

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA
VOLUME 51, EDITION 25

THE PENDULUM

NATIONAL ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH BRINGS FOCUS TO ALAMANCE COUNTY

New data on alcohol-attributed deaths in 2020 shows increase locally

Sophie Rosenthal
Chief Copy Editor | @sophrosenthal

MELISSA ENOCH SPENDS HER days at Trinity Counseling Services in Burlington, a substance abuse service center and education facility. But Enoch is not the one looking for assistance — rather, people are coming to her.

As the founder of Trinity Counseling Services and a licensed DWI assessment provider, Enoch works with people from different backgrounds throughout Alamance County. Though she finds her job helping those recovering from alcohol substance abuse important all the time, this month is especially significant, as April is National Alcohol Awareness month, sponsored by the National Council for Alcoholism and Drug Dependence.

Enoch has been working with alcohol awareness for almost 28 years, but her role is more vital now than ever. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse published a study in March finding that alcohol was an underlying or contributing cause in 25.5% more deaths nationally in 2020 compared to 2019.

Unfortunately, the national trend can be seen in Alamance



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse published a study in March finding that alcohol was an underlying or contributing cause in 25.5% more deaths nationally in 2020 than 2019.

County, with deaths related to alcohol increasing 30% in 2020. The same year also saw statewide alcohol-related deaths increase 18%, according to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

Enoch said although she was initially shocked by the increase in the county, she's not entirely surprised. She said factors such as liquor sales early in the

pandemic, built up tolerance from drinking at home and the cost of substance-abuse treatment likely contributed to the increase both nationally and locally.

"I'm thinking about Alamance County in the last four or five years, and I'm like, 'Oh my goodness, how did that even happen?' But I know how it happened," Enoch said. "There's so many variables that created

this happening in my mind."

According to NC DHHS press assistant Catie Armstrong, the fatality data was gathered by evaluating deaths using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Alcohol-Related Disease Impact application.

For deaths that are 100% attributed to alcohol, alcohol is recorded as the sole factor of death. For deaths that are

partially attributed to alcohol, alcohol can be one of many different factors that contributed to death. For example, a fatal car crash may be one cause of death, but a car crash with a drunk driver involved would make it a partial alcohol-attributed death.

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Elon dance team dominates championships

Elon dance team wins an NDA National Championship for the first time in program history

Erin Martin
Elon News Network | @ErinMartin35

The Elon University dance team has returned from the National Dance Alliance Championship with the national championship title and memories to last a lifetime. The team took first place with its Division I hip-hop routine and placed third overall with its Division I pom routine.

This is the first time since 1981 that an Elon team has won a National Championship and the first time in the program's history that the team won the NDA championship. It was also the first time the team brought a pom routine to Nationals.

Sophomore dancer Isabella Venziale said hearing the support from competing teams and complete strangers was surreal after the results were announced,

following their hip-hop victory.

"Hearing teams that we have grown up admiring and watching, congratulating us was incredible," Venziale said.

Elon won the hip-hop national title by a margin of two-tenths of a point — outscoring Utah Valley University.

“HEARING TEAMS THAT WE HAVE GROWN UP ADMIRING AND WATCHING, CONGRATULATING US WAS INCREDIBLE.”

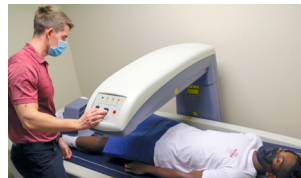
ISABELLA VENZIALE
SOPHOMORE



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After arriving home to a small crowd, the Elon University dance team does one final "Rise Up" behind Schar Center on April 10 after winning the Division I Hip-Hop Championship and placing third in the Division I Pom category. This was the first time in program history that the team won the NDA National Championship.

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Men's club volleyball team prepares for national tournament

THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF
**ELON NEWS
NETWORK**

Established 1974
Volume 51, Edition 25

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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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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.

CORRECTIONS

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

CHEAT SHEET

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

Brooke Buffington advises seniors seeking jobs

With graduation less than 40 days away, director of Student Professional Development Center discusses job tips

Ellis Chandler
Elon News Network | @ellis_chandler

As the director of the Student Professional Development Center, Brooke Buffington helps students with all aspects of their professional development. Ranging from career advisers to employer relations, Buffington and the SPDC team help bring job opportunities to campus and connect students with those hiring.

This interview has been edited for clarity.



Brooke Buffington

With graduation just weeks away, what does the job market look like right now?

"It's a good job market, right now. It's a strong job market. It's definitely different from what we saw in 2020. That was right

after the pandemic and had a lot of uncertainty. Industries are feeling much more confident in their hiring, we're seeing good hiring numbers, but that means that seniors need to be applying and need to be actively engaging in the job cycle. Just because it's a busy job cycle, it still takes a little bit of work to find the right opportunity."

Something that's unique about the job application process now is that seniors applying for jobs have to ask if the position is remote or in person. That wasn't the case over two years ago, but do you think working from home is here to stay right now?

"There are a lot of people predicting what this is going to look like. So predictions are still happening, I think that some jobs will continue to be fully remote, some organizations or certain aspects of their work, they decided can be remote, and the people that are in those positions prefer remote.

Now, there's a lot of what I would say hybrid work, that's going to be happening more so than fully remote work. This means people need to only be in the office a couple days a week, or have a hybrid schedule where they're coming in two days and out three days. ... What we're going to see, I believe, is a lot more of a hybrid schedule than a fully remote or fully in-office schedule, just offering some flexibility. But not one way or the other entirely, which is different for graduating seniors.

Those that are graduating might want to go to the office. It's nice to learn a company's culture, organization's culture, to get to know your colleagues through being around them in the office — having those side conversations in the hall, or just being able to pop into their office space. I think it's important for our seniors to ask what the work environment is going to be like, how much is going to be hybrid or remote or in-person, so that they can make the best decisions for them. Because some seniors are going to really thrive in an office environment, and some might thrive in a remote environment."

What are some other additional ways the job market has changed over the course of the past two years?

