

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2017
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

The elephants in the room

Republican students seek open discussion on politics one year after election

Diego Pineda
Elon News Network | @Diego_Pineda19

ELON UNIVERSITY JUNIOR MADDIE Pierce remembers feeling excited on election night when she realized Donald Trump was elected president Nov. 8, 2016. Despite the overwhelming polls that suggested otherwise months before, she never doubted the result.

But the next morning when she walked around campus, she was scared.

“As a female Republican, I was confronted by a new kind of judgment for being a Republican that I never faced before,” Pierce said. “I got a lot of comments like, ‘You’re a woman, how can you support this man that is against so many things that are so important to you?’”

Even leading up to the election, Pierce experienced backlash.

Pierce, who is the public relations chair of College Republicans, once left her computer unattended to get food. When she returned, the Trump sticker had been ripped off. She said she was ashamed to report the incident to the administration because she thought she would not be supported because of her conservative views.

Last week marked the one year anniversary of Trump’s stunning election victory. In that time, his White House has been swarmed with controversies similar to the ones he caused on the campaign trail. On Elon’s campus, politi-

See **CLASSROOM** | pg. 4

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY
STEPHANIE HAYS AND DIEGO PINEDA |
DESIGN CHIEF AND CONTRIBUTOR

POLITICAL CLUB MEETINGS

College Democrats | Mondays at 7:30 p.m.
College Republicans | Wednesdays at 8 p.m.
Young Americans for Liberty | Mondays at 5:30 p.m.

Many Elon students were no-shows at polls in 2016

Voting rates decrease to 43.9 percent in 2016 according to study

Abby Gibbs
Elon News Network | @abby_gibbs20

In the 2016 election, 50.4 percent of students in over a thousand secondary-level institutions voted, according to the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE).

Elon University fell short of the national average, with only 43.9 percent of students casting their ballots in the presidential race, according to NSLVE.

Senior Gabby Vance is the student coordinator of Elon Votes, a nonpartisan organization comprised of students and faculty members dedicated to increasing student voter registration.

While 77.7 percent of students registered to vote, Vance did not see the decline in voter turnout as a matter of indifference among students, but as the result of a rising out-of-state population. With over three quarters of students coming from 49 states and the District of Columbia, students are presented with the challenges of filling out absentee ballots.

“I’ve found that so many students did register, but just because

REGISTERING TO VOTE

1,465

Between June and November 2016, 1,465 Elon students signed up for a TurboVote account.

every state operates a little differently, it’s harder for students to follow through with that,” Vance said. “Being a Maryland resident, I know that absentee process takes a lot of effort.”

To address the problem of absentee ballots, student volunteers of Elon Votes worked over 40 hours a week in the Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement to help students understand the process of filling out their absentee ballots.

“We ended up finding that any time the Kernodle Center was open, students would come in, and we would provide the resources, like the stamps and enve-

lopes,” Vance said.

Bob Frigo, associate director of the Kernodle Center, also stressed the use of TurboVote, a web portal that gives students access to forms, deadlines and reminders.

“Between June and November 2016, 1,465 students signed up for a TurboVote account to start the process of requesting an absentee ballot,” Frigo said. “We drive students to the website, but we also do other activities too.”

Activities for promoting civic engagement among students ranged from registration table at College Coffee to a panel on

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NEWS • PAGE 5

Lambda Chi Alpha suspended from campus



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 15

Sophomore takes pride in Venezuelan heritage



SPORTS • PAGE 17

After Duke game, Elon needs to place value on little things

THE PENDULUM

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Elon News Network is a daily operation that includes a newspaper, website, broadcasts and multimedia. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to enn@elon.edu as Word documents. ENN reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of ENN and will not be returned. ENN is located on the first floor of the McEwen School of Communications.

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

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 bottom of each article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page. Contact enn@elon.edu to report a correction or a concern.

CALENDAR

NOV. 15

Intersection of business and the EPA panel

4:15 P.M.
LaRose Digital Theatre

Elon Phoenix Winds Fall Concert

7:30 P.M.
McCrary Theatre

Give Thanks: Gratitude for Friends, Faculty & Staff

10 A.M.
Moseley Hallway

NOV. 17

Thanksgiving holiday begins following classes
All day

NOV. 27

Thanksgiving holiday concludes
8 A.M.

NOV. 28

élan a cappella performance
7:30 P.M.
McCrary Theatre

CONTACT

WHEN WE PUBLISH:

The Pendulum publishes weekly on Wednesdays.

Elon Local News broadcasts Mondays at 6 p.m.

ELN Morning broadcasts Thursdays at 9:50 a.m.

ELN Online Exclusive broadcasts Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.

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CORRECTIONS

On Page 9 of the Nov. 8 edition of The Pendulum, it was incorrectly stated that Alex Luchsinger, assistant professor of communications, was a soldier who served in the Helmut Province. In fact, he was a Marine that served in the Helmand Province — which was misspelled in the story. ENN regrets the error.

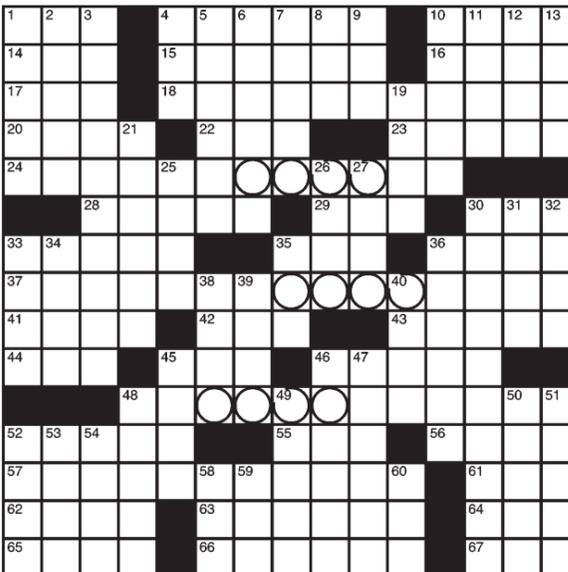
GAMES

FOR RELEASE NOVEMBER 15, 2017

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Rhoda" production co.
 - 4 It may follow cries of "Bravo!"
 - 10 Brink
 - 14 Longtime coach Parseghian of Notre Dame
 - 15 Chestnut horse
 - 16 Witnessed
 - 17 B.A. or B.S.
 - 18 With 57-Across, what a 37-Across does; also, as the circles show, what each answer containing them does
 - 20 Alamo competitor
 - 22 DDE's overseas command
 - 23 Racers in some Wii games
 - 24 Item that isn't on its regular hook
 - 28 Gear components
 - 29 Assist
 - 30 Peace, to Pedro
 - 33 Say yes
 - 35 Journalist Curry
 - 36 Warsaw native
 - 37 Casino employee
 - 41 The two
 - 42 Tolkien forest shepherd
 - 43 In ___: unborn
 - 44 Stun
 - 45 "The A-Team" actor
 - 46 The "A" in James A. Garfield
 - 48 Prepared goodies for the fundraiser
 - 52 Blotch
 - 55 Former transp. regulator
 - 56 Confident words
 - 57 See 18-Across
 - 61 Keogh plan rel.
 - 62 Many
 - 63 Paradise
 - 64 Third-qtr. ender
 - 65 Actress Russo
 - 66 Fireplace shelf
 - 67 Goal line
- DOWN**
- 1 Start of a famous palindrome
 - 38 Weightlifting move



By Jerry Edelstein

11/15/17

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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11/9/17

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY - CHICK-FIL-A RUFFLES FEATHERS



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

While Elon University students are currently looking forward to the return of Chick-fil-A with the re-opening of McEwen Dining Hall, the franchise's future at Elon was not always secure.

In 2012, Dan Cathy, chief executive officer of Chick-fil-A, made public comments opposing same-sex marriage, citing Christian views. Cathy's comments began a national boycott of the popular chain, the impact of which affected Elon.

On the week of Nov. 20, 2013 — several months after the controversial comments — Elon's Board of Trustees voted to continue the university's partnership with the franchise.

"Removing Chick-fil-A solely on the basis of the owners' stated views or their lawful philanthropic choices would stand in opposition to Elon's mission statement, which encourages freedom of thought and liberty if consciousness," the board said in a statement. The decision sparked controversy within the student body. In protest, students held sit-ins in McEwen Dining Hall on Nov. 22, 2013 and created a Facebook page titled "Still Clucking Mad."

Olivia Guerrieri, a sophomore at the time said, "I don't think we're likely to get any change ... [but] it's important that we don't let this issue fade into the background."

BOYCOTT

National anti-Chick-fil-A protests began after the chain's chief operating officer made homophobic comments

NEWS BRIEFS

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week

This week is National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Elon University's Campus Kitchen in the Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement is hosting a variety of events. Through Friday any student, staff, faculty or community member who brings five canned goods to Lakeside Dining Hall gets a free meal courtesy of Elon Dining. The donated goods will go to The Salvation Army and Allied Churches of Alamance County (ACAC).

The ACAC food pantry feeds 2,000 individuals each month. According to the South Alamance Family Empowerment organization, almost 10,000 children in Alamance County were food insecure in 2013.

Elon ranked No. 1 in study abroad for masters programs

Elon University has been rated No. 1 in study abroad for masters programs for the 14th year in a row by Open Doors, an information resource for international study in U.S. higher education institutions. The annual report is based on data collected by the International Educational Exchange program and U.S. Department of State.

This year's report revealed that study abroad by U.S. students is increasing. In 2016, 325,339 American students received credit from their home universities for study abroad experiences.

Number of Odyssey Program endowments increases again

The number of endowments created during the past year has increased from 30 to 43 because of a recent donations and a substantial made by Elon University trustee Vicky Hunt and her husband, Sam Hunt.

The Sam and Vicky Hunt scholarship will assist two Odyssey Scholars each year, according to E-Net. The Odyssey Program is "a highly selective program for students with exceptional ability and promise and significant financial need," according to the university's website. This is not the first gift from the Hunt family. Their contributions paved the way for the Hunt Softball Park.

Elon's athletic program graduation rate leads CAA

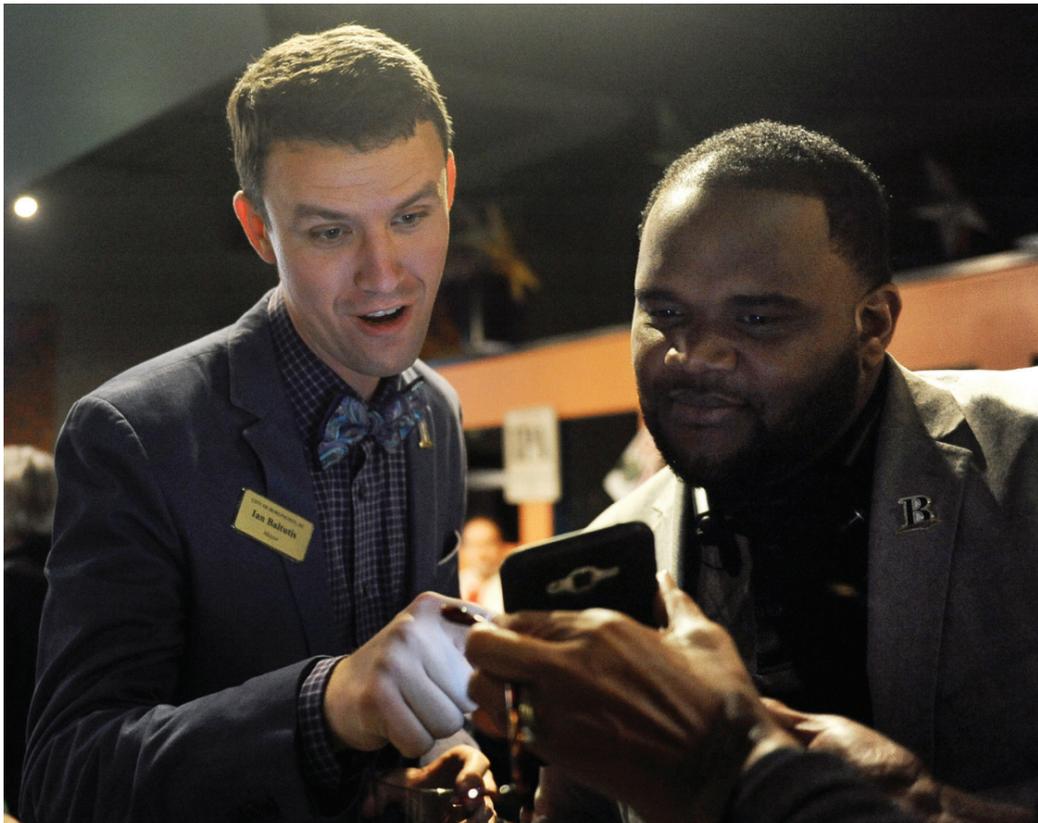
According to the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) annual Graduation Success Rate (GSR) report, Elon University Athletics' GSR for the 2016-17 year was 94 percent — the highest in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA).

The GSR is a measure of the graduation rates of scholarship student-athletes in Division I institutions. According to E-Net, Elon is the only school in the CAA to have achieved a GSR of 90 percent or higher in every athletics program. The Elon men's basketball program achieved a GSR of 100 percent for the fourth consecutive year and the Elon women's basketball program achieved the only GSR of 100 percent in the CAA. Other schools in the CAA to score GSRs of higher than 90 percent were Hofstra University (93 percent), the College of William & Mary (93 percent) and Northeastern University (91 percent).



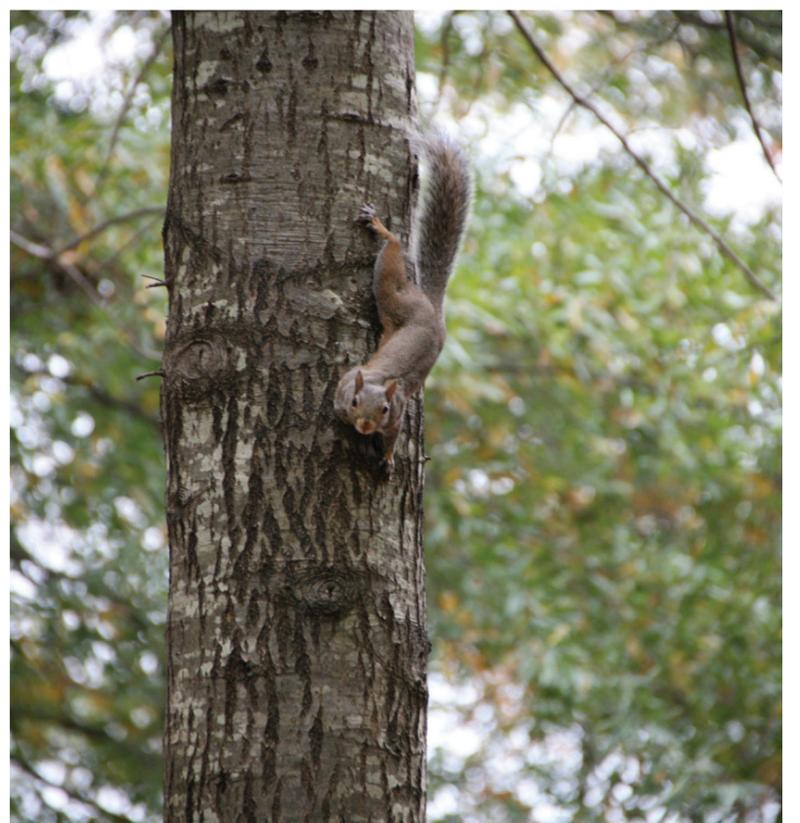
Fans standing in the Duke student section reach out to Elon guard Dmitri Thompson as he passes the ball to a teammate during the season opener versus Duke at the Cameron Indoor Stadium on Nov. 10.

CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

Burlington Mayor Ian Baltutis checks election results with supporter Demarius Hardy at an election watch party Nov. 7.



COREY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Physical Plant prepares for potential squirrel nesting problems that come with fall weather.

Freshman Olivia Walton and sophomore Isabel Ganovsky carry Jenna Kulacz during a dress rehearsal for the fall dance concert in Roberts Theatre at Scott Studios Nov. 7.



