 500 COSTUMED CHARACTERS  
OVER 200 ARTISANS & CRAFTERS

SAVE ON DISCOUNT TICKETS AT

# RENFESTINFO.COM

PRINT TICKETS, DIRECTIONS & FESTIVAL INFORMATION • 704-896-5555

# SPORTS

## International tennis player finds home at Elon University

Julie Ball has lived in 12 countries and speaks four languages, but is settling in at Elon

**Sammy Johnson**  
Elon News Network

There are few constants in junior Julie Ball's life, but tennis is one of them. Moving from country to country her whole life because of her dad's work, the Elon University tennis player has found tennis to be the one thing that followed her everywhere. When her father would get a new assignment, Ball's family would have to move wherever the job was.

"When my dad told me about his new assignment, I knew it was time to pack my bags," Ball said.

Ball first picked up a tennis racket at the age of four, and quickly fell in love with the sport. At just nine years old, Ball was playing around 45 minutes a day. She started taking the sport more seriously when she moved back to Spain, as tennis is one of the most popular sports there.

Ball credits much of her athletic and overall maturity to the nature of her upbringing, where she had to quickly adapt to a new culture and form a positive environment around her.

"Being able to witness so many different cultures has given me the ability to understand



COURTESY OF JULIE BALL

Julie Ball plays in a match outside on Elon's tennis courts.

different types of people because I have been a part of it first hand," Ball said.

After playing tennis at the University of Tennessee for over two years, Ball transferred to Elon University. Though she enjoyed her time at Tennessee, Ball felt her development had come to a stop both academically and athletically.

According to Ball, one thing she was looking for in her transfer process was a smaller school with a tight-knit community.

When Elon head coach Elizabeth Anderson called her coach at Tennessee, she started to look into transferring to Elon.

"It checked all of the boxes," Ball said. "I loved the school, the area, the education possibilities and my teammates."

In her first semester at Elon, Anderson said Ball is already one of the team's leaders. Since Ball has more experience in college tennis than most of the team, Anderson said she sets great examples and is well-liked and respected

by her teammates.

"Julie brings great energy to the team every day, and it is felt by everyone," Anderson said.

“

MOVING AROUND A LOT  
MAY HAVE BEEN HARD,  
BUT I WOULDN'T TRADE  
IT FOR ANYTHING.

**JULIE BALL**  
ELON UNIVERSITY TENNIS PLAYER

Including Ball, four out of the eight players on the women's tennis roster are international students.

"Everyone is from somewhere different, so everyone can bring something different to the team in regards to experience, culture, and their type of knowledge," Ball said.

With their families further away than most, Elon is their home away from home, creating a close team bond.

"Because we're all from abroad, this is our home away from home, so everyone's a family here," Ball said. "It creates an environment where we can all learn from each other."

## A BOND GREATER THAN TEAMMATES

Jaylan Thomas and Jordan Bonner reunited on Elon University's football team after two years apart

**Lauryn Clarke and Audrey Toscano**  
Elon News Network

The bond between Elon football's running back Jaylan Thomas and wide receiver Jordan Bonner goes far beyond being teammates on the field.

"I've known Jaylan my whole life," Bonner said. "Even before we were brought up, our parents knew each other, so it was an automatic relationship as soon as we were brought into this Earth."

Seniors Bonner and Thomas were born and raised in Carrollton, Georgia — a small

city, about 45 miles west of Atlanta near the Alabama state line. When Thomas was born, his mother chose Bonner's parents to be his godparents; this created an instant family bond between the two.

"That's how we became godbrothers. And that's how we will forever be connected," Thomas said.

Bonner committed to play football at Purdue University and played there during the 2018-19 academic year. Thomas said it was tough for both of them to not be together for the first time in their lives.

"I would be trying to watch Purdue play while I'm trying to get ready for my game at the same time, so it was a little hectic," Thomas said.

Even though they spent two years apart, they never lost touch. Bonner decided to transfer from Purdue before the 2020 season and said Thomas being at Elon was a huge part in him deciding to transfer there.

"Jaylan was the first person I talked to when I decided I wanted to transfer," Bonner said.

According to both Thomas and Bonner, they work better together, and being on the same campus has helped them navigate this stage of their lives, push each other and support each other.

"It's always good to know that you have somebody you trust with your whole life in your corner and nearby,"



CARTER CRAIG | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Running back Jaylan Thomas and wide receiver Jordan Bonner join each other at Elon University after Bonner transferred from Purdue football to join Thomas on Elon's field.

Thomas said. "Being six and a half hours away from home, it's kind of tough reaching back to family, but knowing that my brother is here with me and knowing that he's one call away, one drive away, or literally in the next room over has helped me."

Their moms currently share a very close relationship as they grew up in the same town and went to Carrollton High School together — the same high school Jaylan and Jordan later attended.

"My mom and Jordan's mom grew up together," Thomas said. "That relationship that they have kind of rolled in, and they spread it onto me and Jordan."

Though both of their parents put each of them in many different sports growing up, when Thomas and Bonner joined the same flag football team at the age of six they both knew it was something they loved to do.

"Where we're from, football is more popular, and you get more exposure," said Bonner said. "We decided to play football because we knew that was our way out, and we knew that was gonna help us get to where we are today."

Thomas said this was the point in time in which they both realized they wanted to play football for the rest of their lives.

Throughout their years on the field, they have both made memorable moments together.

Before each game they played together growing up, Thomas and Bonner would make bets on who would score the first touchdown.

"I remember this one game I betted when everyone was around me," said Bonner said, "I told them that I was going to score the first time I touched the ball and I did."

Bonner described the relationship with Thomas as pure, and said their differing personalities complement each other.

"We are like night and day," Thomas said. "He is more of an introvert and I'm more of an extrovert so that tells you enough for itself right there."

Aside from football, Thomas and Bonner said they also love spending time together where they can be themselves and have fun.

"We play video games, we cook together and just chill," Thomas said. "If you see him walking around somewhere, I'm probably somewhere right around the corner," Thomas said.

Their relationship is more than just a friend, teammate, or godbrother. Even though they aren't technically related, Jaylan and Jordan are brothers.

"My relationship with Jordan is ... I don't think there's words to describe it," Thomas said. "I think it's just something you can see for yourself. He's my real brother, we're blood brothers."



LUCAS CASEL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Jaylan Thomas (6) and  
Jordan Bonner (0)

INTERESTED  
IN LIVING  
OFF CAMPUS?  
ACT QUICK!

PROVENCE AT 807 EAST HAGGARD | EVELLIEN AT 223 LAWRENCE STREET  
More economical than living on campus!

# PROVENCE & EVELLIEN TOWNHOMES & APARTMENTS

(336) 266-6666 | [www.evellien.com](http://www.evellien.com)

## NOW SOLAR POWERED!

Provence is now completely solar powered with solar panels installed throughout the entire complex.



WASHER/DRYER IN EACH UNIT | WALKING DISTANCE TO CAMPUS | 4 BEDROOMS