"The other part of the job market that we've really seen impacted is the hiring process. Before, we saw a lot of employers bringing students into offices for a final round of interviews, or engaging with them on campus in first or second round interviews, face to face, and almost all of that has completely gone virtual.



CAROLINE MITCHELL | DESIGN CHIEF

They had to switch to virtual during the pandemic and they realized that it was really time and cost effective, and so they've kept a virtual hiring cycle in place. Seniors could have maybe set foot into the office environment where they might get to work and get a feel for the culture in the office, but they now are having to navigate that through an entirely virtual application process."

What is your advice for students who are going through that virtual application process?

"One is wanting to get really comfortable on camera. We're all broadcasters now, whether it's in a meeting through Zoom, or whether it's in a Zoom interview, and even the HireVue, which is a pre-recorded interview process. Pre-recorded video interviews are starting to become more popular, and now they are very much an integrated part of the hiring process. For those who don't know, or a senior who hasn't been through the pre-recorded video interview, it means that you're not even interviewing with a live person, you're interviewing with a pre-recorded person asking you a question or even just text that pops up on the screen that says, "Tell me about yourself."

You have a couple of seconds to consider your answer and then you record your answer. That recorded interview is what goes to the first-round hiring person, vetting person or recruiter. They're using that to make a determination about the second round. So students really need to get comfortable in front of the camera and if they're not yet, come in to practice for a video interview with us.

We also have a system called Big Interview that's free and accessible to all students that essentially simulates that process. A student can practice pre-recording video interviews, and can even send it to themselves to see how they look on camera and see how they feel on camera or send it to a career adviser to get feedback on how that pre-recorded video interview went."

Are there any sort of trends that indicate that certain industries right now are hiring more than others, are booming more than others, are looking for employees more than others?

"The communications field is a busy field right now for hiring. It's picked up, really almost every industry that we're hearing from has picked up a great deal. Even those that stopped hiring have really curtailed their hiring during the pandemic, such as the sports industry, or hospitality and entertainment has come back full force, because a lot of them are playing catch-up. There are projects that have been sitting and waiting to get done that now have been given the green light,

and so they're needing to hire to meet the needs of those projects."

What is your best advice for students? How can they best prepare to enter the job market?

"I always like a strategic application process. For a lot of students, I really encourage quality over quantity. Students like to hit that submit button like 50 times without any necessarily strong intention behind why they hit the submit button. I'd rather students take some thoughtful reflection about what they're really interested in and hit that submit button 15 times. But then every time that you submit, know why you're submitting, why you're interested in that job and then look for a networking contact as a next step.

It's not just your resume going into the pool, but is there a great alumni contact? Did you come and speak with one of our career advisors, and they tell you that we have a recruiting contact, because what I would like for our seniors to do is get their name in front of a recruiting contact and alumni contact in front of somebody at the company or organization one more time beyond just the application.

Strategy works really well with fewer applications and more strategy with each application. You feel like you're doing one more step beyond the application itself."

Do you have any general advice for seniors who are in the peak of their application process?

"One, it takes longer than you want it to. Always. It doesn't happen in this nice, fluid way because you're applying one week and then applying again the next week. Interviews come at different times, every company doesn't work on the same timeline. So take a deep breath is what I tell seniors that I'm sitting with right now. If you're being smart about your applications, putting in the right applications, doing that follow-up right with those applications, things will work out.

I've been in this field for a really long time. For the seniors that take their time, that work at it, they always find great positions. It just takes a little bit longer than they want it to, it doesn't always happen the way you think it's going to happen. Be ready for that phone call to come at any point in time.

A little quick tip, make sure your voicemail has a nice message to it that is a professional message. Because that phone call could come when you're in the middle of class, or come at 7:00 on a Friday night, so you just don't ever know. Whenever you answer the phone, be ready for that call to be somebody that could be speaking with you about setting up an interview, and be ready to kind of turn into professional mode at that moment in time."

Shavona Antoinette sings during the Elon Ball put on by the Student Union Board in the Great Hall in Global Commons on April 9. Antoinette is the singer for the band the Night Years who performed live music for the event.



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



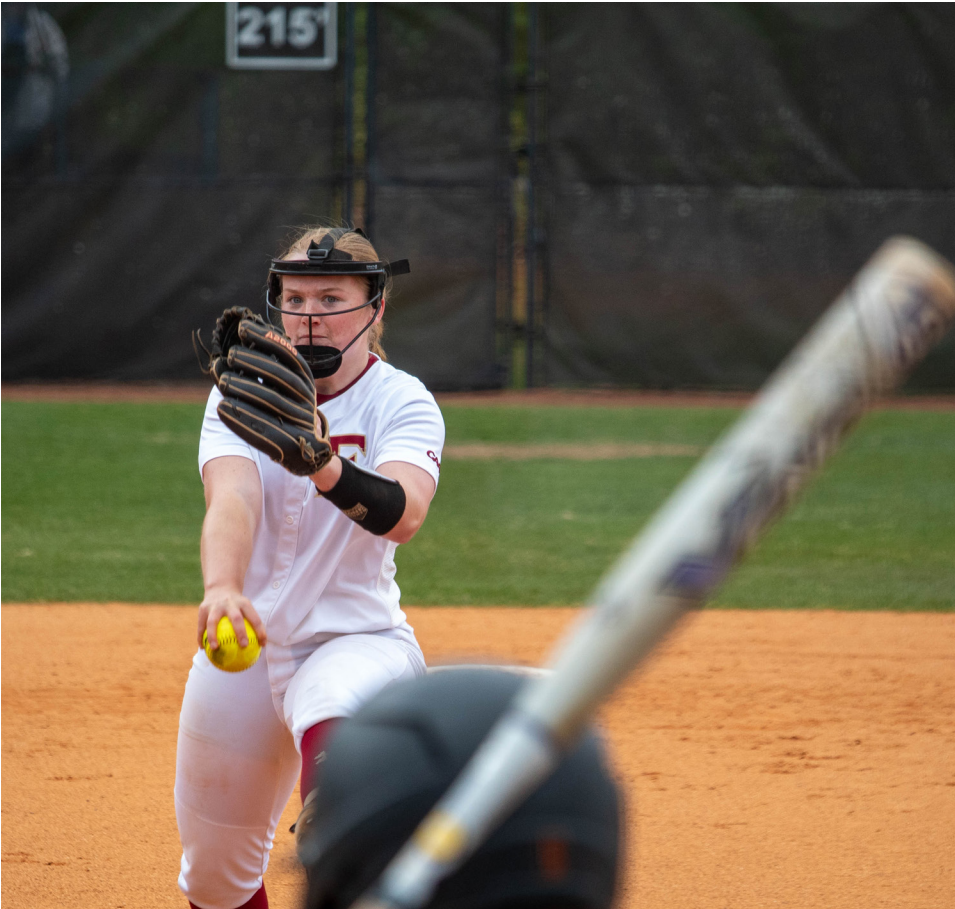
JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR

Visiting writer Sonja Livingston announces the winners of this year's Creative Nonfiction Contest and reads her essays and memoirs outside of Lindner Hall on April 7. Livingston is an associate professor of English at Virginia Commonwealth University.



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Board of Trustees meet with faculty and staff in Snow Atrium on Friday, April 8. The board announced a new endowed professorship position.



JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR

Elon freshman Taylor Cherry pitches a double-header at Hunt Field against the College of Charleston on April 9. The Phoenix won the first game 3-0 and lost the second 5-4.



JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR

Members of the Elon University dance team unload an Elon Express bus behind Schar Center after arriving back to campus on April 10. The team earned first place in Hip-Hop Division I and third in Pom Division I at the National Dance Alliance National Championship in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Elon professor receives \$300,000 COVID-19 research grant

Hwayeon Ryu, professor of mathematics, was awarded funds from the National Science Foundation

Ryan Kupperman
Enterprise Story Coordinator

Elon University professor of mathematics Hwayeon Ryu was awarded a \$300,000 National Science Foundation grant in April to fund her COVID-19 research for the next three academic school years.

Ryu said the research will focus on developing a mathematical model of how the human immune system responds to the COVID-19 virus in order to best pinpoint treatment targets or strategies in immune responses.

Throughout the project, Ryu is allowed to support up to three Elon students as research collaborators each year. Ryu said these positions will come with stipends and she will be looking for students who have completed basic mathematics courses, such as calculus, and who have an interest in biology.

“I can encourage students who have diverse backgrounds because this project is pretty interdisciplinary,” Ryu said. “So not only having a good skill set in my mind, but also having a genuine interest in biology or how mathematics can help some of the complex biological systems or problems ... that’s one of the things that I’m considering when it comes to recruiting students.”

Up until recently, Ryu said the most prominent COVID-19 research has revolved around how to stop the virus. Now with mass production and distribution, the research will shift to utilizing various treatments for specific individuals.

“There are still new variants going on

and then many versions of the new cases,” Ryu said. “So I think the problem that we are looking at is how we can use the power of mathematics to ... better understand how our immune system is responding to this virus.”

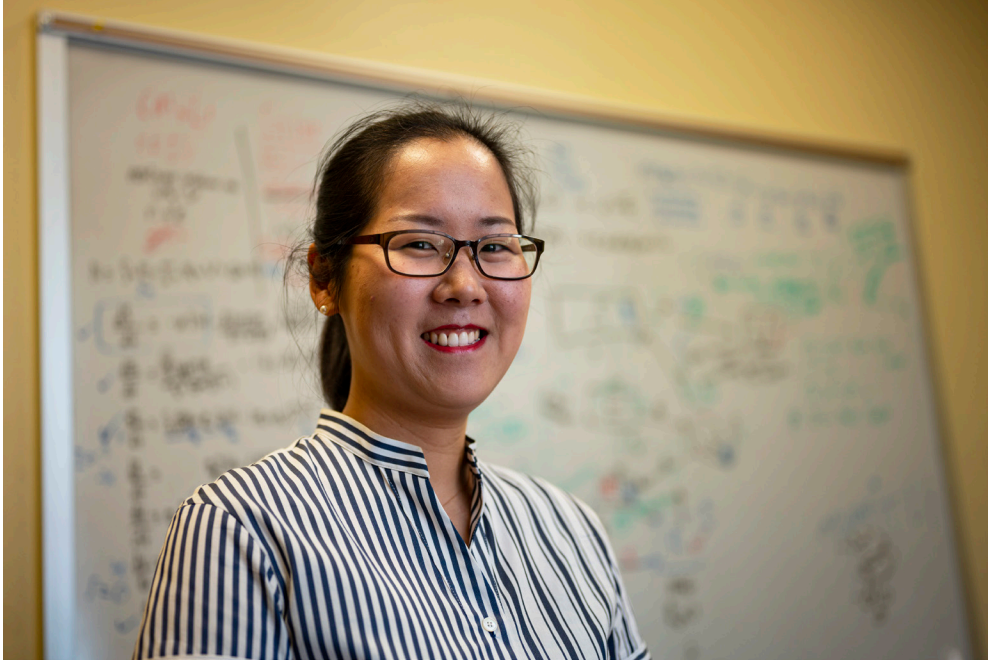
The initial problem her research intends to tackle is developing a mathematical model that will be in agreement with clinical and experimental data of COVID-19 interacting with the immune system. Once their prediction model matches the data they receive, the project will shift again toward isolating treatment-related questions and answers.

According to Ryu, the most complex aspect of COVID-19 is its ability to affect each person in vastly different ways — as it can be incredibly severe in some patients and almost non-existent in others.

Kamila Larripa, professor of mathematics at Humboldt State University, will work as an external collaborator on this project with Ryu. According to Larripa, she and Ryu previously studied immune cell polarization together and will utilize that field of work in this project to understand the role of immunity in COVID-19.