DIEGO PINEDA | CONTRIBUTOR

CLASSROOM | from cover

cal views are still polarized. In particular, Republicans say they feel the brunt of the division.

“As a conservative woman on this campus, I often find myself staying quiet instead of putting my personal opinions out there just because I am afraid of being shut down,” Pierce said. “I’ve had classes where I adjust what I say in class, on tests and papers because I don’t want to be judged as too far-right.”

According to a CNN Politics poll, Clinton won the youth vote by 55 percent, while Trump won 37 percent of the Millennial voters age 18-29. Despite not winning the youth vote, Trump garnered 306 Electoral College votes out of the 270 needed to win while Clinton won 232. The voting in certain swing states surprised many, such as sophomore Trevor Murrah, vice chairman of the College Republicans.

“I did have mixed feelings about Trump’s policies — any rational voter should,” Murrah said. “Looking back at the results, I think it was a good turning point to see the Republican Party trying to unify and trying to come forward to a mission not just associated with Donald Trump as a person, but rather try to show what the silent majority was speaking to.”

Jason Husser, assistant professor of political science, said the 2016 election cycle made Elon more politically engaged because current events now revolve around politics.

“There are slightly higher levels of political engagement largely because of the policy context in part because we have a president who is unique in American history,” Husser said. “Now that the Republican party is in a better position to be able to affect change, that has led to more controversies in Washington, which trickle down throughout society and of course cause people to have different ideas on campus.”

Measuring the trickle-down effect

Despite feeling uncomfortable at times, Pierce, along with other College Republicans, hope to discuss politics more openly with Democrats.

“We just want to show people we are not the current administration,” Pierce said. “Republicans on this campus are not monsters.”

Pierce hopes there will be a point where she is unafraid to be herself. She hopes the polarization in the nation and on campus will improve so people in the middle of the spectrum won’t be forced to choose a side.

Contrary to Pierce, junior Katherine Evans, vice president of College Democrats, has felt the need to speak her political views to have meaningful conversations without hesitation.

“I think if people are going to make judgments about me then so be it,” Evans said. “I don’t see any need to hide my political affiliation in any way in the classroom. I feel comfortable talking about it.”

Evans believes some people chose to remain quiet to be politically correct, and are afraid of the arguments from someone of the opposing view.

“We’re kind of at a stalemate right now,” Evans said. “If you don’t look at each other’s views and kind of try to empathize, sympathize or try to understand why they might feel that way, then you’re never going to get anywhere.”

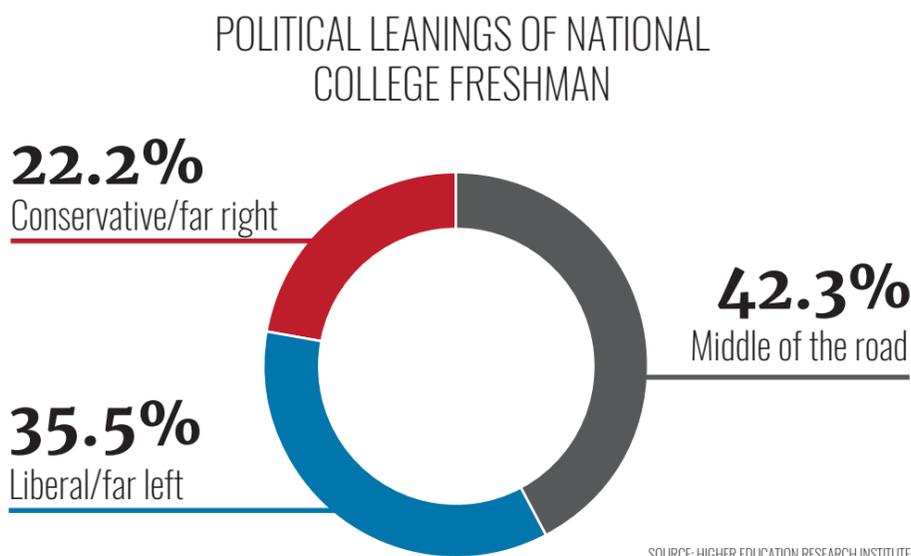
For Evans, the first steps to fix polarization on Elon’s campus are to be objective and take emotion out of discussions. Understanding Republicans and their thinking allows for open conversations on politics, which humanizes them.

“You can’t really live your life in a bubble surrounded by like-minded people,” Evans said. “It keeps you from seeing other viewpoints and other ways of thinking.”

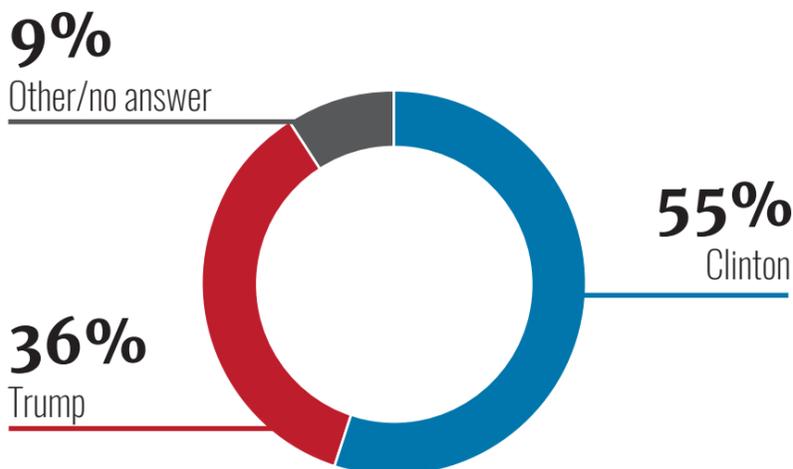
“ WE JUST WANT TO SHOW PEOPLE WE ARE NOT THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION. REPUBLICANS ON THIS CAMPUS ARE NOT MONSTERS. ”

MADDIE PIERCE
JUNIOR

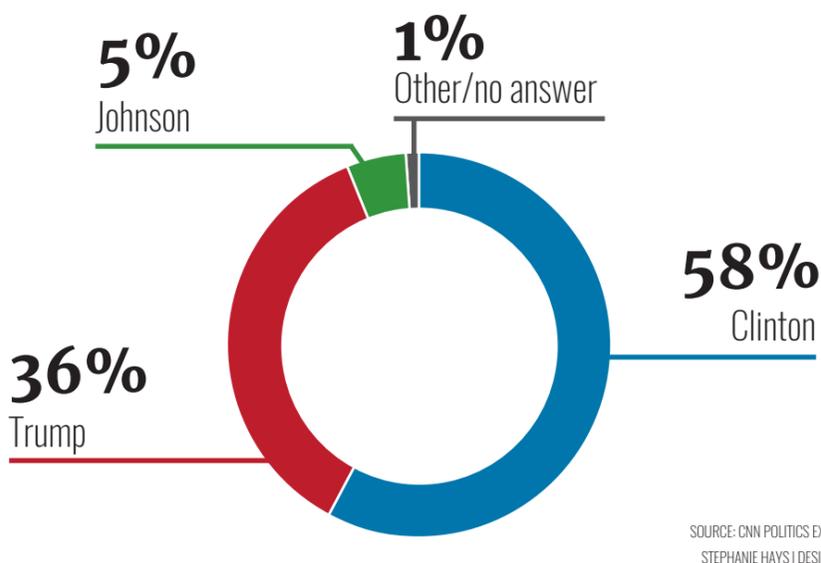
2016 political leanings and votes



VOTES FROM NATIONAL MILLENNIALS (18-29)



VOTES FROM NORTH CAROLINA MILLENNIALS (18-24)



Reaching out to the other side

Evans and Pierce said both sides have tried to do just that — surround themselves with contrasting viewpoints.

Murrah said the months leading up to the 2016 election unearthed tension between Elon’s political clubs and beyond. Since the election, he thinks those organizations — College Democrats, College Republicans and Young Americans for Liberty — have changed. Debates, such as the ones hosted by the Elon Political Forum, exemplify that.

“I think we’ve started to see a trend in which the political clubs are starting to come more and more together to not polarize the campus, but rather have a civic discourse and try to push a more pleasant way to talk about politics,” Murrah said.

Evans attended College Republican meetings and believes the integration of political organizations is key. Murrah, along with other College Republicans, have also attended College Democrat meetings.

“I think it’s important to have all the views present than to have it one sided because it does make it seem like Elon is a Democratic campus if we only have Democrats talking about their views,” Evans said. “That is not an accurate representation of the campus and not an accurate representation of our nation at all.”

Rise of polarization

A May 2017 study by the University of California at Los Angeles Higher Education Research Institute showed political polarization of the university’s freshmen. It has been the most extreme in the survey’s history in 51 years.

About 42.3 percent of freshmen characterized their political orientation as middle of the road, while 35.5 percent considered themselves liberal or far-left and 22.2 percent said they were conservative or far-right.

Husser believes university campuses are social institutions that can be divided by politics in the new cycle of polarization. Strong protests on campuses such as the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Virginia and the University of Florida show this.

“I will say of the universities I’ve been watching across the country, I think Elon is on the better end of dealing with it,” Husser said. “It strikes me that Elon has devoted tremendous resources and attention to making sure that there are moments of dialogue and that these dialogue are open to people of multiple sides.”

Through debates with the political organizations on campus as well as town halls, Elon has begun to combat polarization.

“Elon also has a commitment to talk about issues even when they’re not necessarily the most comfortable to talk about,” Husser said.

Husser says the social divisions that push people apart through polarization are not unique to Elon since they happen in all college campuses because of what is caused by politicians in Washington. Though Husser is unsure if polarization will improve before it gets worse, he says that what can help this issue is if more people would participate in the primary elections.

Millennials constituted 19 percent of the voters in the 2016 presidential election. Husser believes that though this age group is willing to engage with the other side and have open dialogues, they still need to begin contributing even more when it comes to politics.

“When they start participating I have hope that we will see some solutions for this crisis in American politics,” Husser said. “My big hope is that students are spending four years being thoughtful about other people’s positions and that process will lead them to be the thoughtful leaders that we need in some ways to sort of rescue American society from a cycle of division.”

Students weigh Uber safety as holidays approach

Uber says safety is at the forefront of its platform

Victoria Traxler

Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

With the upcoming holidays — a time when students are more likely to use Uber during breaks and on the weekends — students must be aware of Uber's safety procedures and how to utilize them.

Uber public relations representative Jodi Kawada Page highlights the measures Uber goes through to ensure driver approval and rider safety.

"All prospective driver partners undergo a thorough screening process prior to gaining access to the app," Page said.

The screening process includes a motor vehicle records check and a criminal record check at the local, state and national level. The process is completed by a third-party service accredited by the National Association of Professional Background Screeners.

On Nov. 3, the terrorist attacker in New York City was a former Uber driver. But Page claims incidents like these do not determine criminal activity.

"It was widely reported that the New York driver did not have a criminal history," Page said.

Other safety tips and features included in the Uber app are installed to protect both the passengers and driver.

"Our approach to safety does not begin and end at the background check," Page said. "That's where the technology comes in."

The Uber app includes a GPS-tracked ride from beginning to end, the ability to share details of the trip to friends, and a two-way feedback system designed for both the driver and passenger.

"Our team reviews this information and

investigates any issues," said Page.

Protocol for accidents which occur while riding in an Uber incorporate both emergency and company procedures.

"The customer should call 9-1-1, both riders and drivers, and report the incident to us as well when it's okay to do so," said Page.

Ava Naran, freshman at Elon, experienced Uber's response to emergencies firsthand when her Uber driver ran a red light causing an accident.

"I was lucky enough to only have a bruised collarbone, ribs and shins," Naran said in an email. "My friend, on the other hand broke her nose in four different places the week before prom."

Naran said her driver was young and unable to handle the situation appropriately.

"He screamed at us to shut up after we told him to get out and exchange information with the other driver" said Naran in an email.

Uber customer service center encourages passengers to take advantage of their 24/7 customer support should any issues arise.

Passengers getting into the right cars for their trip is important to Uber.

"When you request an Uber, you get the drivers name, car, make and model and license plate number," said Page. "It's important to double check that information before you get in the car or if you're with somebody who might not be able to do that."

Law enforcement reports have been received by Uber regarding people who have posed as Uber drivers.

Uber stresses the importance of wearing a seatbelt, user privacy, riding in the backseat and following intuition if the passenger feels uncomfortable or in distress.

Drivers are encouraged to stay focused on driving, keep drop off locations in legal areas, recommend backseat riders, and maintain composed actions in the event of a difficult passenger.

SAFER RIDES, SAFER CAMPUSES

Many students use rideshare apps like Uber to get from point A to B safely- whether it's getting to the airport, across town, or just around campus. No matter where you go, always start your trip by making sure you're getting in the right care with the right driver.

CHECK YOUR RIDE

Before riding, please make sure the driver, car, and license plate number match the information in the Uber app. If you're with someone using Uber who may be intoxicated, help them double check these details before they get in the vehicle.

GPS-TRACKED ROUTES

In the Uber app, you can track your route and the location of your car during the ride so you'll know exactly where you're going.

SHAREABLE TRIP DETAILS

Once in route, you can share your route and ETA with friends and family so they can see where you are and know when to expect you.

CROSS-STREET PICKUPS AND DROPOFFS

For an extra layer of privacy, Uber's cross-street feature lets you enter your cross streets as a pick-up or drop-off destination instead of your address.

SECURE CONTACT INFO

If you need to contact your driver, the Uber app automatically anonymizes both phone numbers to protect everyone's privacy.

24/7 SUPPORT

Uber's support team is always ready to respond to any questions you have about your trip. For more safety tips, go to uber.com/info/rider-safety-tips/

Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity suspended from campus

Delta Pi chapter suspended through 2021 following repeated social violations

Alex Hager

Web Producer | @_awhager

In response to the results of an Elon University student conduct hearing, the national Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity Board of Directors voted to suspend the Elon Delta Pi chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

According to a statement from the university, the suspension will last for a minimum of four years. The fraternity will not be eligible to return to campus until fall 2021.

Elon's student conduct hearing revealed the fraternity failed to comply with sanctions previously put in place.

"The sanctions came after the chapter was found responsible for multiple violations of Elon's code of conduct relating to alcohol use and off-campus activities in November 2016," the statement said.

"Lambda Chi Alpha was directed to curtail social events through May 2017 and to hold no events with alcohol through January 2018. The student conduct hearing found that multiple violations of those sanctions occurred this past spring and this fall."

The chapter's final alleged infraction involved an unregistered social event where alcohol was served Sept. 9, 2017 that violated Elon's event registration policies.

"The multiple operational incident violated the oaths and rules of our fraternity," said Alyssa Gilles, Lambda Chi Alpha national director of risk management, in a statement to Elon News Network. "After a hiatus, Lambda Chi Alpha hopes to return to Elon and recruit a group of new men who will properly execute our leadership training, traditions, principles and ideals."

In the mean time, "Staff from the Division of Student Life will work with the national headquarters of Lambda Chi Alpha and alumni of the Elon chapter to communicate the expectations that must be met before the organization will be eligible to return to campus and recolonize with new members," the university's statement said.

Lambda Chi Alpha was placed on social probation in February 2017 for violating the university's alcohol policy.

Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity is one of the largest men's general fraternities in the United States with more than 280,000 initiated members and has held chapters at more than 300 universities.