Larripa also said that their project model might help to answer some open questions such as why some patients have a “cytokine storm” — or multiple, exaggerated immune responses that can have negative consequences — in response to the virus, what interventions might improve patients’ outcomes and the existence of immunological dysfunction as seen in long-term COVID-19 cases.

“Dr. Ryu is an emerging expert in mathematical modeling of immunity and it is my great pleasure to work with her on such an exciting project,” Larripa wrote in an email to Elon News Network.



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hwayeon Ryu, professor of mathematics at Elon University, stands in her office located in the Duke Building. Ryu was awarded a \$300,000 grant in April from the National Science Foundation in order to fund research focusing on the effects of COVID-19 on the human immune system. The grant is secured for the next three years, where Ryu can support up to three Elon students each year to aid her as student research collaborators.



OUR WORK WILL, I HOPE, BE HELPFUL FOR THOSE WHO ARE ACTUALLY DEALING WITH THE TREATMENTS.

HWAYEON RYU
PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS

According to Ryu, Elon will be hosting a one-day regional STEM conference in spring 2023 as a part of receiving this grant. Student researchers will have access to some of the grant’s funds for traveling and attending other regional and national mathematics conferences, where they will be able to interact with and present to existing undergraduate researchers from around the world.

“Our work will, I hope, be helpful for those who are actually dealing with the treatments,” Ryu said. “You know, giving them some better understanding, like what is the best strategy or best timing of dosing ... so that they can actually get the best results.”

Health E Start study continues baseline testing in spring

The test will look at the behavior of students entering college, how to prevent cardiovascular health issues

Nyah Phengsitthy
Managing Editor | @nyahphengsitthy

Young adulthood — the age range between 18 and 25 years old — is when cardiovascular health issues can start to arise. When it occurs and how to deal with it has been a study the American Heart Association has tried to analyze for decades. But when it comes to finding ways to prevent heart disease or other cardiovascular health issues, those questions are

starting to be answered by Elon University’s Health E Start study.

Conducted by principal investigator Simon Higgins, the study explores the lifestyle and environment changes that affect heart disease risk factors such as blood pressure, artery health, body composition, blood sugar and cholesterol in young adults who are entering college.

The exercise science professor said that cardiovascular health has always been a study of interest for him, but finding ways to prevent issues before it’s too late is just as important due to the asymptomatic factors it has on our bodies.

“We don’t know that it’s happening. You never think

about your heart health, your cardiovascular health, until something happens later in life,” Higgins said. “Because there are a lot of these risk factors — maybe it’s blood pressure going up, maybe it’s cholesterol or maybe a little abdominal obesity — they are essentially silent and asymptomatic, and they develop individually and then they start to cluster together.”

The study is currently in its first baseline testing phase. Targeting high school seniors continuing into a four-year college program at any university in the U.S., students will go through a total of four sessions over 15 months — including two testing visits at Elon University and two online

questionnaire sessions completed while away at college.

Higgins said since beginning the first testing session, their main challenge has been getting more high school students to participate in the study. According to Higgins, around 20 students have been tested so far, but the goal is to reach around 50 participants by the end of the spring semester. As the Health E Study team continues their research into the spring, Higgins also said the end goal is to reach at least 150 high school students in three years.

Though there’s still a large number of students to reach, Higgins said this is the time to study lifestyle habits on young adults as they prepare to enter a new stage in their life.

“There is evidence out there that suggests heart health starts to decline at the fastest rate at about 17 to 18 years of age,” Higgins said. “Trying to fix an established cardiovascular disease is very difficult, but trying to prevent something from happening in the first place could potentially have a longer-lasting positive effect on health.”

Data will be analyzed at a later time to prevent bias and to have a larger sample to study at a time. Although there aren’t final numbers yet, Higgins said he may see results similar to the pilot program of this study, which was on “The behavioral determinants of metabolic syndrome risk factor development during the college transition.” This was completed by former Lumen Scholar Alexandra Smith ‘21. The study found that adolescence is when behaviors begin to change and affect cardiovascular health.

After Smith graduated, Higgins was able to continue the

research with a \$388,000 grant funded by the National Institutes of Health in 2021. This study currently collaborates with other professors at the university and at other schools, including Wake Forest University and University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

A student researcher for the Health E Start Study, junior Christina Westbrooks said this research interested her when she personally experienced anxiety going into college, especially during a pandemic.

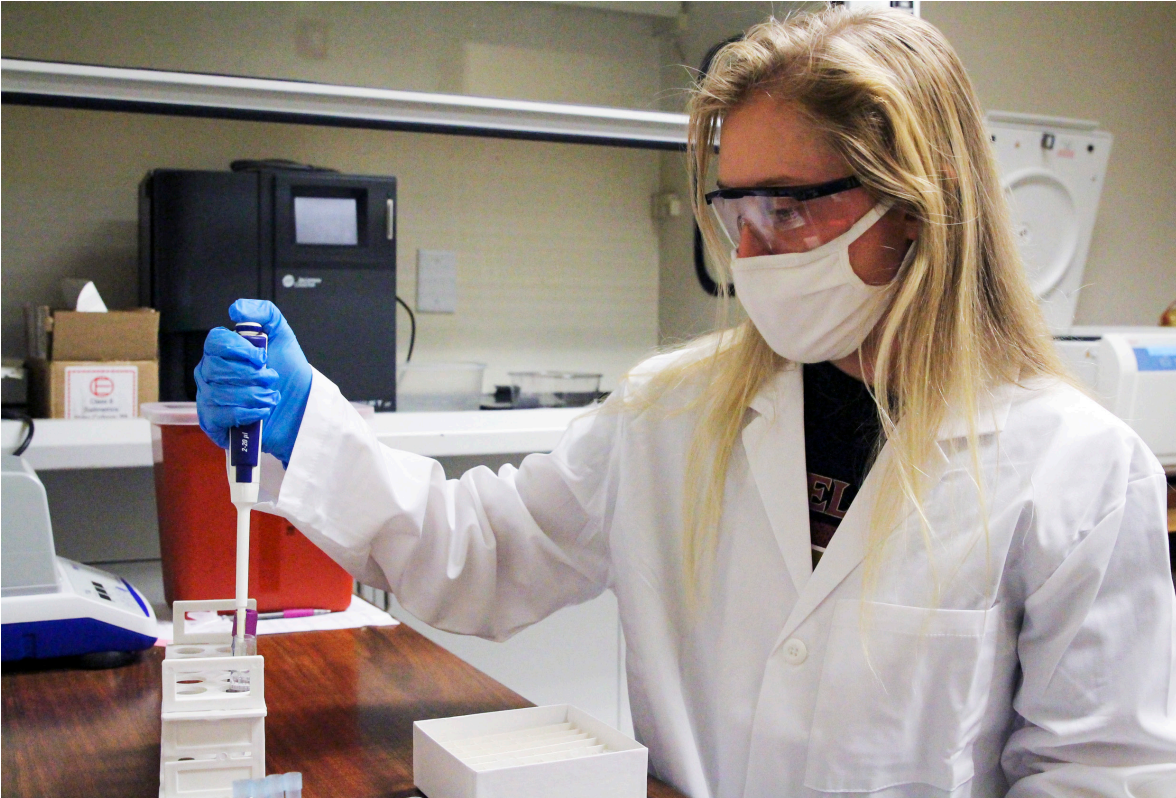
“I didn’t have a foundational knowledge. My high school just didn’t really tell you anything about what to expect in college,” Westbrooks said. “It was totally different than what I expected.”

Once some of the data is analyzed, Westbrooks said she looks forward to finding ways to help students enter college with less health issues in the future, even if it means suggesting they completely change the way they live.

“It’s really going to be interesting to see that change in people’s sleep in a decent schedule every night and then when they go to college to see if that changes,” Westbrooks said.

Though this research targets high school students, Higgins said it’s never too late to start shaping a lifestyle in order to prevent cardiovascular health issues in the future. Learning the priorities of one’s lifestyle and shaping it in a healthy manner — being active, eating well, getting sleep and more — is important and can decrease the chances of heart disease.

“If we can affect meaningful change, get people thinking about this now, then hopefully we can improve that heart health for the rest of their life,” Higgins said.



COURTESY OF CHRISTINA WESTBROOKS

Junior Christina Westbrooks works in the lab during a testing session for the Health E Start study. Westbrooks, an exercise science major, is a student member of the study team analyzing alcohol consumption.

Study finds national, local alcohol-attributable deaths spiked in 2020



Alcohol awareness month shines light on Alamance County, with recent data showing a spike in alcohol-attributed deaths.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ALCOHOL | from cover

“A count of just the 100% attributable causes of death would greatly undercount fatalities attributable to alcohol,” Armstrong wrote in an email to Elon News Network. “Including estimates of partially attributable causes of death gets us closer to the true burden of excessive alcohol consumption.”

One major cause of death partially attributed to alcohol is fatal car crashes. As a licensed DWI assessment provider, Enoch said most of the people she sees are referred to her after being convicted for driving while intoxicated. But Enoch said DWIs are more common than people realize, because many people don’t know what the legal blood alcohol content feels like in their system.

In Alamance County, Enoch said the amount of substance abuse rehabilitation centers is limited, which is an issue for those who need help. According to the 2020 census, 12.9% of the population in Alamance County is in poverty and 13.4% of people under 65 don’t have health insurance.

“If you came to see me and you don’t have the insurance to cover it, it’s going to cost, let’s just say, \$100 for an assessment,” Enoch said. “If you make \$20 an hour, you just took five hours of your work to come to see me.”

In some ways, the pandemic has been a reason for increased alcohol intake, rooted in the first stay-at-home orders in 2020, according to Enoch. She said it is likely that more people were casually drinking than in previous years.

“People are just at home with a lot of free time, a lot of leisure, and you’re really not thinking it’s a big deal just consuming throughout the day,” Enoch said. “Your tolerance is growing, and you don’t even realize it.”

At Elon University, Phoenix Free, a collegiate recovery program, holds meetings every Monday night where students who are in recovery or interested in recovery talk about alcohol awareness and becoming sober as a college student. The meetings are open to all students.

Phoenix Free is hosting an event on April 13 to celebrate national collegiate recovery awareness day, which is April 15, to raise awareness for alcohol abuse in the local community.

NC alcohol-attributable death estimates 2015-2020

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Statewide	3,415	3,682	3,904	3,976	4,134	4,897
Alamance	49	55	80	67	70	91
Guilford	158	184	209	199	232	230
Orange	32	38	41	35	34	39

Table: Sophie Rosenthal • Source: NC Department of Health and Human Services • Created with Datawrapper