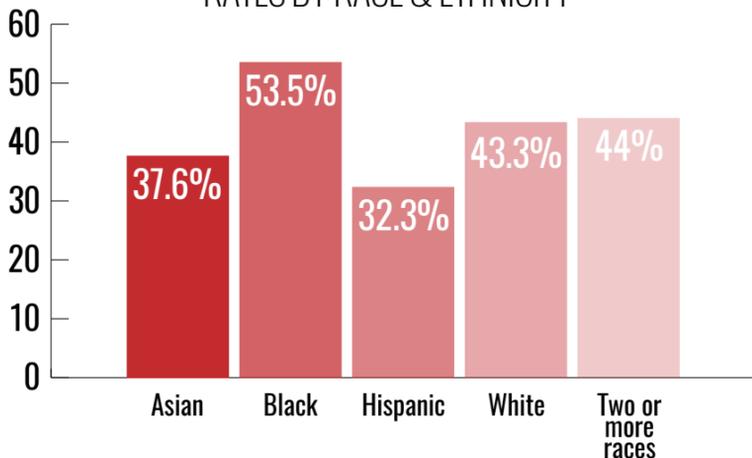
TOTAL MEMBERS

280k

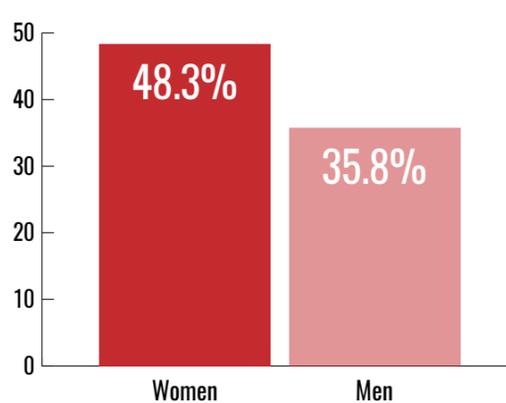
Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity has more than 280,000 initiated members and has chapters at more than 300 universities.

Voting rates of Elon students

RATES BY RACE & ETHNICITY



RATES BY GENDER



VOTING | from cover

election night. "I think that the university did more for the 2016 election than we had ever have done, to help prepare and support students in terms of voter registration and civic engagement," Frigo said.

Despite efforts to get out the vote, discrepancies in the NSLVE report showed gaps in voter turnout between gender. Only 35.8 percent of men voted in comparison to 48.3 percent of women, which was an 8.2 percent decrease since 2012. Besides the gender gap, the report featured breakdowns between race and field of study.

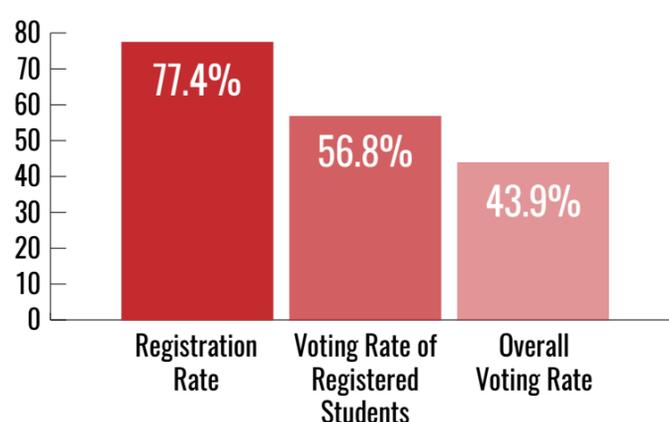
"We're still planning with some ongoing practices to how

we adapt to the data," said sophomore Rob Bullard. "But as of right now, we do not have a plan to target any group specifically."

Beside analyzing the data, faculty members remained optimistic about the 2018 midterm elections, based on the aftermath of this year's Virginia and New Jersey gubernatorial elections. Carrie Eaves, assistant professor of political science, noted the importance of student turnout in the midterm election cycle.

"Everyone will have an election they can vote in," Eaves said. "Absentee ballots are an important obstacle, but reminding people and making [the 2018 elections] feel important. We are just trying to encourage students to exercise their right."

REGISTRATION RATES



Suicide prevention QPR program promoted through Elon

Elon uses the Question-Persuade-Refer Program for suicide prevention on campus

Oliver Fischer

Elon News Network | @FischerWithC

Suicide is the second most common cause of death among college students, according to the American Psychological Association. An online suicide-prevention training that launched in March 2017 is available to members of Elon University, but according to Anita Smith, assistant director of counseling services, it doesn't replace mental health experts.

"It's not a training for folks to become experts in mental health intervention."

The program is called QPR, which stands for "Question, Persuade, Refer." The hour-long online training covers topics such as myths, warning signs of suicide and referral methods. As of the 2017-2018 academic year, certain groups, such as Residence Advisers or Orientation Leaders, are required to complete QPR training.

Elon's counseling services website compares QPR to CPR. "They are both basic strategies to keep a person alive until they can receive medical/mental health care," Smith said. "It's, again, on that level of CPR, training for the layperson, if you will, to understand how to support someone who may need support and intervention due to some thoughts of suicide or self harm."

The QPR program is not a substitute for professionals that are trained to help people contemplating suicide. Smith said QPR is about creating confidence in people to inter-



PERRY ELYADERANI | CONTRIBUTOR

vene and refer people in crisis to real experts.

"We want people to feel competent and confident about their ability to intervene for someone when they're in distress and having a concern about their mental health and well-being and possibly their safety," Smith said. "You never really know when you're going to need it, but when you do need it, it's great to be practiced and informed of the things to do that would help a person to stay safe and alive until they can get an adequate level of intervention for medical care and mental health care."

Whitney Gregory, assistant dean of students is believes in the effectiveness of the QPR program.

"It has shown to be strongly effective as a model for crisis intervention," Gregory said.

Emily Lane is a Residence Adviser who completed the QPR program and found it to be helpful.

"I definitely feel more confident than I had before," Lane said. "It gave me strategies and even just knowing I have supportive people around me can help me understand that I'm able to help others who may need additional support."

One of the myths covered in the QPR program is that suicidal people keep their plans to themselves. Paul Quinnett, author of QPR, wrote in the program, "most suicidal people communicate their intent sometime during the week preceding their attempt."

Counseling services has sent e-mails to faculty and staff, urging them to complete the program. Smith said they want to reach as many people as possible.

"Our initiative has been to have the whole campus QPR-trained," Smith said. "We've been sending out reminders to different departments, faculty departments, division of stu-

dent life offices and organizations and encouraging as many folks as possible to complete the training."

Counseling services has also reached out to individual organizations, such as SPARKS, and asked them to complete the QPR program.

According to Smith, more than 600 faculty, staff and students have completed the QPR program thus far.

There are 6791 students enrolled in fall 2017 according to the registrar's report and 433 active faculty. Therefore, less than 9 percent of the campus has completed QPR training.

Gregory said no e-mails have been sent to students because they don't always read blanket e-mails.

"Often we hear that students are inundated with e-mails and that's not the most successful way to communicate opportunities and resources," Gregory said.

Senior Evan Seder watches Question, Persuade, Refer training. QPR training the viewer with information about suicide prevention.

“

WE WANT PEOPLE TO FEEL COMPETENT AND CONFIDENT ABOUT THEIR ABILITY TO INTERVENE FOR SOMEONE WHEN THEY'RE IN DISTRESS

ANITA SMITH

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COUNSELING SERVICES

QPR CERTIFICATION

9%

less than 9 percent of the campus has completed QPR training.

Information about the program and how to access it is available on their website and counseling services expect students to seek out the information themselves by visiting the website.

"It's not that it's limited in any way," Smith said. "It's out there."

Though Nelson has not yet completed the QPR program, he said he concept of such a program is beneficial, even if it doesn't qualify him to handle people in crisis directly.

"I think a one-hour course that would tell me to look out for this, this and this and then I refer somebody to someone who knows more than I, that I think would be great," Nelson said.

Elon Poll highlights voter opinions on Russia investigation

More than 770 voters gave their opinion on Russia, North Korea and media bias

Margaret Malone

News Editor | @margaret_jeane

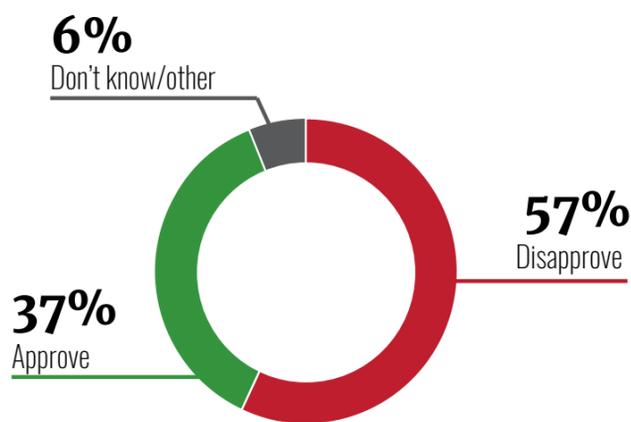
North Carolina voters think the investigation into President Donald Trump's administration's potential Russian connections is a "serious matter," and will likely reveal more criminal activity, according to the Elon University Poll results released Nov. 14.

Tuesday's poll included the responses of 771 registered North Carolina voters. Respondents were questioned about their opinions on Gov. Roy Cooper's job performance, Trump's job performance and nuclear attacks in addition to the Russia investigation.

Some North Carolinians — 39 percent of those polled — said they believe the investigation is little more than "just politics," but their voices were drowned out by the 52 percent who said the investigation should be taken seriously.

In spite of this, Trump's approval rating in North Carolina increased slightly since the last Elon Poll in October. Last month, 34 percent of respondents approved of Trump's performance in comparison to 37

HOW IS DONALD TRUMP HANDLING THE JOB OF PRESIDENT?



STATISTICS COURTESY OF ELON POLL
MARGIN OF ERROR: 3.5%
STEPHANIE HAYS | DESIGN CHIEF

percent most recently.

Almost 60 percent of Millennials were likely to disapprove of the job the president is doing and members of the silent generation — individuals above the age of 73 — were most likely to approve of his performance.

But Richard Burr and Thom Tillis — both Republicans senators for North Carolina — were criticized by respondents for their involvements with the president, and less than a third of respondents approved of their respective performances as a result.

Almost half — 46 percent — of respondents said Burr and Tillis

should be less supportive of the president, while 38.5 percent said they should support the president more.

Cooper is enjoying much more positive feedback, with 49 percent of respondents approving of his performance. This corresponds to the Democrats' recent nationwide success during the early November elections last week. His popularity is almost unchanged since the April Elon Poll when his approval rating sat at 48 percent.

Looking toward next year's election, Jason Husser, assistant professor of political science and

policy studies and director of the Elon Poll, said he expected the Russia investigation to result in a higher percentage of Republicans saying they were motivated to vote next year. Contrarily, just 18 percent said they felt more motivated.

"That shows that there's some backlash going on against Republicans, but I thought that would be about the same as what Democrats are facing," Husser said. "Democrats were 53 percent more voted."

"Now, it's a long way to 2018 ... this doesn't show Democrats are going to sweep the midterm elections. But this does show, as of now, Democratic enthusiasm because of the Russia investigation is greater than Republican backlash against it, at least in term of turnout motivations," Husser said.

Since October, North Carolina voter opinions have not changed significantly regarding media bias in regard to coverage of Trump.

A narrow majority — 51.6 percent — of North Carolinians said they think the media is biased against Trump while just 43.7 percent said the media is not biased.

According to Tuesday's poll, Republicans are overwhelmingly more likely to perceive a media bias at 90 percent, but almost a quarter — or 23 percent — of Democrats also said they believe Trump contends against

media bias.

Over the past few months, speculations increased about the threat of nuclear war in light of ongoing tensions between the United States and North Korea.

In North Carolina, the Elon Poll concluded that one in four registered voters believe nuclear weapons could be used at some point in the next 12 months.

Husser said he expected this result to be closer to 10 percent.

"It is higher than I expected — 24 percent," Husser said. "While it is far from a majority, given the extreme sort of catastrophic nature of one of these exchanges, it suggests that policymakers should know that voters are concerned about nuclear weapons."

Husser said this correlated highly with party identification — 41 percent of Democrats said they thought nuclear weapons might be launched by the United States or North Korea in the next 12 months in comparison to 11 percent of Republicans.

The Poll found that women are more likely than men and blacks are more likely than whites to believe that nuclear weapons are an imminent threat. Those who disapproved of Trump's job performance are more than twice as likely to think nuclear weapons could be used, at 31 percent, than those who said they approve of Trump's performance, which only made up 14 percent.

International terrorism raises safety concerns for students abroad

Margaret Malone
News Editor | @margaret_jeane

The recent deadly acts of terror in London, Barcelona, Manchester and numerous other cities are more than enough to cause a student thinking about studying abroad to reconsider. And some students do.

According to NAFSA: Association of International Educators, just more than 1.5 percent of all U.S. students enrolled at institutions of higher education in the United States and about 10 percent of U.S. graduates study abroad each year.

Elon University's study abroad program consistently ranks as one of the best in the nation. According to the Isabella Canon Global Education Center, 83 percent of Elon students study abroad at least once before graduating.

The staff at the GEC take careful consideration to protect every student when planning study abroad opportunities. Assistant Director of Study Abroad Shannalee Van Beek said a number of sources are considered when evaluating programs' and sites' potential, especially those from diplomatic channels.

"The first source we typically look at would be the state department and particularly, state department travel warnings," Van Beek said. "It's diplomatic information, so we trust that. We trust that it's watertight."

Travel warnings and alerts

The U.S. State Department issues travel warnings and travel alerts. The State Department's website says reasons for issuing a warning might include unstable government, civil war, ongoing intense crime or violence or frequent terrorist attacks.

Currently, travel warnings have been issued for 42 countries. Travel alerts have been issued for Togo, regions of the world experiencing typhoons and hurricanes and Eu-



Protestors spread throughout the region of Catalan, Spain, as leaders consider seceding in October 2017.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ASHLEY FOLLENWEIDER

rope. The travel alert for Europe was issued Aug. 31 in regards to the "continued threat of terrorist attacks" and expires Nov. 30, 2017.

"The Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS or Daesh), al-Qa'ida, and their affiliates have the ability to plan and execute terrorist attacks in Europe," The State Department's website said.

"The Department remains concerned about the potential for future terrorist attacks. U.S. citizens should always be alert to the possibility that terrorist sympathizers or self-radicalized extremists may conduct attacks with little or no warning."

Ongoing safety

Once a country is considered safe for travel, the GEC takes steps to ensure students' safety throughout their trip.

"We make sure that we work with reputable organizations, not only for providing quality academic options and support, but also for how strong and secure their plans are in a worst-case scenario," Van

Beek said.

In March 2016, the Forum on Education Abroad released a report which claimed students are actually more likely to die while on campus than while studying aboard. The report said the mortality rate per 100,000 students is 13.5 for students abroad and 29.4 for students on campus.

In a "worst-case scenario," Van Beek said the GEC tries to make themselves and students as prepared as possible when hundreds and thousands of miles from campus. Comprehensive insurance is booked for all students traveling abroad. This includes medical insurance and evacuation insurance for medical, political or natural disaster reasons.

Sophomore Audrey Harris has planned to spend the upcoming Winter Term studying abroad in Ireland. She said the GEC has helped her to feel safe and prepared.

"In the back of my mind, [terrorism] is there, especially with the history of Ireland — with the IRA and the tensions with Northern Ireland — but I never thought my life

would be in danger, just that maybe we would see some things," Harris said.

Worst-case scenarios

For the families of the students who do die abroad, statistics and insurance don't provide consolation.

Last year, parents of students who died while abroad united to create the organization Protect Students Abroad (PSA).

According to the PSA's website, the organization advocates for six goals: "transparent and comprehensive safety data from the study abroad industry, open access safety data from the study abroad industry, [to advocate] for survivors, beginning with careful listening, [to advocate] honoring the dead by telling their stories, for subject matter experts from outside the study abroad industry to be included in student safety conversations" and "a lens shift within the study abroad industry, to a science-based data-driven understanding of student safety."

PSA did not respond to Elon News Network's request for comment.

Soothing fears

Organizations such as Fearless Global Citizen aim to encourage students and soothe parents' fears about studying abroad despite tragedies such as Braun's death and an increase of international terrorism.

The Fearless Global Citizen program was created by the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS). According to their website, "Fearless Global Citizen is a nonpartisan, international campaign designed to bring the world together by encouraging international exchange and travel around the world."

Their website features the stories of students' who have walked away from study abroad experiences feeling enlightened and enthused.

In May, Fearless Global Citizen published a blog post in response to international terrorist attacks.

"We've all seen and heard news reports on terrorist activity in cities that top many of our lists of places we'd most like to visit. It scares us. It saddens us. It angers us. It horrifies us. It should not deter us," the post said.

"With sufficient planning, you can mitigate irrational fears and be sensible about what you will likely encounter on your travels. You should weigh the pros and cons of any destination with as much practical information as you can gather."

Fearless Global Citizen did not respond to Elon News Network's request for comment.