Percent change in NC alcohol-attributable death estimates

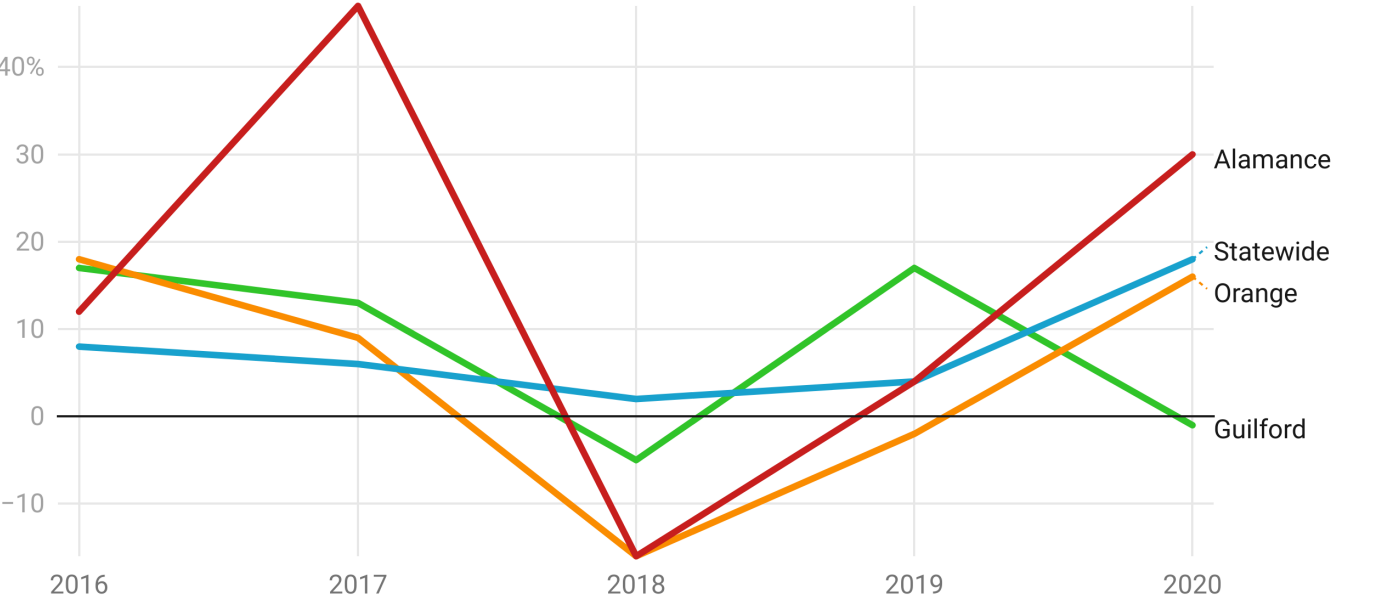


Chart: Sophie Rosenthal • Source: NC Department of Health and Human Services • Created with Datawrapper

Top: Estimates of alcohol-attributable deaths, based on the CDC’s Alcohol-Related Disease Impact application, in North Carolina between 2015 and 2020.
Bottom: Year-to-year percent change in alcohol-attributable deaths in North Carolina, based on the data in the table above.

LIFESTYLE

Students explore choreography passion through Dance Works

Students walk through their processes of choreographing

Samantha Sussman
Lifestyle Editor | @Samanthasussma

When it comes to choreography, it's all about the group mindset rather than the individual's — at least for senior Amy Moore. Choreographing reflects on how movement looks on someone else's body rather than your own.

"Not only do you have to think about in general the movement phases, you have to think about where people are on the stage if you're working with multiple dancers, and how many dancers you have and how the dancers interact with each other," Moore said.

The art of choreography is something that Moore said she has grown to love. One way she's able to expand her opportunities in dance is through Dance Works — an organization for students to learn dances and choreograph.

Serving as the president for Dance Works, Moore said she gets her inspiration from music when she is choreographing. As part of her process, she has a playlist filled with songs and shuffles it until she finds the right one.

"It turns into a lot of visualizing in your head and then seeing how can I put that on my body?" Moore said.

When deciding who to cast in her piece, Moore said she looks for people who dance similarly to her because it's easier to choreograph for them as she can visualize herself dancing.

"I want to be able to visualize it on those people, on their bodies, because I want them to look good doing that choreo," Moore said. "I don't want to choreograph it on myself, and then I give it to them, and they're like, 'Yeah, this doesn't work,' because that makes the process much more difficult."

Reincorporating physical interactions this year has also proved to be a new problem because of last year's COVID-19 restrictions. Now, Moore has tried to incorporate more touch and partner work between dancers.

Freshman Kelsi Sheren works in the same way and finds a song to choreograph to rather than looking for a specific song to match the choreography.

"I usually get inspired by a piece of music first and kind of come up with a concept from there and then choreograph based off the music," Sheren said. "I think some of the best pieces, the music inspires the choreography and the dancers first."

Sheren said she knows the dancer's strengths that she works with and tries to incorporate that, but she wants to challenge them too.

"I want to make something different and unique, but I also want to make sure I'm working to my dancers' best capabilities, but also challenging them at the same time. So it's kind of like a big mosh pot of things," Sheren said. "There's a section of my piece that's 20 seconds of very intricate, fast-paced movement. I know a lot of people don't move that way, but I do, and I think that's a section of my piece that's a challenge part."

Growing up, Sheren danced in a studio that encouraged improvisation and individuality,



SAMANTHA SUSSMAN | LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Freshman Kelsi Sheren holds rehearsal for her dance with freshman Addis Simonik and sophomore Lilly Beaver on Friday, April 1. Sheren's dance will be featured in the Dance Works Spring Showcase.

“

I WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING DIFFERENT AND UNIQUE, BUT I ALSO WANT TO MAKE SURE I'M WORKING TO MY DANCERS' BEST CAPABILITIES, BUT ALSO CHALLENGING THEM AT THE SAME TIME.

KELSI SHEREN
FRESHMAN

which translates into the choreography she does today.

"I think having that background that nurtures choreography and allows you to have an expressive voice is really what pushed me toward there," Sheren said. "I love improvising and grooving whenever, so from there I find the way that I moved and what's most comfortable for me."

Sheren dipped her toes into choreographing before Dance Works by substituting as a teacher in her dance studio for young girls.

As a math major, Moore said she participates in Dance Works and minors in dance because she loves it. She started auditioning to choreograph a piece in the showcase freshman year and has choreographed a dance for the

show every year since.

"We have quite a few people in the club who just are doing it because they really love to do it," Moore said. "That's such a valuable part of the club that you get all those different people who have those different experiences because you get a really broad mix of all the dancers coming together."

IF YOU GO

The Dance Works Spring Showcase

Where: McCrary Theater

When:
April 22 at 6 and 8:30 p.m., and
April 23 at 2 and 6 p.m.

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

Petro's Chili & Chips has everything you want and more



Eddie Keefe
Freshman

IF YOU GO

Petro's Chili & Chips

Where: 3866 Rural
Retreat Rd, Burlington,
NC 27215

When:
Monday - Thursday: 11
a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday - Saturday:
11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday:
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

I have never been a big chili person, but when I was reached out to by Petro's Chili & Chips, I had to give their menu a try.

Petro's is new to the Burlington area, as their new location opened in March 2021. Although Petro's is a fast-food restaurant, a lot of its food is made-to-order, which is unlike most chain restaurants.