Senior Waverley Lyons studied abroad in London last fall, prior to the terrorist attack at the Ariana Grande concert and the attack on the London Bridge, but she said she would do it again.

"This might be stupid of me, but I don't feel like [terrorism] is much of a concern," Lyons said.

Tax exempt organizations repay town in other ways

Maggie Brown

Assistant News Editor | @maggieabrown

Property taxes are a large concern of the residents in the town of Elon today. And two of the major organizations in the town, Elon University and Twin Lakes, are tax-exempt.

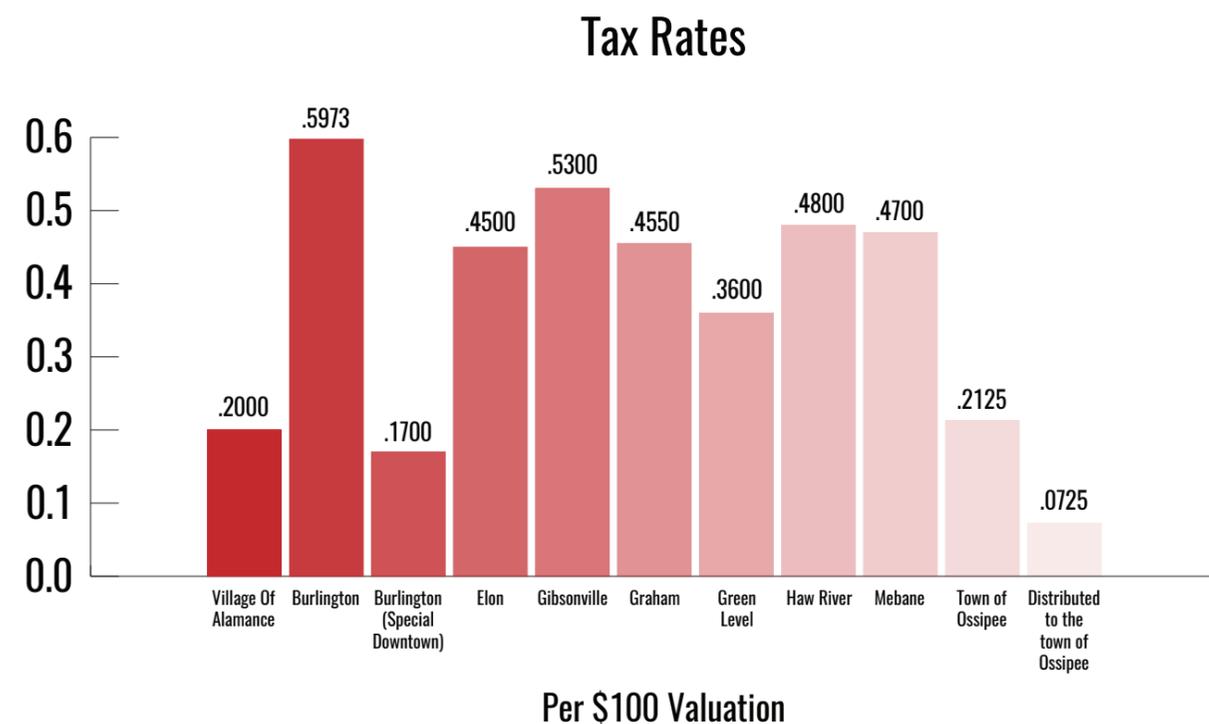
Elon University, like many private nonprofit universities, is not required to pay property taxes under the federal tax code 501(c) section 3. The retirement community Twin Lakes is the second largest tax-exempt organization in the town of Elon.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, there are 10,147 residents of the town of Elon. Elon students constitute about 6,000 of those 10,000 residents.

The 4,000 business owners and residents of the community are taxed to pay for expenses for the 10,000 members of the community.

Residents specifically are faced with the challenge of paying for the services used by students and residents of Twin Lakes.

Even without paying property taxes, organizations such as Twin Lakes and



HANNAH SICHERMAN | DESIGNER

STATISTICS COURTESY OF ALAMANCE COUNTY TAX RATES FOR 2017-2018

Elon University are essential to the core of the town. Elon University helps the town by paying for a third of the sidewalks in the community. Both Twin Lakes and Elon University also fund the police and fire departments in the town.

Pamela Fox, president of Twin Lakes, is passionate about what the organization is doing for the community. Many of the members in Twin Lakes community are focused on being involved in the town of Elon.

"We have a lot of resi-

dents here that are very active in the broader community," Fox said.

Twin Lakes is focused on giving back to the town. They donate more than 60,000 pounds a year of food to local food banks.

Though the town of Elon

has two large tax-exempt organizations in its town, tax rates remain fairly low.

"Elon doesn't pay taxes, but gives us money in other things," said Jerry Tolley, mayor of the town of Elon. "The town is very glad to have them."

Elon's tax rate is .45, while neighboring municipalities such as Burlington have a .597 tax rate. Mebane, Gibsonville and the Haw River all have higher tax rates.

Despite all that these two organizations are doing in the community, having two large organizations in the community that do not pay property taxes can be controversial.

"There are a lot of people that don't think that the university should be exempt from paying property taxes," Tolley said.

Many in the community believe that because Twin Lakes is affiliated with the Lutheran Church they are tax exempt. Fox said Twin Lakes "remains tax exempt not for religious reasons, but because they live up to the title of being a nonprofit."

"We are tax-exempt because we are providing something that provides a tax-exempt purpose, which is providing housing and care to older adults," Fox said. "We are driven by a mission to provide quality care to these older adults. That is our reason for existing."

Registrar's Office tightens policy for holding classes

Registrar Office says they have put an end to the 'holding' issue

Lenna Iskenderian

Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

When it comes to class registration, the Office of the Registrar knows who is gaming the system.

This semester, office staff implemented several new techniques to identify who may be "holding classes" and confirmed there are consequences for those who choose to participate in misconduct.

IMPROVED SOFTWARE

New improvements in registration software allow the Registrar to detect questionable activity to prevent students from "holding classes."

With new improvements in registration software, the Registrar now has the digital tools to track the adjustments students make during registration. When something questionable happens — such as a senior dropping a course and a junior picking it up — the software is aware of the change.

"We can basically see anything in the system down to the nanosecond a student registers," said University Registrar Rodney Parks.

To prevent another trend of "holding classes" this semester, the Office of the Registrar sent messages to students to remind them not to reserve classes. If the

system detects suspicious behavior, a warning email goes out to the student. If further misconduct occurs, that student will receive an Honor Code violation and face deliberation in Honor Court.

The Office of the Registrar is responsible for the system of all class registration at Elon. These highly-trained staff members created a credit-hour system that, for the most part, works by prioritizing higher grade levels.

For the Office of the Registrar, it was easy to tell if students were holding classes by making note of if they had previously registered for the class a semester or two before. Seniors had the best opportunity to reserve classes and therefore may have been more highly monitored, but the system caught all patterns of misconduct.

According to Parks, the difficulty lies in whether a student holds a scholarship mandating they take full course loads each semester, even if they require less to graduate. For these students, there is technology specifically targeted toward classes that do not apply to their degree, then comparing them in the system to the awards they hold.

The Office of the Registrar is always looking for new techniques to make a more efficient system. In the future, Elon may be looking to model the University of Richmond, where all seniors register at 8 a.m. on the first day of registration.

With nearly 3,000 undergraduates, "you can imagine you don't get the classes you want to get," Parks said. But at a smaller school



Cheryl Loy, registration and graduation coordinator at Elon University (right), and a staffer in the Registrar's Office work diligently Nov. 14.

like Elon, the chances of satisfaction are significantly higher. A Richmond system would place every senior on an equal playing field instead of prioritizing those with slightly more credit hours.

"You can anticipate new change going forward," Parks said.

Around this time of year, students focus heavily on classes. For students with less credit hours than others, this process can be quite difficult. "Holding classes"

poses a risk to those who register honestly and are denied spots in classes they should have access to.

But while some ideas are still in consideration, others are already in effect.

Starting this fall semester, the Office of the Registrar will trial a "waitlist" system for summer college students. When the amount of spots in a class does not meet the demand, this program gives students the ability to be put on a waiting list and wait for a spot

in their desired class to open up. When a spot does open up, the student receives 24 hours to either accept or deny the spot.

The Office of the Registrar says it makes a continuous effort to "think dynamically" and welcomes student input toward its process, assured Parks. Its staff acknowledges that class registration can be stressful for some students, and strives to be as easily accessible and informative as possible.

The naming of a building is more than the money

The board of trustees considers donation history and contributions to the school when naming buildings

Brian Rea

Elon News Network | @brianmrea

Walking around Elon University's campus, there are several facilities whose names are dedicated to people who left an impact in Elon history. The Martha and Spencer Love School of Business, Long Building, Danieley Neighborhood, Ernest A. Koury Sr. Business Center and Schar Hall are examples of places on campus named in honor of someone.

Janie Brown, a professor at Elon for 38 years, remembers the call from Leo Lambert telling her that a dormitory in Oaks would be named in her honor.

"I was almost in shock ... Dr. Lambert's discussion with me was that the trustees had been discussing what person's name to put on the dormitories in the Oaks. One trustee thought that the faculty were the people who contributed to so much to the life of the university and really thought the dormitories should be named for faculty," Brown said.

To Brown, her building serves as a symbol for her diligent work at the university.

"It means that people will remember all the work we did. There are probably many other faculty that are worthy of such recognition. I felt it was a great honor to have a building named," Brown said.

At Elon, there is more to the naming process of a building than strictly monetary donation.

"Not every building naming is the result of a gift to the institution," said Dan Anderson, vice president for university communications. "Elon also has named facilities for



Junior Spencer Schar (left) and his parents, Martha and Dwight Schar, break ground on the site of the Schar Center with Elon University President Leo Lambert Oct. 21, 2016.

presidents of the institution and for outstanding faculty and staff members."

Tucked away in the back of campus is the Danieley Neighborhood named after James Earl Danieley, the sixth president of the university. And the neighborhood's lake, Lake Verona, is named after Danieley's wife.

The home of the Interactive Media graduate program, the Long Building, was named after Elon's first president William S. Long. The all-male freshman dorm, Smith Residence Hall, is named after Elon's fifth and longest-serving president, Leon Edgar Smith.

The donors' patterns of giving are considered when buildings are being named.

"It might be several different donations over time," Anderson said. "For example, a family gives several scholarships and a professorship and then a gift toward building and the cumulative effect of the donation would be named after them."

There are many buildings on campus made possible by a hefty donation. The Isabella Cannon Global Education Center and the Isabella Cannon Pavilion are both named after the former mayor of Raleigh and Elon alumna, Isabella Cannon '24. Cannon gave over \$4 million in donations to the school after her graduation, specifically for leadership and international study programs.

The LaRose Student Commons is planned to serve as a common area for students living in the Historic neighborhood. Elon alumnae, Gail H. LaRose '64 and her daughter Michelle, an Elon trustee, made a \$2.5 million gift to get their name on the building.

Dwight C. Schar and Martha Schar donated \$12 million to Elon. Their name can be seen on two new Elon facilities. The Schar family is named on a part of the School of Communications and the new athletic complex on campus.

The funding for the newly renovated School of Communications featured more than 40 other donors, including the Snow family whom the Snow Family Grand Atrium is named after.

"In some cases, once a family makes a gift to the university they might chose to name the gift after not themselves, but after someone else," Anderson said.

The \$10 million facility home to the Koury Business Center, was made possible with Maurice Koury's gift in 2001. Koury named the facility to honor his brother, Ernest. Both Kourys are prominent businessmen in Alamance County, making it appropriate that their name is on the business school.

But there is more behind the dedication of a building than dollar signs, the board sometimes decides to honor "outstanding faculty" with a building.

"Not every building naming is the result of a gift to the institution. Sometimes it is an attribute or honor to service to the institution," Anderson said.

Hook, Brannack and Barney Residence Halls are named after the three longtime professors of the university — Alonzo Hook, Ned Brannock and John Barney. Several of the apartment buildings in the Oaks Neighborhood are named for notable faculty members John Greenfield Sullivan, Jo Watts Williams and Jane P. Brown.



TAKING SIDES

Community members take different stances on gun control following mass shootings

Rachel Ellis
Lead Assignment Manager |
@rachel_ellisTV

The United States experienced two of the worst mass shootings in modern history only 36 days apart — just over a month's time.

The slaying of 26 parishioners at a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, on Nov. 5, along with the killing of 58 people at a Las Vegas concert on Oct. 1 shocked the country.

But while many are mourning, the issue of gun control has once again reared its ugly head.

While these violent acts have contributed to speculations about guns, others believe guns are a form of protection in violent situations. Both sides of the spectrum are present at Elon University's campus and the greater Burlington community.

Regulating ownership

The set of laws and regulations in the United States which puts limitations on the buying, selling, manufacture, possession, modification or uses of firearms are known as 'Gun Control Laws.'

Beginning with the National Firearms Act in 1934, there were laws prohibiting gun ownership, setting the stage for future gun control laws in the country.

According to an article released by the Pew Research Center, the reasons why citizens own guns have changed. Gun supporters are more politically engaged than opponents, and 37 percent of adults reported having a gun in their household.

According to Elon University College Republicans President Joshua Fritz, there are changes that could be made in order to provide a safer environment for U.S. citizens, while also owning a gun.

"The right to bear a gun stems from the right to self-defense," Fritz said. "Law abiding citizens should not be infringed in that right. However, actually enforcing background checks for such sales is a credible change that I could see everyone moving towards."

But Elon sociology professor Thomas Arcaro said that other places in the world, like Australia, have decided to act on gun violence and have banned guns all together in the country.

"So you can see there are things that can be done. My little diatribe is that there are a ton of restrictions and qualifications on the first amendment, it's not absolute. With the Second Amendment, if you are putting any qualifications on it, the National

Rifle Association (NRA) immediately yells for freedom," Arcaro said.

While these opinions do tend to follow certain societal and political outlooks, there are still a lot of differing viewpoints that can be held within a pro-Second Amendment gun owner or an individual who believes that guns should not be sold.

Regulations on campus

According to the Elon Campus Safety and Police website, "Weapons are prohibited on campus or any university related events. Consequently, no-one on Elon's campus is allowed to carry a weapon as a concealed carry or stored in their personal belongings in their dorm room."

While Fritz does believe that the right to bear arms stems from a mechanism of self-defense, he doesn't believe that universities should hold policies allowing guns on college campuses.

"Elon is a private campus that can decide its own policies. In regards to public universities however, statistically they are some of the safest places in the United States," Fritz said. "As long as the authorities can ensure the safety of the public area, then I am fine with the current regulation that bans firearms."

Though guns are not allowed on Elon's campus, self-defense classes are offered in order to promote and teach personal safety and protection by using Martial Arts and Ju-Jitsu teaching methods.

Adjunct instructor in Health and Human Performance Robert Thomas taught personal defense classes for about seven years.

As a self-defense instructor, Thomas incorporates fight scenarios in his classes without the use of guns.

"People that know how to fight don't want to fight because that terrifies us. We know what can happen. Knowing how to fight is just a defense mechanism that you can carry with you. Violence is something you want to avoid," Thomas said.

Thomas spoke about how self-de-

GUN OWNERS

37%

Percentage of American adults who reported having a gun in their household according to the Pew Research Center.

ELON UNIVERSITY GUN REGULATIONS

"No individual on Elon's campus is allowed to carry a weapon as a concealed carry or stored in their personal belongings in their dorm room."

“

IT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT SOMETIMES IT TAKES A GOOD GUY WITH A GUN TO STOP A BAD GUY WITH A GUN.

DREW GERRINGER
SERGEANT, BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

fense and knowing how to protect an individual when necessary is similarly related to how guns should be used, only when needed and in a safe manner.

"A gun is just a tool. Sometimes I have students come out to my range and shoot with me and one of the things I do is set a gun down and it's not chambered, but very safe, and we don't touch that gun the whole time. We shoot a lot of other guns in a controlled atmosphere, and the gun that is just sitting there is not going to get up and shoot anybody," Thomas

said.

In Alamance County, there are several locations where firearms are bought and sold, in both chain stores, like Dicks Sporting Goods and Wal-Mart, as well as other privately owned businesses.

The Burlington Wal-Mart has a gun counter that operates as a gun seller and provider of information for people looking to purchase a gun.

Mary Claire Manson, a gun owner and seller, heads the counter. Manson previously worked at the jewelry counter before she realized that she wanted to help people learn more about guns.

"It helps to have someone that knows what they're selling, especially when it comes to guns," Manson said. "I've probably quadrupled the gun sales since I've been there because I know exactly what the costumers are looking for. It doesn't promote confidence to gun buyers when the seller is not experienced or knowledgeable about guns."

Manson belongs to a range and goes shooting once a week to practice and said she believes that owning a gun and being responsible is directly related to how much you practice.

"When you train to use it right, you just feel more comfortable walking around to know if something happens, you are kind of prepared," Manson said. "You're never going to be fully prepared for something bad that happens to you, and a lot of people who don't practice with it or don't train are probably not going to use it and are probably going to get hurt by it. The key is to practice with it."

Burlington law enforcement

Drew Gerringer, a sergeant with the Gang and Violent Crimes Unit, has worked with the Burlington Police Department for 11 years. He works with crimes related to acts of violence in the community, including the use of guns on the streets and in private locations, and investigates the majority of shootings in the Burlington area.

Gerringer said that the most prominent acts of violence involving the use of guns in the Burlington area are drive-by shootings, which have increased over the past year.

"Somebody gets mad about something and then they might shoot at somebody, and basically it's retaliatory gun fire back and forth with each other," Gerringer said. "We have seen an increase of people's houses getting shot up, cars getting shot up, people being shot."

According to Gerringer, guns are used to specifically target an individual, and are derived from anger or hate.

"There was a shooting because somebody disrespected somebody on Facebook last year. People were shot because one group of individuals made fun of somebody's girlfriend," Gerringer said.

Gerringer said he has noticed the increase of active shooting on the street and believes that there could be an improvement in reducing incidents involving guns by even the help of a neighbor.

"The entire thing about gun violence is that the reason why gun violence occurs and reoccurs is the lack of community involvement, in my opinion. There is a code in certain neighborhoods and societies where they don't talk to police, you don't talk to them, it's their job to figure it out," Gerringer said. "Unfortunately, that's how we do our job, we can't just go out and come up with a person's name. The way that we figure things out is talking to people who saw it or know people who saw it."

The Burlington Police Department has implemented several programs over the past couple of years to keep members of the community aware of violence related to guns.

Gerringer said most guns involved in crimes are acquired illegally.

"If somebody breaks into a house and finds a gun, they can take that gun and then they can resell it on the street," Gerringer said. "Most of the guns that we encounter are already illegal, it's just a matter of getting them off the street and back to the people who have the legal right to have one."

As a member of the law enforcement, Gerringer said that guns are "the necessary evil", and that he wishes he could come to work everyday without a gun, but that is not the society we live in.

"I wear one everyday, and when I'm not at work I wear one everyday. It's unfortunate, but sometimes it takes a good guy with a gun to stop a bad guy with a gun."

ALEX TOMA | ASSISTANT DESIGN CHIEF

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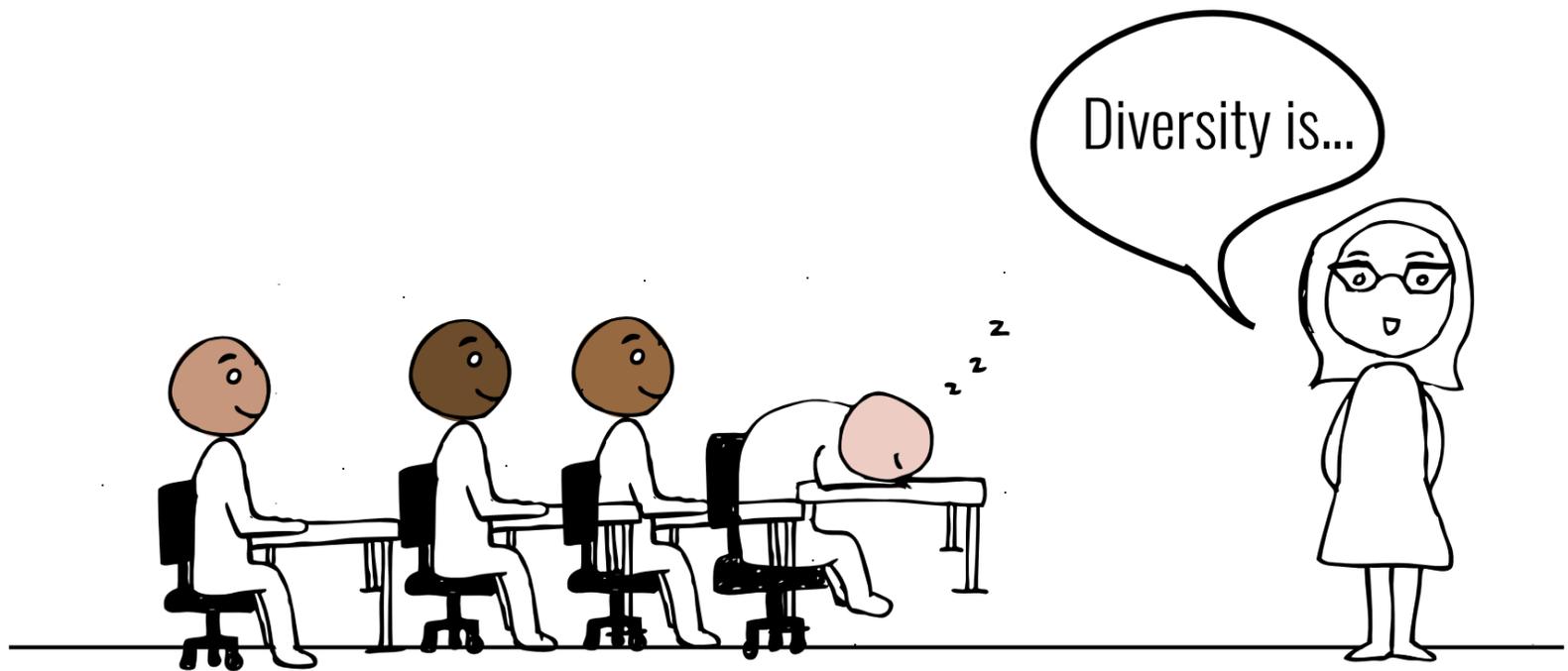
JOINING ENN WAS THE GREATEST DECISION I HAVE MADE AT ELON. NOT ONLY DID I MAKE AMAZING FRIENDS, BUT I LEARNED ABOUT MYSELF AND MY FUTURE IN JOURNALISM."

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ELENA HERNANDEZ | ILLUSTRATOR

STAFF EDITORIAL

Conversations on diversity must reach those who need it

HOW WE SEE IT

Students need to pay more mind to diversity conversations and discussions that may not directly affect them.

There is no shortage of conversations about diversity and inclusion on Elon University's campus. Almost every other week it seems as though there is another film screening, forum discussion or speaker here to discuss the complexities surrounding diversity and inclusivity. In general, Elon's administration and student-run organizations are doing their part to continuously educate the community in these areas — SGA just last week hosted a Town Hall on the topic. Even here at Elon News Network, stories and editorials about diversity both on and off campus are common on our website and in our newspaper.

But while these resources are available to students, those who truly need them are not engaging.

Offices such as the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education (CREDE) and the Gender and LGBTQIA Center (GLC), as well as student-run organizations such as the Black Student Union, Spectrum and Latin American Student Organization (LASO), serve two main purposes: providing a safe space for marginalized minority groups on campus and educating the greater community on issues facing their groups. These offices and organizations have found great success in the first mission, but the latter — and perhaps most important — has yet to be fulfilled.

No fault lies within these groups though. The real fault lies with the students and community members

who do not see diversity as an issue that matters to them. And the truth is, diversity shouldn't have to directly affect you for you to care.

Most minority students on campus do not need to learn about the importance of diversity education, inclusivity or how to be a better ally, and yet those who identify within minoritized groups are typically the ones going to these educational events. Too often, those who are not affected by oppression do not see a need to attend these events. Many even feel tired of talking about race, so they tune out to the conversations altogether.

Just this past weekend, the CREDE and the Center for Leadership co-hosted the seventh annual Intersect Conference, a conference with the goal of teaching students about the importance of diversity in leadership and where the two intersect. This would have been a fun, free and entertaining conference for students to attend as a way to expand their

perspectives and engage in challenging discussions. But yet again, the attendees from Elon were primarily those who are already active in similar discussions on campus.

People can't be forced to attend diversity education events, nor can they be easily be convinced to care. But everyone should make an effort to shift the conversation from what the university can do to increase diversity and inclusivity initiatives to what students can do to better use the resources around them.

If you are someone who attends events put on by the CREDE or the GLC often, make it a priority to bring a friend or classmate who doesn't. If you're tired of talking about race and diversity, those in racial and ethnic minority groups understand — it is far more tiring living through these events than talking about them, but discussion is the only way we are going to effect change.

Forget prior stereotypes when studying abroad



Hannah Benson
Columnist

Another month is wrapping up and I'm still spitting out content from somewhere that isn't in the Elon Bubble. In fact, I'm writing this from the center of the Indian Ocean, fresh off some time in Cape Town, South Africa. I have some new souvenirs, photos of Table Mountain and a whole host of new insights to share.

It was my visiting South Africa, a place which from my perspective seemed wildly out of the ordinary.

From the first moments of arrival, I realized just how much of the nation was catering to tourists like myself. The nation is highly westernized. Because of imperialism and colonization at the turn of the 20th century, a good deal of the nation's culture stems from those who set up camp there. A predominance of

the citizens there are originally from somewhere else — it was hard to come by a true South African native, born and raised, much less one whose family line had long existed there. Only about two times while I was there did I come across someone who had spent the entirety of their lives in South Africa, and neither of these two had parents who did the same.

It was not uncommon in my time in South Africa to see brochures for companies offering an "authentic trip to an African village" where tourists were shoved onto vehicles that resembled a safari car from any child's picture book and transported to a part of Cape Town's suburbs, where people were seen wearing animal hide and living off the fruits of the Earth. In fact, a handful

of my fellow voyagers were trucked off to places like these to enjoy a "cultural experience" and later raved about the indigenous people they met who were living a "real" African life.

The issue here is that so many of the students in my program were so eager to eat up a culture they knew very little about beforehand that they readily believed it was as colorful and as divergent from theirs as they had imagined. The real truth is that tourism can go one of two ways. You can be a tourist who wants to see the nation you have been imagining for its stereotypes. Or you can be a tourist who goes in without a serious expectation of what they are going to see, and watches the way the people live, quietly understanding as they see and learn more.

People don't visit Boston, see the tour guides for the Freedom Trail dressed in colonial garb and ask them how many pairs of pilgrim shoes they own because people tend to understand that these are caricatures of a stereotype. Why then, as an American traveler, would someone see a man in African cloths and animal hide, playing a comically colorful drum in a shopping center filled with locals dressed like the tourists and ask him what rural township he's from? The man, more likely than not, is a local, too — perhaps someone who lives in an apartment building nearby who plays music on the street for some extra cash just in the way that a Bostonian might give tours on the Freedom Trail on the weekends. To assume that this person is an indigenous person, living off the land

in the wilderness like any of the characters we might see in the Lion King, is ignorant and close-minded.

I guess it all boils down to a topic I can't seem to stop ranting about — people who travel need to keep at the forefront of their minds that the stereotypes they've been fed by media and word of mouth are incomplete ways to look at a nation. It's better to enter a place with absolutely no idea of what you might expect to find there than to come to one and start pinpointing all the ways this place compares to the last movie or television show you last saw centered around that location.

The least you can do is let someone show you how they live before you decide your preconceived notions were accurate. I'm sure you would want the same.

With big dreams, you can achieve great things



Melissa Beck
Columnist

Two hours, 26 minutes, 53 seconds. That is the official time for the 2017 New York City Marathon women's champion Shalane Flanagan. She is the first American runner to win this marathon since 1977, finishing about a minute ahead of Kenya's Mary Keitany. You could see the look of utter joy in that moment as Flanagan burst into tears, accomplishing a goal she had been aiming to achieve and that she had earlier claimed could be the peak of her career.

At a time like this when everyone is overwhelmed with their schedules and getting tired of school, Flanagan is a perfect representation of how hard work pays off. As much as we all want to skip our 8 a.m. or sleep instead of finish our English essay, we have to persevere.

Those 2 hours, 26 minutes, 53 seconds moments do not come in a day. They come over years.

Shalane Flanagan did not achieve this in a day. She did not put in an hour of effort and suddenly be able to run a whole marathon. She had to train tirelessly for years to work up to this accomplishment.

Whether it is a relationship, a job or schoolwork, everything you want to achieve requires work. We all know that work is not fun, hence the name, but it is what comes out of it that makes people try even harder.

We all have big dreams, big ambitions and wants in our lives. All the big names who have accomplished

great things, such as Steve Jobs and his Apple products, took lots of time and lots of failure. They got let down or did not make their goal and had to make a course correction to fix it.

When we really think about it, most people give up before they have even begun because of how much work it may entail, but the problem then is we miss out on all of the amazing things that come from our potential.

Before I went to college, my dad talked to me a lot about growth and fixed mindsets and how they affect us. With a growth mindset, we understand that we may not be the best at things, but choose to overcome that feeling and try to become better.

Instead of simply focusing on a grade, for example, focus on learning and retaining the information, knowing that we may not be good at everything, but at least we are learning. With a fixed mindset, on the other hand, we give up because we do not excel right away. Because we are not the best, we should not bother doing it at all.

It is so common for us to have a fixed mindset because we hate feeling disappointed and angry at ourselves and our failures. But our failures are what lead us to our ultimate goal. We must learn to struggle and fall and get back up and try again.

Eventually we will win our own New York City Marathon — we just have to persevere.



LUCIA JERVIS | DESIGNER

While on campus, seek the uncomfortable



Jake Lenett
Columnist

It's no secret that Elon University is often referred to as a bubble. Its quaint, charming neighborhoods constitute a close-knit network of academia, but it's often easy to lose sight of that this unique community is, by relative terms, isolated. Beyond the oaks — especially for born-and-bred city folks like myself — it sometimes feels as though Elon lacks the wealth of opportunity that a more urban setting would provide.

Admittedly, there is some evidence to this claim. All one has to do is visit Raleigh, Durham, Charlotte or even Greensboro for an extended period of time; there are copious varieties of restaurants, nightlife, events, exhibits and just about anything college students would be looking for. For fellow urban nostalgics, this presents a dilemma when residing at Elon. When you're in desperate need of an adventure through the concrete jungle — which for me, entails inner-city

mischief and Korean barbeque during the dwindling hours — you might be hard-pressed to do more than twiddle your inebriated thumbs as you longingly await the opening of late night at the Lakeside dining hall.

Yet even in my considerably short tenure at Elon, I've encountered plenty of folks who are willingly compliant with a similar routine. They begrudgingly attend class, immediately return to their beds and lie awake in the late evening claiming there's nothing to do. But they couldn't be more wrong.

There's opportunity around every corner at Elon, but with one catch: you have to go seek it yourself.

Granted, it's definitely easier to close your bedroom door and binge a Netflix series while fondling an e-cigarette in the palm of your hand. But that would be an incredible waste of your valuable time. Instead, do yourself a favor and continue to pursue



IN A WAY, I BELIEVE THE MORE WE SEEK DISCOMFORT, THE MORE WE INEVITABLY BECOME COMFORTABLE WITH IT. WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF ELON, THIS COULD MEAN JOINING A CLUB, SPORTS TEAM OR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION.

your passions, either on your own time, or through one of Elon's many meaningful organizations.

Though it may be daunting at first, I'd encourage you to take a proactive approach to your routine with the mindset that the best opportunities aren't going to simply fall in your lap; challenge yourself and chase them. In a way, I believe the more we seek discomfort, the more we inevitably become comfortable with it. Within the context of Elon, this could mean joining a club, sports team or charitable organization.