Petro's offers giant baked potatoes, nachos, salad wedges, hot dogs and more. To start off my meal, I got their classic "Hint of Orange Iced Tea." I got the tea sweetened on the employee's recommendation. The iced tea had the perfect amount of sweetness for me.

The item I would recommend the most from Petro's is their nachos. I

tried the pulled pork BBQ nachos and the grilled chicken nachos with buffalo sauce. Every part of the order was covered in sauce filled with many flavors. The pulled pork was perfectly cooked, but the sour cream could have been more evenly spread on the nachos instead of plopped in the center of the dish. If the chips had more salt to them, I think it would have made the dish tastier. The guacamole was also smooth, rich and fresh.

The next thing I got was their signature dish: "The Petro." The Petro is a cup filled with chili, sour cream, tomatoes, cheddar cheese and green onion and is topped with corn chips. This was nothing less than delicious, and I would order it again. I added black olives and jalapenos, and they were the perfect additions to the order. The crunchiness of the final layer of corn chips was by far my favorite part of the dish, though I do wish the layer of chips was higher in the cup so that they would be less soggy.

I tried both the plain hot dog and the chili cheese dog. The bun was perfectly toasted and fluffy. I didn't need condiments because of how good the hot dog was on its own. Both hot dogs were just average, but still good. I would also recommend

their BBQ pulled pork baked potato. It was one of the best-baked potatoes I had had. The incorporation of pulled pork was something I've never seen before, but it was a fantastic addition. The chives, cheese, barbecue sauce and pork came together to create a well-rounded bite.

Overall, I would give Petro's Chili & Chips a 9/10 rating because of the great quality of their "fast food." Their restaurant has comfortable seating options, modern decor and a great ambiance. Their menu has so many options and everything I tried I enjoyed. You can taste the love, care and intention behind their food through their choice of ingredients — and customers like myself appreciate that. I would definitely go again!

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

EDDIE'S SCORE

9 of 10

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



EDDIE KEEFE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pulled pork barbecue nachos, grilled chicken buffalo nachos, "The Petro," hot dog and chili cheese dog from Petro's Chili and Chips.

Student photographers capture graduation photos



Senior Georgia Scarborough completes a graduation photoshoot at the Fonville Fountain in front of the Alamance Building. Scarborough runs a photography business called Little Blue Jay Photography.

SOPHIE ROSENTHAL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

With commencement weeks away, student photographers are booked with graduation photo appointments

Naomi Washington
New Member Coordinator | @NWWashingtonNews

Caps, gowns and class of 2022 tassels can be seen in front of the Fonville Fountain — a sign that graduation season has begun.

As Elon University seniors prepare for commencement on May 20, many are taking photos on campus to bring happy memories for years to come. Their fellow classmates are helping with those memories.

Senior Willem Butler takes headshots and photos of his classmates in the musical theater department throughout the year. But when graduation season comes around, his business picks up, allowing him to meet new faces on campus.

“Having a love of photography and taking these photos for these people who are going to use them the rest of their lives is really inspiring to me and kind of fuels me to do more,” Butler said.

For senior Georgia Scarborough, her photography business — Little Blue Jay Photography — has been running since high school. Though she plans to go into healthcare after graduating as a biology major, she still sees photography as a way to help others.

“My passion has always been, bottom line, helping people,” Scarborough said. “So in this photography sense, it’s helping people capture their memories and capture pictures of their loved ones or even just times in their life.”

Scarborough said for this graduation season, she’s offering senior photoshoots at 40% off her normal rate.

“

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WILLEM BUTLER
SENIOR

“I wanted to offer my services at a discounted rate because I did not want any students for any financial reason to not be able to capture their senior memories,” Scarborough said. “I don’t think that should have a price tag on it.”

Senior Liam O’Connor has

been taking senior photos for his friends since his freshman year. He said photography is a creative outlet for him rather than just a hobby. O’Connor also formerly served as a photographer for Elon News Network.

“I love having photography as a form of expression. I like to keep it as something that’s not exactly sacred, because I do capitalize on it, and it’s something that I do think I have value to,” O’Connor said. “If I didn’t produce something with it, then it’s not showcasing who I am to my fullest.”

But, now that he’s a senior himself, he wants to step back from taking graduation photos to enjoy his final moments at Elon.


“I’m at this moment where I am getting everyone’s text bombarding me, ‘Hey Liam, are you overbooked at this moment?’” O’Connor said. “I really didn’t want to be overwhelmed with the amount of people I was shooting for because I did want to enjoy my senior spring. This is a moment to cherish.”

All three photographers said a hot spot on campus for seniors to get their photos taken is in front of the Alamance building.

After four years of taking photos of others, Butler said he is ready to have his own senior photoshoot.

“It’s kind of bittersweet because it’s like, wow, I’ve been doing this for four years and now I’m finally the one who’s going to be in front of the camera looking back on my senior year at Elon,” Butler said.

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PI KAPPA PHI

Pi Kappa Phi has closed at Elon.

2015 Ayrsley Town Boulevard, Ste 200
Charlotte, NC 28273 | pikapp.org
704.504.0888 | pikapphq@pikapp.org

Pi Kappa Phi National Fraternity has placed this ad to provide notice that the Pi Kapp chapter at Elon has been closed since 2020. Students who were members of the Fraternity no longer have authority to operate as a Pi Kappa Phi chapter and may not organize any event, sponsor any activity, or participate in any endeavor representing Pi Kappa Phi on the Elon campus or elsewhere in the Elon community. Additionally, “Old Pi Kappa” (OPK) and “New Pi Kapp” (NPK) are in no way affiliated with Pi Kappa Phi.

“Pi Kappa Phi” and other distinctive letters, marks and insignia of the Fraternity are federally protected trademarks owned and managed by Pi Kappa Phi National Fraternity. Any use of these marks without the express written permission of Pi Kappa Phi National Fraternity is strictly prohibited. No group of students at Elon is authorized to use the name “Pi Kappa Phi” or any of its service marks. Only chartered chapters and qualified members of Pi Kappa Phi are authorized to operate a chapter and use the distinctive marks of the Fraternity.