Speaking from personal experience, when I joined Elon News Network as a freshman writer and finance major, I was green, to say the least. Without any prior experience in writing beyond privy poetry and journaling, as well as majoring in a completely different subject, I initially felt out of my depth. To be honest, I don't know how I mustered up the confidence to join the ENN, but I am continually thankful that I did. Writing

for this publication not only gave me a platform to liberate my voice through literary expression, but the ability to work with some exceptionally talented individuals. As a result, I feel as though an entirely new community was illuminated out of the greater Elon abyss. Moreover, I'm beginning to experience profound personal growth and optimism about the future of my college career.

Even though I could continue to pour on the praise, the point of it all has less to do with ENN and more to do with the way you approach your four years at Elon. In essence, go find your own ENN; start by focusing on what you truly care about, and then find a way to make advancements in those passions. Challenges will arise in spades, but embrace each of them as educational fortuities. Above all, the most crucial practice is to seek discomfort, and ultimately enhance your Elon experience. There's no shortage of opportunities — you owe it to yourself to find them.

TAKING A JOURNEY *Across The Line*

Elon students screen Planned Parenthood's new virtual reality experience for multiple perspectives

Alexandra Schonfeld
Lifestyle Editor | @aschonfeld096

LAST WEEK, ELON UNIVERSITY'S College Democrats, Elon Feminists for Equality, Change and Transformation (EFFECT) and the women's, gender & sexualities studies department hosted a drop-in screening of Planned Parenthood's virtual reality film "Across the Line." The film puts viewers in the shoes of a woman visiting a health center for an abortion. The viewer is faced with the bombardment of pro-life protesters yelling real-life recordings of slurs yelled at women across the country.

Junior Michaela Fogarty, president of College Democrats, said the goal of the event was not to discuss the morality of abortion, but rather the issue of clinic harassment.

Fogarty interned for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America last summer and worked on the Experience team which owned and marketed the film — inspiring her to bring it to Elon.

"I really wanted to bring it to

campus because I feel like I've been so frustrated by what's going on in the news lately and feel limited in what I can do about it," she said. "I feel like educating people — especially on a college campus — is the best place to start."

Fogarty arranged for 21 virtual reality viewers to be sent to Elon and used during the event. Forty-four students attended the event during the drop-in hours from 7-9 p.m. where they were invited to watch the seven-minute experience and then participate in discussion afterward.

Two representatives from Planned Parenthood serving the Triad area attended the event.

"When you're not as close to this work — as folks like us are — it can be really eye-opening to experience that in a really real way," said Elizabeth Freeze, director of philanthropy for Planned Parenthood South Atlantic about the film.

"I think the graphics are not super high quality, but I think that the experience of being shouted at is unique, and one that women ex-

“ I HOPE THAT PEOPLE LEARN SOMETHING AND SEE SOMETHING FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE — THAT THEY TAKE SOME ACTION.

MICHAELA FOGARTY
JUNIOR, PRESIDENT OF COLLEGE DEMOCRATS



ALEXANDRA SCHONFELD | LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Michaela Fogarty interned at Planned Parenthood this summer where she was first introduced to Across the Line.

perience on a daily basis that visit abortion clinics. And what is being screamed and the tone is very real," Freeze said.

Fogarty purposely did not over advertise the event because of the strong opinions surrounding Planned Parenthood and abortion.

"I know there are a lot of people who don't support Planned Parenthood and don't support abortion," Fogarty said. "We are in North Carolina, and even though it's a campus event, I recognize that those opinions exist."

She said they received push-

back from two faculty and staff members who expressed their opposition for the support of Planned Parenthood, but "nothing was threatening or serious."

Fogarty hopes the event inspired people — in any capacity — to take action.

"I hope that people learn something and see something from a different perspective — that they take some action," she said. "Whether that's calling a senator or many years from now when we actually have money, they'll donate to Planned Parenthood when they

may have not before."

Junior Nicole Harrison attended the event, and after watching the film felt that it could be a good way to open students to a topic they may not be familiar with.

"I think it's really important to see — especially with topics like this," Harrison said. "I think people can very easily turn a blind eye and not really be aware of the situation. This is a good way to actually see the experience and hear voices, see what the room looks like and be aware of what's actually going on instead of pushing it to the side."

Kat Blaque offers students insight as social media influencer

Elon's 2017 Intersect Conference concluded with Blaque's address

Ana Gabriela García
Elon News Network | @AnaGCGarcia

Last Saturday, the 2017 Intersect Conference keynote speaker, Kat Blaque, candidly addressed important, yet ignored topics on gender and sexuality, dating, growing up, failures and white supremacy.

The Intersect Conference is a two-day conference where participants, through education sessions and roundtable discussions, engage in dialogue, reflection and social justice. All topics discussed focus on the intersectionality of diversity and leadership. "If..." was the main theme of the conference. Students from more than four different colleges and universities attended this year's event.

Blaque, a social media influencer with 132,000 subscribers on YouTube and 199,000 on Facebook, began her keynote address explaining the desire to explore her own narrative after buying a knock-off Lisa Frank diary from her community's catholic bookstore in elementary school.

"That's when I started having a continuous conversation with myself," Blaque said. The self-reflection ultimately led to her awareness of the ways in which she was different from most kids.

Before using YouTube, she used other platforms, such as Myspace, as a public diary. Later, she began using YouTube, on a \$25 "rinky-dink" Logitech webcam, and began vlogging routinely. For Blaque, the power of YouTube was not in her ability to express herself, but rather in the empowerment it gave her.

"I started to recognize that social media had that ability to allow you to recreate yourself in many ways," she said.

During her speech, Blaque also addressed the obstacles she faced as a transgender woman in college, a turbulent time where Blaque recognized that she wasn't a queer person, but rather a trans person.

"I had this realization that I really had no responsibility to be the person I said I was the day before," she said.

Blaque turned back to YouTube during this time, to talk about her concerns on transitioning and the stress of her college assignments. She also started ordering hormones online and began doing hormone update videos.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAT BLAQUE

Kat Blaque was featured as the keynote speaker at this year's Intersect Conference.

Knowing that the world around her didn't fully accept her, Blaque decided to be "stealth" in college. "Stealth" means to live in a situation where the people around you do not know you are trans. In this way, Blaque existed without being thought of solely in regards to her transgender status.

"As a trans-person, sometimes

you just hate having to go through life with your trans-ness being the thing, — the first thing — that people talk to you about," she said. "Believe it or not, trans people do exist for more things than being trans."

Staying "stealth" also allowed her to not be laughed at or rejected from a job opportunity, something which occurred many times before

Blaque changed her gender marker and "dead name," otherwise known as her birthname. In addition, Blaque no longer had to email her teachers and explain to students her real name and gender.

Today, her internet presence extends weekly more than 4 million people. The south California native is also an animator and illustrator who contributes to Everyday Feminism, Pride.com and The Huffington Post.

Before, during and after her speech, students tweeted responses to Blaque. Elon University junior Carolina Ferreyros tweeted in response to Blaque:

"@kat_blaque is apparently my spirit animal, she walked to steak n shake last night and is going to cookout later, can't wait to hear what else she has to say."

Her unabashed and insightful take on difficult and personal topics, something which undoubtedly rose her to fame, kept students, faculty and staff engaged throughout her talk.

"The intersect conference's decision to choose Kat Blaque as the keynote speaker shows that they are truly dedicated to diversity in all its forms," said junior Raechel Brunson whom attended this year's event.

swapping the *skates* for *books*

Elon sophomore who was once an aspiring Olympian halts career to protect her health

MaryKate Forte
Elon News Network | @MaryKate_Forte

As she trained for the Olympics, Elon University sophomore Whitney Miller sustained a concussion that changed the track of her athletic dreams forever.

The concussion that shattered her hopes of qualifying for the 2014 Winter Olympics came after she fell head first on the ice. She was dropped by her partner in a fluke accident during a run-through for their program, and she suffered a traumatic brain injury.

"It happened right before school started, and I can remember trying to set up my binders for school, and I was sitting on the floor crying because I couldn't figure out how to put my binders together," Miller said. "I couldn't put the papers in the folders. That kind of moment is when I could tell."

Traumatic brain injuries are commonly considered the most complex disease in the brain, according to Neuroscience News. This is because a severe blow to the head can cause a series of events to play out for months, years and possibly even decades. Ten million people a year are affected worldwide by traumatic brain injury, and it is the leading cause of death and disability in children and young adults.

Emily Wein, a competitive figure skater and friend of Miller's from home, also had to quit the sport after suffering a severe concussion. But like Miller, she has no regrets about skating.

"Skating was a huge part of my life, and quitting was really hard, but I learned so much from it," Wein said. "Skating helped me to mature early since I was consistently in a fairly professional setting."

Miller was only 2 1/2 years old when she skated for the first time — her skates on the wrong feet. Her family still laughs about it to this day.

She continued to skate until midway through her sophomore year in high school when her most recent concussion proved too devastating to overcome. She competed in singles skating until she was 10 or 11, at which point she began doing ice dance, and her coaches thought she was a natural.

"I loved ice dancing because it meshed so well. I had done ballet, so ice dance came naturally," Miller said.

Miller placed second in nationals twice and competed in Austria for Team USA in the Junior Grand Prix when she was in seventh grade.

Being able to represent and compete for the United States is an experience she will always be grateful for and will never forget.

"It's an incredible experience to go abroad and represent your country and carry that reputation with you," Miller said. "Every one of your actions has an influence on people's opinion of the U.S., and it's a really humbling and growing experience."

Training for Olympics

Miller moved to Vancouver, Canada, to train at the Vancouver Skating Academy at the start of her sophomore year. Her training consisted of warmups starting at 5:45 a.m. and being on the ice from 6-11 a.m. Then she went to school until 4 p.m. and after that had dance practice, conditioning and more skating.

"I was used to it," Miller said. "The environment was so hard that if you didn't enjoy it you would fall short. The environment was challenging and draining, but that was your life, and you needed to enjoy it."

It was never a medal or podium that stood out to Miller as a defining moment during her skating career. Her daily training was grueling and taught her the importance of following through with commitment, something she is grate-

ful to have instilled in her.

"It was about being gracious for the opportunities you had," Miller said. "Making the most of what you have, because that was more stand-out than any medal or any podium."

Her former coach, Doug Ivenick, trained with her the longest. Ivenick was the first to critique her, and it created an unspoken bond between the two. When he passed away, Miller used his death as motivation to keep training.

"He was the biggest influence in my career, and he instilled a confidence in me that I didn't find in anyone else," said Miller.

Miller never contemplated quitting skating, and she firmly believes that was her strength and the reason why she got so far.

"You needed to be 110 percent committed to it, or you wouldn't make it through," she said.

Adjusting Without Skates

After the concussion that ended her career, Miller accepted the fact that she would not be able to return to skating, and moved from Vancouver back to Pennsylvania with her mom.

"It was nice to move home in a way and go back and live with my family all together," Miller said. "Pretty much through all of my development as a kid, I hadn't seen my dad or lived with him, so I missed a lot of time with him."

In losing figure skating, Miller found that she gained back her family, making the adjustment easier.

Miller describes her transition moving back home as one of "a lot of firsts." She started to run track for her high school as a way to stay active and then ended up doing cheerleading, too, something she is still involved in at Elon.

Kendall Milam, one of Miller's close friends from home, believes that Miller has been better off since she stopped skating.

"I think Whitney was happier after she stopped skating because there was less pressure on her," Milam said. "I know skating was a really stressful environment for her, and although she probably missed it, I think she's in a better place not skating."

Life at Elon

Miller is a journalism and international studies major at Elon. She is currently a member of Elon's chapter of the Delta Delta Delta sorority and is part of Elon's cheerleading team where her discipline from years of skating training comes in handy.

Looking back on all that she has accomplished and experienced, Miller notes that her life has fallen into place.

"You can't force anything. Everything happens for a reason. I was very bitter for a long time, but now I will have a career so much beyond just a rink," Miller said. "I got the best of both worlds. I have lived two different lives in one."

“

I NEEDED TO DECIDE IF I WANTED TO KEEP MY BRAIN HEALTHY OR KEEP MY CAREER. SO ULTIMATELY I HAD TO PICK MY HEALTH FIRST.

WHITNEY MILLER
SOPHOMORE

Middle: Miller performing with her former partner Kyle Macmillan.

Bottom: Miller (right) and teammate in Austria where they competed for Team USA at the Junior Grand Prix.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WHITNEY MILLER



NATIONS AWAY

Student shares pride and advocacy for the country she calls home

Junie Burke
Elon News Network | @burke_junie

Sophomore Isabel Blanco smiles as she talks, her bubbly laugh filling the crowded common room. The center of attention, Blanco perches on a beanbag with a friend. The

BLANCO'S CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

Blanco is the student representative for the Hispanic Latino Working Group, the director of the service committee and secretary for the Latinx-Hispanic Union and director of the Intersect Conference.

RA said. "Good, then Mr. Darcy is safe."

It makes sense that Isabel is concerned for her loved one's safety, as it is something the sophomore thinks about every day. As of fall 2016, Blanco is one of seven Venezuelan citizens enrolled at Elon University. Together, Venezuelans make up .001 percent of Elon students. But Blanco, the student representative for the Hispanic Latino Working Group, the director of the service committee and secretary for the Latinx-Hispanic Union, student coordinator for the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education and director of the Intersect Conference, is hoping her presence will keep the campus from overlooking the turmoil in her country.

Venezuela, a nation of more than 31 million people, has reeled in discord, protests and violence for the past 20 years, yet little conversation has sur-

rounded the topic on campus.

"What we have in Venezuela right now is a dictatorship. They call themselves socialists, but they have been actively breaking and changing the constitution," Blanco said. "They've been in power since 1998, that's 19 years. It's a dictatorship."

Hugo Chávez, Venezuela's president from 1999 up until his death in 2013, was an advocate of the socialist party. Socialists believe that areas of production, distribution and exchange should be controlled by the community. Blanco thinks this strategy damaged Venezuela.

"It got bad when the oil prices went down. He didn't diversify the economy. The economy was crumbling apart. So prices started going up, we started having food shortages and people were running out of money," Blanco said.

Money wasn't the only scarce commodity. As the protests intensified, Blanco saw less of her family members, who are active protesters in favor of the opposition. The opposition is the political group that opposes the socialist Venezuelan government.

Though often weighed down with concerns for her family back home, Blanco maintains her reasoning behind her decision to come to Elon has not changed.

"I came here not because I wanted an escape," Blanco said. "I love my country and I never want to leave it because I've been forced to. I made a choice that I wanted to have a normal life."

Sylvia Muñoz, associate director for the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education, said Blanco has continuously impressed her over the past year.

"She has this way of connecting with different types of students, which is very important," Muñoz said. "I see

her connecting with people from different backgrounds and different identities very genuinely."

Junior Mirella Cisneros, president of the Latinx Hispanic Union, said Blanco's influence on the community touches many students.

"She has a commitment to the Latinx community on campus and to sharing her voice on issues that not only impact her, but also on issues that may impact others in her community as well," Cisneros said. "She's caring of everyone's own unique struggles."

Blanco displays this caring personality despite struggles back home.

"Emotionally it's very taxing because her family is there," Muñoz said. "So she worries about them, about what's going to happen to them, especially when her family was active in all the protesting."

But Blanco has not let this stop her. In fact, she's used her experiences to shape her worldview.

"In turn, here at Elon, it's given me more perspective on the things that matter," Blanco



ONE OF THE THINGS I VALUE MOST IS THAT [ELON] HAS GIVEN ME THE TOOLS TO APPRECIATE THINGS MORE.

ISABEL BLANCO
SOPHOMORE

said. "One of the things I value most is that it has given me the tools to appreciate things more."

Muñoz said Blanco's motivations stem from a need to improve the situation in Venezuela.

"The work she does of really trying to get herself as much as she can from other people,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ISABEL BLANCO

to understand where they are coming from, I think it comes from this desire to use her education to help."

Muñoz said Blanco is a prime example for a model college student, striving to give back to her community.

"They are going to build people with education to build up [Venezuela]. She is very aware of that. I think that's one of the reasons she has this education," Muñoz said. "If everybody did this, we wouldn't be in the world that we are right now."

Mary Emmerling, a sophomore living in Blanco's hall, said Blanco has a great amount of integrity.

"She does a very good job at turning what could be seen as a hindrance on its head, and using it to her advantage," Emmerling said. "It's reflective of how she means to live her life here as fully as possible."

For Blanco, this means getting involved with many different organizations on campus.

"She's very outgoing in choosing her roles at Elon," Emmerling said. "I can see her pride in her Venezuelan heritage; it makes her vibrant and interesting, and it would be hard for anyone to ignore her."

And ignore her they won't. This campus discussion may be two decades late, but

Blanco said that awareness is one of the answers to the problem, and this is something that Elon's campus can start participating in right now.

"Actively seek the coverage of what has happened this last year," Blanco said. "Even though there are Venezuelans who go here who can afford it, it doesn't mean there aren't millions of people in our country who are undergoing circumstances they've never seen, like extreme poverty and hunger. It's affecting every single person, whether you're wealthy or not."

Cisneros said that Elon has a responsibility to uplift students like Blanco.

"I think people should care because she gives a lot to Elon and our community. We need to provide that same support to her that she provides for us," Cisneros said.

The most motivating reason to talk about Venezuela is the ever present humanitarian crisis the country is facing.

"There should be more discussion on why it is happening and how that can be something that can spread to other countries," Blanco said. "If we don't acknowledge it, more countries are going to go through this, and that's not a good situation."

Top: Blanco with her cousins, who she was raised with, on top of her house in Venezuela where most of her family still lives.

Bottom: Blanco with her parents and younger brother in front of the El Avila mountain range, a view visible from the house she grew up in.

New studio to bring local businesswoman to downtown Elon

The interior design studio will offer varying services for customers wanting to redesign their homes

Kelly Farmer and Nica Lasater
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

The empty building on the corner of Williamson Avenue, across from the McEwen building and next to Eleonore's Hair Design will soon no longer be lacking business. Cynthia Huffines & Associates, an up-and-coming interior design company, is moving in and expected to open their doors on Nov. 29.

Established in 2000, Cynthia Huffines & Associates is a company dedicated to redesigning and refurbishing homes, and has completed many projects up and down the East Coast from Naples, Florida to Manhattan, New York.

"It's much bigger than picking out a paint color for somebody," Huffines said. "It's really getting into their lives and their hearts and creating a safe space."

Huffines currently operates out of her home in Burlington, but the new design studio in Elon will showcase her work physically, and offer potential designs to old and new clients including Elon students, parents and faculty. This will allow clients to find inspiration outside of online images, and get a feel for what a design will truly look and feel like in their respective homes.

"Having a variety of businesses in the downtown [area] encourages residents and visitors to come downtown, which improves the business environment for every business," said Kathleen Patterson, Downtown development administrator for the town of Elon.

The business will bolster Elon's economy further while also spreading Huffines' business.

“

IT'S MUCH BIGGER THAN PICKING OUT A PAINT COLOR FOR SOMEBODY, IT'S REALLY GETTING INTO THEIR LIVES AND THEIR HEARTS AND CREATING A SAFE SPACE.

CYNTHIA HUFFINES
INTERIOR DESIGNER

The space the studio will be inhabiting is one of the oldest buildings in Elon, and is the only building that has been continuously in use since its construction in 1891. The building itself was bought by Elon University, but is often leased out for new business opportunities.

"Ms. Huffines and her team are going through the process to renovate the space to meet her needs, which is the construction you see currently going on at the site," Patterson said.

The space was demolished on the interior and the reconstruction was completed in August, according to the Huffines & Associates web page. Final setup is being completed now to prepare for the upcoming opening.

"The front of it, when we're finished with it, will look as close to the original storefront as I possibly can do," Huffines said. "I was very, very fortunate to get [the building] when Elon moved out. And I want to bring it back to its original state of beauty again."

Cynthia Huffines & Associates offers two main services having to do with interior design. The first option is a half-day at the customer's home where Huffines and



SHEKINAH REESE | PHOTOGRAPHER

100 Williamson Ave., one of the oldest buildings in Downtown Elon, will open its doors again Nov. 29.

her team will rearrange furniture already in the home to create whatever atmosphere the client desires. The other service offered is full interior design meaning Huffines' group will have an initial walkthrough of the home, and then offer recommendations of various furnishings that could best fit the client.

"I do everything from picking a paint color for a bedroom, to doing entire homes that take three years to build," Huffines said. "I can put lamps in somebody's home or new artwork. I also can rearrange what you have."

Cynthia Huffines & Associates believes that the opening of an office space and design studio in Elon will allow the company to continue to grow while staying true to Ms. Huffines' overall philosophy.

"People come to me because they want their home to be beautiful and be a sacred space and a reflection of who they are and

THE STUDIO

The building was built in 1891 and has been in continuous use for 126 years. It has served the town's population by housing many retail and service businesses. Most recently, the building was home for Elon University's Live Oak Communications.

not necessarily look like a designer's been there," Huffines said. "So I pride myself on being more than just a decorator."

Cynthia Huffines & Associates' opening in downtown Elon is sure to be exciting both for the Elon community and for Huffines herself.

"I've just been wonderfully busy and blessed with clients that [my business] has been growing like crazy," Huffines said. "I'm totally stoked about being a part of the Elon community."

New club to shine light on eating disorder recovery

Senior Hannah Durbin decided to bring Project Heal to Elon after her own full-recovery

Sarah Johnson
Elon News Network | @sarahjohnson05

Famous for posting pictures of her latest workout routine or what she had for breakfast on Instagram under the handle @healthy_happy_hannah, or perhaps talking about her eating disorder recovery on her new YouTube channel, senior Hannah Durbin has a new initiative: Project Heal Elon.

New to campus this year, this organization falls under the larger umbrella of an organization called Project Heal, which promotes positive body image, donates to eating disorder treatment funds, raises awareness of eating disorders and aspires to show that full recovery is possible.

Project Heal varies from chapter to chapter in its operation, since the issues surrounding eating disorders are different at every campus.

At Elon University, says Durbin, the issue is a big one.

"There is normalcy here about restrictive eating and over-exercising that people think is normal be-

cause everybody's doing it," Durbin said. "It's not normal, and it can lead to really big issues."

She says the pressures at Elon are a lot higher than those at other universities and that the culture of busyness only serves to make the problem worse.

"There is pressure to be doing everything and be doing well at everything," Durbin said. "You always have to be competing with people, and I think that competitiveness is what drives people to the perfectionism and OCD tendencies that lead to eating disorders."

Durbin's drive to see Project Heal Elon succeed comes from her own struggles.

"The lowest lows of my disorder were my freshman year when I didn't even think I was going to be able to finish college," Durbin said. "The thought of developing this chapter didn't come into my head until I had reached full recovery, which I didn't think was even possible. Now, as a senior, every time I talk about it I get chills."

A friend who had also recovered from an eating disorder started a chapter at a different university and encouraged Durbin to start a chapter at Elon. Durbin says as soon as



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

Hannah Durbin runs her own Instagram account where she documents her workout routines and life after recovery.

she heard the idea, she knew she wanted to do it.

"I just needed to bring a presence to Elon," Durbin said. "There is not anything on this campus that talks about eating disorders, and this community is really, really struggling with eating disorders, but it doesn't get any attention."

Though the Elon chapter of Project Heal has had two planning-focused meetings, this organization is not yet officially registered at Elon. Durbin and her four-member executive board are finishing the application process, and Project Heal Elon is set to begin as an official on-campus organization at the beginning of the spring semester.

One of these executives, junior-Jillian Jacobson, can't wait to see the chapter begin at Elon.

"I think it's amazing to be able to start this powerful organization at Elon because eating disorders are so prevalent on college campuses," Jacobson said. "Eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness and still many people do not understand them."

Though still a new organization, the volunteers and leadership of Project Heal Elon have already had two full chapter meetings, weekly executive planning meetings, a profit share and an informational table in Moseley.

The organization is doing everything they can to get their name out. Durbin says one of the most challenging aspects is going to be gaining a strong enough following to make their work impactful.

"Going forward, the hardest

part is just going to be growing it," Durbin said. "We want to get the organization and the issue the attention and awareness they deserve."

Looking further into the future, the goal of the Elon chapter of Project Heal will be to provide a transparent, open and vulnerable setting in which those who are currently recovering from, have recovered from or simply want to receive education about eating disorders can grow and learn together. Jacobson says that Project Heal aims to stop the stigmas that surround eating disorders while raising money for those who can't afford treatment.

"A couple of years ago I couldn't imagine being here," Durbin said. "Now I am, and I'm helping other people get to where they want to be. It's full circle."



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

Junior forward Steven Santa Anna drives to the basket through the Duke defense during Elon's game against the Blue Devils in Durham Nov. 10.

ELON HAS TO PLACE VALUE ON THE LITTLE THINGS

Playing the No. 1 team in the country showed the Phoenix the areas it needs to improve going forward



Emmanuel Morgan
Managing Editor
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DURHAM

If the Elon University men's basketball team can glean a slimmer of hope from its game against Duke University, it's that it doesn't have to play the Blue Devils again.

The 97-68 tromping the Phoenix endured in Cameron Indoor Arena on Friday will not happen again this season. It's in the ether. But the lessons Elon learned in that game will affect its season.

Elon will not play anyone as talented as Duke this season. This past spring, Duke hauled in the nation's top-ranked recruiting class encompassing two 4-star and four 5-Star recruits. None are more valuable than freshman forward Marvin Bagley III, who scored 25 points against the Phoenix, a new record for a Duke freshman in his debut.

For the remainder of the season, Elon head coach Matt Matheny won't have to mentally outwit a coach with the caliber of Mike Krzyzewski, the winningest coach in NCAA history with 1,000 wins, five national championships and five Olympic gold medals.

But even if the Phoenix never has to lace up against Duke again until possibly the 2018 season, Matheny said his team has to fix the aspects the Blue Devils exploited. They weren't big things — they were little.

But against a team of that level, everything is crucial.

"What you hope is that when you have an experienced team in this kind of environment and that kind of talent you're playing against that it doesn't get magnified," Matheny said, who is in his ninth year at Elon. "I feel like part of it was it's the first game and we just so happened to select the number one team in the county on the first game. So your mistakes are magnified. But then part of it is a lack of understanding how valuable little things are. And with a veteran team, you should know that and we didn't do it."

Aside from Grayson Allen's infamous trip of Steven Santa Ana, last year's Duke vs. Elon game quickly garnered national attention because the Phoenix was up 35-34 against the No. 5 ranked team in the country. In the opening period, Elon drained seven 3-pointers, while Duke only shot 21 percent from behind the arc at halftime.

This year, though, things were different.

Duke was up 45-25 at halftime. By the end of the game, Elon only shot 39 percent from the field, while Duke shot 55 percent. Allen shot 53 percent from the field, scoring 22 points, 18 of them

coming from distance. Once he hit those shots, Matheny said it was tough for his team to recover.

"I thought Allen's threes early in the game really set the tone," Matheny said. "Those were big shots. What we told our players after the game was even though we have an experienced team and we have a veteran team, you have to place an incredible amount of value on the little things."

"When they made those shots early, you have to value bending your knees and buckling down in adverse times. We didn't do that and the spread got away from us a little bit."

But when Elon sprinted to the perimeter to defend those shots, it left the 6 feet 11 inches Bagley guarded alone under the rim by Elon forward Tyler Sebring, who is three inches shorter and almost 10 pounds lighter than him. Guard Dmitri Thompson, who led the team with 13 points, said he is culpable for Bagley's scoring because he was occupied with Allen, which put Sebring, who had 11 points, in a tough matchup.

"I take blame for a lot because instead of digging and helping Tyler on the block, I was helping with Grayson," Thompson said. "I had to stay committed to the scheme."

In college basketball, it is rare for a team to have such a balance of size and shooting ability as Duke. Just like the NBA, teams are moving to rely on speed and shooting, using their wing players to dictate their offense. It's an added blessing to have a dominant presence down low. The Blue Devils scored 52 points in the paint compared to Elon's 20.

But Elon's strength isn't its size. As seen last year, if it shoots the ball well, the Phoenix is competitive against anyone. But in Cameron, notorious for having a rowdy fan base, Matheny said their shots were rushed, which made them difficult to hit. And on many occasions when they missed those shots, it led to fast break points. Duke scored 19 points on breaks. Elon scored none.

"I thought offensively, we rushed," Matheny said. "We took the first open shot or anything close to being open, particularly in the first half, but we did it some in the second half. If we thought we were open we took it, and we took some bad ones that led to run outs for them and we took a lot of unbalanced shots."

"When we took our time and passed up an OK shot for a great shot, we got some good looks and we knocked

them down."

Matheny preached that he has a veteran team. Elon returned its top five scorers from last year, and with a familiar locker room and chemistry, he's confident they will have a successful season.

While the season just started, the team is in the thick of its out of conference schedule. Elon will not play a Colonial Athletic Association opponent until it meets Drexel on Dec. 30.

Last year, the Phoenix made an early exit in the CAA tournament, losing to the College of William & Mary 71-66. Thompson said he hopes this season will be different and the Duke game was a great evaluation for their upcoming slate. The mistakes they make in conference won't be as exploited as they were at Duke.

If they fix the little things, Thompson said they will be fine.

"Obviously they're the best team in the country with a lot of talent in every position," Thompson said. "It just gets us prepared for the grueling schedule we have coming up and when we make it to the in the conference tournament it is games back to back so we're just getting ready for that."

"It was a great test coming out in the season."

BY THE NUMBERS

39%

Elon shot 39 percent from the field

55%

Duke shot 55 percent from the field

52-20

Duke scored 52 points in the paint compared to Elon's 20 points

Elon finds success across the floor, regardless of year



Alex Hager
Web Producer
@awhagery

Many teams are defined by their superstars and standouts that can singlehandedly take control of a game. For the Elon University men's basketball team, the opposite is true.

Elon's brand of basketball has come to be defined by its ability to spread scoring, and place trust in just about anyone who steps on the court.

Last year, six players had more than 200 points on the season. Of those, four players had double-digit scoring averages, with less than three points separating the first and fourth names on that list. The players who did most of that scoring did so by finding points all over the court.

Part of the team's ability to find contributions from so many players comes from the multi-dimensionality of those players. Not every roster has a 6 feet 8 inches tall forward that can lead the team in three-point percentage. But for Elon, senior Brian Dawkins has done just that. Though he spends lots of time in the paint bodying up opponents' big men, he hit 45 of his 101 attempts from beyond the arc last year.

Dawkins isn't the only multi-dimensional player on the roster. Tyler Seibring has proven dangerous from

just about anywhere on the court. He spends plenty of time down low, as he led last year's team in rebounds (221) and blocks (27), but he seems just as comfortable outside, where he hit 60 three-pointers on the season.

This year, it's looking like that scoring spread will only grow. With five returning starters, there are no notable weak spots in the lineup. Every starter in an Elon jersey has an abundance of game experience and can hit the ground running this year. There's a level of operational cohesiveness that comes from playing with the same teammates from year-to-year, and Elon has the opportunity to capitalize on that this season.

In the offseason, the graduation losses were minimal and the recruiting additions are plentiful. Only two seniors who saw regular playing time graduated, and four new recruits came on board over the summer. To top it off, Seth Fuller, who redshirted as a freshman last year, will be entering this season with a year's worth of familiarity with the program and the hunger of a newcomer.

Even through two games this season, it looks like Elon head coach Matt Matheny is putting trust in his freshmen, giving Fuller and true



CAROLINE BREHMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

Brian Dawkins tries to put a shot over a defender against Duke University on Nov. 10.

freshman Simon Wright a good deal of minutes. Fuller has proved himself worthy, averaging seven points per game for the Phoenix.

With talented freshmen joining a roster of returning leaders, it seems like Elon could be in for the season that will finally allow it to

make a mark in the Colonial Athletic Association.

Since joining the CAA in 2014, Elon has traditionally finished near the bottom of the standings, unable to keep pace with the competition. This year, though, the Phoenix is projected to finish third in the conference, its

highest preseason ranking since entering the league.

Having only played two games so far this season, it's hard to tell if the Phoenix can make a splash this year. Entering the season with such a wide spread of talent is certainly a good way to get there.