If you have reason to believe that students on campus continue to operate as though they make up a recognized chapter of Pi Kappa Phi, please alert the Dean of Students office and Student Involvement Office or contact Pi Kappa Phi National Fraternity.

SPORTS

Dance team wins big at NDA national championship

CHAMPIONS | from cover

The team placed third overall in pom with zero deductions and a final performance score of 91.4.

This year was also the first time since 2019 that Elon qualified for Nationals. Although this was not her first time competing, Elon senior and dance team captain Gabby Clancy said becoming national champions is a special experience, but doing it alongside her fellow dancers made it that much more special.

BY THE NUMBERS

91.4

was the final performance score the of the Elon dance team at National Dance Alliance Championship.

“Being able to step on stage alongside teammates with this much drive, passion and heart is not something everyone gets to experience,” Clancy said. “This was the perfect ending to my four years as a member of EUDT.”

Although this was Freshman Ali Dunlin’s first time attending Nationals she said she will never forget the experience.

“I’m so proud of my team for never letting up on our goals,” Dulin said.

The team was also awarded the

Innovative Choreography Award for its hip-hop routine. The award is given when the judges see something special within the choreography. This year, the hip-hop routine was choreographed by Anthony Menari — an outside choreographer who was hired by the team. Menari said he is honored to win the award along with the team.

“This was the first time my choreography has ever won a national title, so receiving an award along with it is a dream come true,” Menari said.

SCAN TO WATCH THE
DANCE TEAM’S HIP-HOP
CHAMPION PERFORMANCE
OR VISIT
YOUTUBE.COM/
WATCH?V=L4JGZFR6KFY



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



The Elon University dance team returns to campus to a small crowd behind Schar Center on April 10 after winning the Division I Hip-Hop Championship and placing third in the Division I Pom category. This was the first time in program history that the team won the NDA National Championship.

Elon men’s club volleyball takes on nationals

The Phoenix will travel to Arizona to compete in the national tournament

Arianna Tristani
Elon News Network

The Elon University men’s club volleyball team is in full swing preparing for nationals, coming off of its first collegiate tournament win in program history. Going 4-0 at a competition at Virginia Tech, the Phoenix have progressed a long way since the start of their season.

Freshman middle Ryan Maier, who received ECVA Division South Honors, said he noticed the consistent improvement throughout the season since it first began.

“Winning the tournament at VT has just shown how far we have come as a group, especially beating them on their home court,” Maier said.

But senior libero Dave Derosa said the team’s biggest test yet is the 2022 National Collegiate Volleyball Association Championships in Phoenix, Arizona, on April 14 to 16. The team has been preparing for the event all season, and is going in with a confident mindset.

“It’s simple,” Derosa said. “Serve the ball in and win. We have a great offense and if we can serve the ball we have a real chance to go deep in this tournament and maybe even take it home.”

This year’s team is made up of seasoned upperclassmen, along with new members who have never played before. But that doesn’t affect the team chemistry on and off the court. Maier also said the group is used to being underestimated since Elon is a smaller school compared



Junior Ethan Krone prepares to serve the ball at a men’s club volleyball practice on April 12.

to its competitors.

“If I were playing against us I would be shocked. We are playing teams that pull from much bigger schools, so it is expected that they will be good,” Maier said. “But here we are running a program that’s winning tournaments coming from a smaller school. It definitely could catch other teams by surprise and probably helps us out.”

According to Maier, the trust the team has for each other has taken the program far. Creating an environment where everyone truly wants to contribute has motivated players to give everything to the “team mentality” rather than individual accolades.

“Our biggest strength is simple: no ego,” Maier said. “We are all equal to each other no matter what class, and we’ve bonded to the point where we understand each other’s strengths and weaknesses, and just that understanding can

build a team to be as good as they can be.”

Derosa also said the team’s unity and unbreakable mentality is different than any other

“No team is mentally stronger than we are,” Derosa said. “If there’s one thing that this team does well it’s mentally we don’t break. And when other teams think they can break our spirits, that’s when we’ll catch you.”

The team’s upperclassmen have cemented a culture where volleyball is a top priority for every player and high energy during games is essential.

“We’re loud. You’ll know you’re playing us just because we’ll be screaming at you,” Derosa said. “You either have it or you don’t and this team definitely has it. You can kill us in the first set but if you think we’re going to hang our heads for the next one then you’re dead wrong.”

Seven Elon basketball players enter transfer portal

Six of the team’s top seven scorers from last season look to transfer

Jacob Kisamore
Sports Director | @jacobkisamore



From top left: Ben Daugherty, Hunter McIntosh, Hunter Woods, Jerald Butler, Michael Graham, Zac Ervin and Darius Burford.

Seven Elon University men’s basketball players have officially entered the transfer portal, including six of the team’s top seven scorers from last season. Four of the transfers have come in the last week following Mike Schrage’s resignation as Elon’s head coach on April 5.

Junior guard Ben Daugherty became the first player to enter his name into the transfer portal on March 15, just nine days after Elon’s final game. Junior guards Zac Ervin and Hunter Woods entered his name into the transfer portal on March 22.

Two days after Schrage’s resignation, junior guard Hunter McIntosh entered his name into the transfer portal. McIntosh was Elon’s second-leading scorer last season and was Schrage’s first signee after taking the head coaching job in 2019.

Sophomore guard Darius Burford entered his name into the transfer portal on April 11. He led the team with just over 13 points per game last season. Sophomore forward Michael Graham, Elon’s leader in rebounds and blocks last season, and redshirt senior guard Jerald Gillens-Butler both entered their names into the transfer portal.

Though the players have entered their names into the transfer portal, it is not a guarantee they will leave Elon, but it does grant a release so that other schools may contact them about playing for their team next season.

As of April 12, there are six remaining players still on the roster. Elon University athletics declined to comment on this story.