SEIBRING BY THE NUMBERS

221

Last year, Seibring led the team in rebounds, with 221

27

Seibring also led the team in blocks, with 27

Women's basketball starts season with dominant wins

Phoenix looks to continue hot streak through Thanksgiving

Christian Galvano
Elon News Network | @Chrisgalvano

The Elon University women's basketball team takes on many new challenges this year.

Just a couple days ago, the championship banners were lifted to the rafters in Alumni Gym to honor the 2016 women's team for winning the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) conference and qualifying for the NCAA tournament. With all of that in the past, the women's team looks ahead as it faces a tough schedule this year.

The team started off the season with two dominant wins against Anderson University in an exhibition game and in the season opener against Winthrop University. Elon won by 55 and 61 points, respectively.

Sophomore center Ra'Shika White is a key part to the success of the Phoenix team. White made 70 percent of her shots in the game against Winthrop, knocking down 29 points and grabbing eight rebounds. For her outstanding performance, White was named this week's CAA Player of the Week.

"As long as I continue to play how I am playing, I think we should go far this year," White said. Given all this information, the team is hungry for wins despite the difficult schedule this year.

This week, the Phoenix's sole game will be on Friday, Nov. 17, as Elon welcomes Hampton University. Hampton comes to Alumni Gym following a 70-66 win against the University of

North Carolina at Chapel Hill last week. If Elon wants the win, it will have to shut down senior guard Monnazjea Finney-Smith, who was responsible for 25 of Hampton's points in their game against UNC.

As the rest of the school enters Thanksgiving break, the Phoenix will take the road. Elon will travel to Florida to face the University of Central Florida on Nov. 22 before facing off against Alabama University and Iowa University in the Puerto Rico Clasico tournament, two teams that made the Women's National Invitational Tournament last season.

If you want to see the Phoenix in action, Elon will spend the entire month of December in North Carolina — three away games followed by two home matchups.

Elon will open its in-conference schedule on Dec. 29 against the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, a team that finished last season at the bottom of the CAA standings last year.

Statistically, the tough schedule is well-deserved. At the beginning of this season, the NCAA ranked Elon 21st on the rating percentage index ranking (RPI), a scale that evaluates a team's success compared to the toughness of its schedule.

After finishing with a 24-6 record last season, 16-2 in conference, the maroon and gold earned some national recognition when they went dancing in March. Though they lost in the first round of the tournament, the Phoenix had a lot to build upon moving into the final year the program will be inside Alumni Gym.

"Trust the process," said head coach Charlotte Smith.



MALLORY SIEGENTHALER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Top: The Elon University women's basketball team battles for the ball down low against Winthrop University defenders on Nov. 10.

Bottom: Senior guard Shay Burnett dribbles around defenders, trying to find an opportunity to drive to the net during Elon's game against Winthrop University on Nov. 10.



MALLORY SIEGENTHALER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NCAA RANKING

21st

At the beginning of the season, the NCAA ranked Elon 21st on the rating percentage index ranking, which evaluates a team's success compared to the toughness of its schedule.



CORY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon University football team members rush out onto the field through smoke before kickoff against Towson University Nov. 4.

Tougher competition ahead for Elon



Alex Hager
Web Producer
@awhager

Phoenix needs to limit missed opportunities with playoffs looming

The Elon University football team enters this weekend with a loss in its rearview mirror. It is the first time its been in that situation since the first week of September.

This season has been defined by surprising wins, with each week adding another mark in the win column and another chapter to the saga. But now, with a 16-6 loss at the University of New Hampshire on Nov. 11 in the books and a matchup against national No. 1 James Madison University coming up this weekend, the momentum may be slowing.

With Elon's first Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoff berth since 2009 all but guaranteed, now is a dangerous time to be losing momentum.

The New Hampshire game exposed some of the ways the Phoenix can falter in the face of talented opponents. There were a few signs of the Elon team that had given so many Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) teams a scare this fall. All season, it has taken down ranked teams by the skin of its teeth, sealing

its eight victories by an average of less than four points each game.

All of Elon's wins saw the Phoenix come from behind or narrowly avoid squandering an early lead. Against New Hampshire, Elon did not score until the fourth quarter. Three turnovers and missed opportunities piled up, leaving UNH in the driver's seat all game.

Only one game stands between Elon and the playoffs, and there is no time left to miss opportunities — especially with James Madison University coming to town.

The Dukes will visit Elon for a game they are used to winning. In the past three matchups, JMU has led Elon in scoring 173-41. In short, Elon has never given the Dukes a scare.

But this could be the year.

Before the loss to New Hampshire, Elon and JMU were tied at the top of the CAA standings. The Dukes, last year's FCS national champions, were continuing their winning ways. Elon was in the midst of its headline-making, expectation-shattering season.

This Saturday, Nov. 18, the two will clash at Rhodes Stadium in the final game of the season, and Elon will have to dig deep to collect its first-ever win over the Dukes. Elon has not seemed to care much for

precedent this season, pulling off upsets and surprising opponents since September.

Regardless of Saturday's score, the contest will be Elon's last chance to tighten the screws on a team that has played its fair share of too-close-for-comfort games. Even if the Phoenix were to end the season on a two-game skid, it would almost certainly have its earlier efforts rewarded with a spot in the playoffs.

Any team that Elon might encounter in the playoffs will be there for a reason. The playoff bracket features an elite selection of 24 teams, most of which are coming off banner years of their own. Much of the competition will finish the season with only one or two losses, and a strong appetite for more.

Those teams will not leave any margin for error or missed opportunity.

As Elon enters the home stretch, it has one last chance to make sure those errors disappear in order to make sure it is ready to seize every opportunity. With its hardest tests of the season still to come, and the possibility of an even harder test immediately after, Elon needs to be the team it was against against Richmond and Villanova — not the team it was in New Hampshire.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Football falls in national rankings

For the first time in seven weeks, the Elon University football team has fallen in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) rankings. The Phoenix fell from No. 7 in the STATS FCS poll to No. 11. In the FCS Coaches Poll, the Maroon and Gold dropped six spots, from No. 9 to No. 15.

The fall comes after Elon lost to the University of New Hampshire over the weekend in a top-20 matchup. The No. 16 Wildcats snapped Elon's eight-game winning streak, defeating the Phoenix 16-6 in a cold matchup in Durham, New Hampshire.

The Phoenix now heads to its toughest test yet as Elon plays its final regular-season game at noon this Saturday, Nov. 18. The Maroon and Gold will welcome the defending national champion and first-ranked James Madison University to Rhodes Stadium.

Volleyball team makes CAA tournament

Though the Elon University volleyball team lost both games this weekend, but their record was enough to hold them steady at the sixth and final spot in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) tournament.

This marks the first time in the CAA era that the Phoenix has reached the postseason. Elon closed the regular season with a 16-15 record, collecting just five wins and 11 losses in conference.

The Phoenix will play in the quarterfinals of the CAA tournament at 5 p.m. on Thursday in Harrisonburg, Virginia against the host team — the No. 3 ranked James Madison University Dukes. JMU finished atop the CAA standings last year.

Women's basketball player collects accolades

Following a dominant 61-point win in the Elon University women's basketball season opener, sophomore center Ra'Shika White of the Elon University women's basketball team was named the season's first Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Player of the week.

White received the honor after collecting a career-high of 29 points in Elon's defeat against Winthrop University. She went 12 for 17 from inside the arc and collected eight rebounds.

The Phoenix are now 2-0 on the season after defeating North Carolina A&T State University on Monday night. The Phoenix cruised to a 90-59, in a game which White was responsible for 12 of those points.

Golf teams announce overseas trip

Over Thanksgiving break, the Elon University men's and women's golf teams will travel to Scotland in a unique study abroad opportunity.

The teams will visit Glasgow, Edinburgh, St. Andrews and Stirling while in Scotland, playing famous courses like the Old and New Courses at the St. Andrews Links; Dundonald Links in Troon — the host course of the 2017 Scottish Open, and Carnoustie Links, the site of next year's British Open. The golf program joins the lacrosse team as the most recent Phoenix teams to complete its study abroad experience.

The Phoenix will be in Scotland Nov. 17-26, studying the chronological history and the foundation of golf in Scotland, while comparing the similarities and differences between American golf and the traditional way it's played overseas.

THE PHOENIX FOCUS

FOOTBALL

RESULTS **8-2**
NOV. 11 NEW HAMPSHIRE/DURHAM, NH 16-6

SCHEDULE
NOV. 18 JAMES MADISON/ELON 12 P.M.

VOLLEYBALL

RESULTS **16-15**
NOV. 10 COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON/
CHARLESTON, SC 0-3
NOV. 12 UNCW/WILMINGTON 1-3

SCHEDULE
NOV. 16 JAMES MADISON/
HARRISONBURG, VA 5 P.M.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

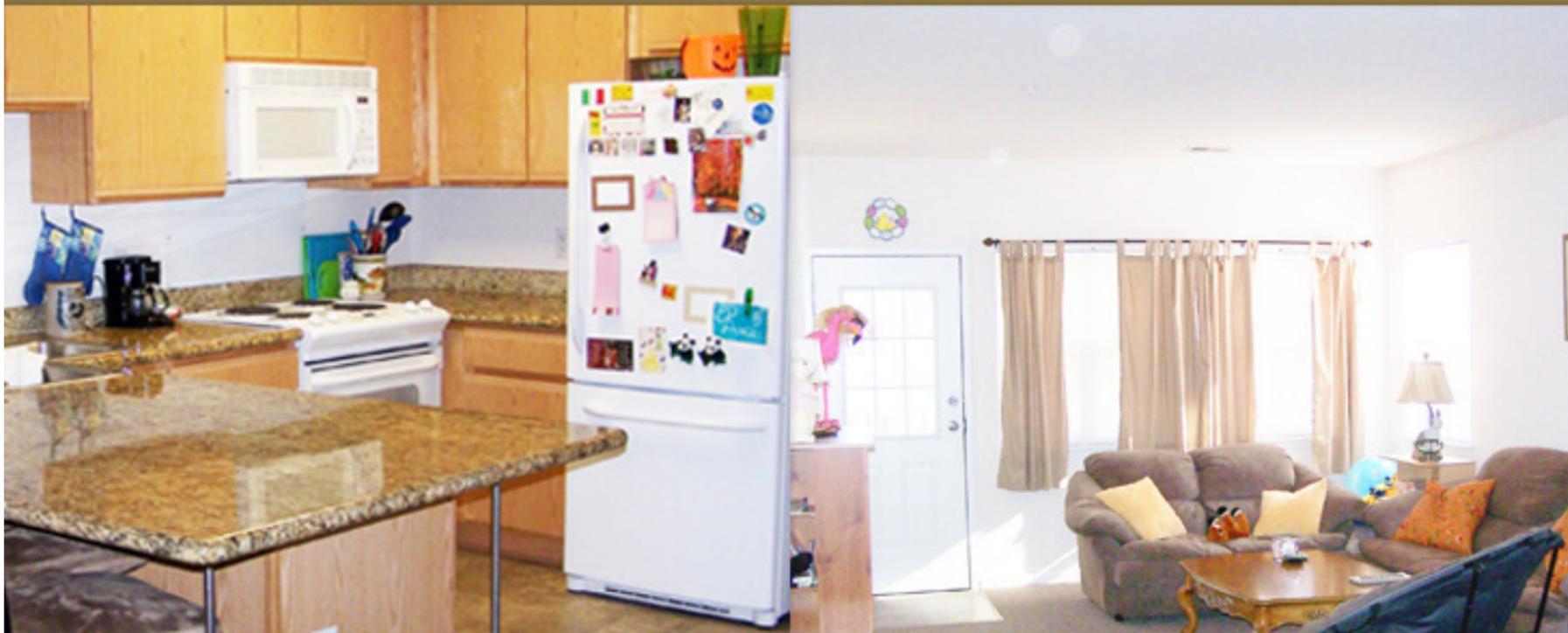
RESULTS **2-0**
NOV. 10 WINTHROP/ ELON 98-37
NOV. 13 NC A&T/ GREENSBORO 90-59

SCHEDULE
NOV. 17 HAMPTON/ ELON 7 P.M.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

RESULTS **1-1**
NOV. 10 DUKE/DURHAM 68-97
NOV. 11 WILLIAM PEACE/ELON 96-53

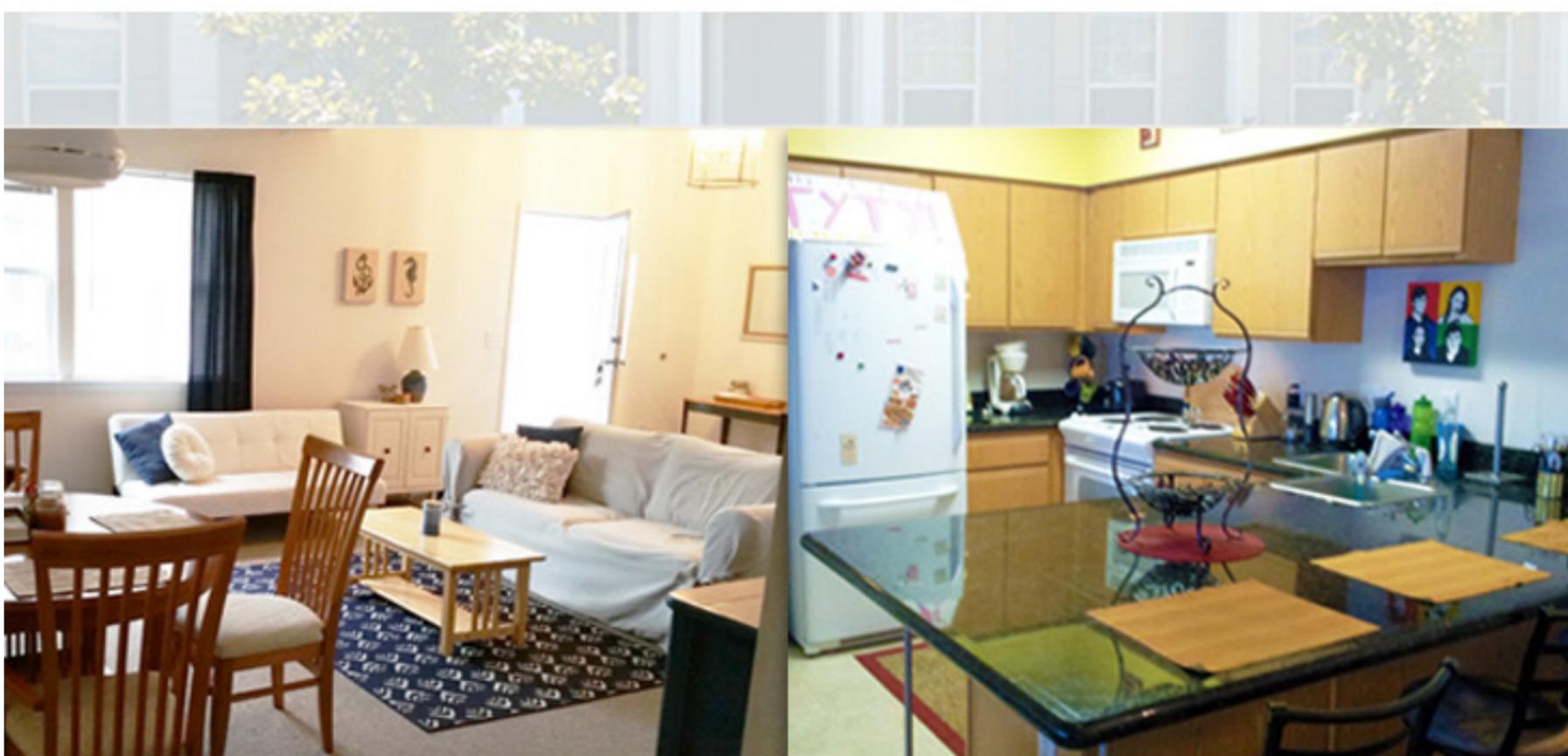
SCHEDULE
NOV. 14 FURMAN/GREENVILLE, SC 7 P.M.
NOV. 17 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL/ 5:30 P.M. CST
MILWAUKEE, WI
NOV. 18 CONCORDIA ST. PAUL/ 3 P.M. CST
MILWAUKEE, WI
NOV. 19 MILWAUKEE/ 3:30 P.M. CST
MILWAUKEE, WI



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