



Abortion-rights protesters hold signs at the Supreme Court during the Women's March in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 2, 2021. A Supreme Court majority opinion draft leaked to Politico on May 2 suggests the court is set to overturn the 1973 ruling of Roe v. Wade, which protected a pregnant woman's ability to have an abortion.

Community responds to leaked majority opinion draft

The leaked opinion, confirmed by Chief Justice John Roberts on May 3, could overturn the landmark decision in Roe v. Wade

Kyra O'Connor
Executive Director | @ko_reports

THE SUPREME COURT PRIVATELY voted to overturn Roe v. Wade, according to an early draft of a majority opinion obtained by Politico. The draft is not a final decision. Chief Justice John Roberts issued a statement on May 3 and confirmed the leaked decision but said the decision is not final. He called the leak a “betrayal” and “egregious breach.”

Roberts has directed the Marshal of the Court to launch an investigation into the leak. The majority opinion draft, written by Justice Samuel Alito, could strike down the landmark ruling in Roe v. Wade. Thirteen states already have trigger laws in place that would immediately go into effect if Roe v. Wade is overturned. Elon News Network requested a statement from Elon University President Connie Book on May 2. Elon University Chief of Staff Patrick Noltemeyer, on behalf of the president’s office,

said Book will not make a statement, as the “facts surrounding this issue are still emerging.” “As a learning community, we encourage everyone at Elon to educate themselves on the multitude of viewpoints on important issues such as this so they may maintain informed perspectives,” Noltemeyer wrote in an email to Elon News Network.

See **ROE V. WADE** | pg. 6



Understanding evictions in Alamance County

In 2022, over 500 evictions have been filed, leaving many searching for answers

Kyra O'Connor
Executive Director | @ko_reports

Every Wednesday, people fill the inside of the Alamance County Historic Courthouse. From morning to early afternoon, people pass through the metal detectors on the first floor before walking up the stairs to the courtroom, where small claims court is held. There are attorneys in suits, carrying briefcases. A mother and daughter sitting on the steps just outside the courtroom doors, whispering in hushed tones. A woman on crutches, standing with her

foot in a boot. A man with four children in tow, waiting for his turn. Landlords with manilla envelopes. Many of these people are waiting for the same thing: their turn in a summary ejectment case, or eviction. As of May 4, 50 out of the 65 cases being heard will be evictions. In Alamance County, renters and landlords alike struggle to find support, and as the housing market continues to worsen, some feel the pandemic may not have been the most difficult challenge they faced. For some, they fear the worst is yet to come. **During the pandemic** In North Carolina, federal and state eviction moratoriums were lifted as of July 1, 2021, which meant landlords

could begin filing complaint in summary ejectment. From Aug. 3 to 26, a temporary eviction moratorium was issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in areas of substantial and high transmission, which included Alamance County. This order ended Aug. 26, 2021, despite originally being set to expire on Oct. 3, after it was ruled invalid by the U.S. Supreme Court. According to an Elon News Network analysis of Alamance County court records, over 550 complaints in summary ejectment were filed from August to December 2021, not including those which were appealed. So far in 2022, 575 complaints were filed, also not including those appealed.

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Track and field looks to defend conference title this year

THE PENDULUM

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

Contact

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CORRECTIONS

In the last edition of The Pendulum, an article incorrectly identified mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history. Elon News Network regrets this error.

In the last edition of The Pendulum, an article incorrectly stated that the Elon Elite benefit received \$12,078 in funding from Elon University and the Student Government Association. Elon Elite requested that amount but only received a portion. Elon News Network regrets this error.

Tutoring services feel lasting effects of pandemic

Study finds students eight months behind academically

Annemarie Bonner

Elon News Network | @ABonnerNews

College students nationwide are seeing the long-term effects of virtual learning reflected in their test scores. Many students who ended high school virtually now report feeling behind in the classroom.

An April 2022 study by McKinsey and Company found that students across the globe are eight months behind where they would have been academically

without the pandemic. Danielle DaSilva, a calculus tutor at Elon, said she's worried about what the future could look like for incoming students.

"I feel like the amount of students who feel hopeless will just increase over the next couple of years as students recognize this learning loss in the future," DaSilva said.

DaSilva said she currently sees college students struggle with study habits and retaining material, since many, especially the freshmen, finished high school virtually.

"The freshmen haven't had an in-person class in two years, and they haven't taken a test in about two years,"

DaSilva said. "Getting back into the habit of having to study, of not always having your notes with you. It's something that a lot of people have really struggled with."

According to an earlier study by McKinsey and Company published last July, 2021 test scores for students in kindergarten through fifth grade were about nine points lower in reading and ten points lower in math compared to 2019.

This is the equivalent of being five months behind in math by the end of the school year, according to the study. Experts worry that, by the time they get to high school, students will be less likely to graduate on time.

Similarly, North Carolina's Department of Public Instruction reported a negative impact on test scores for almost all subjects over the same periods of time.

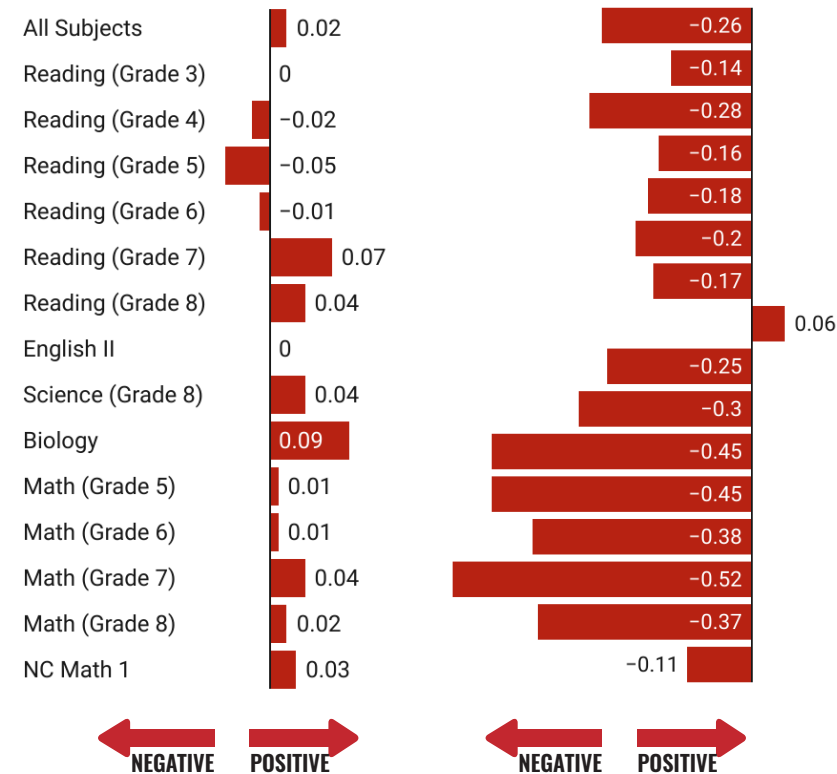
DaSilva's boss and Director of Learning Assistance James Holsinger agreed that these problems are getting worse, meaning tutors are often fully booked. DaSilva said in the 2021 fall semester, students were making appointments with her weeks in advance. Holsinger said he's worried that supply might not meet demand in the coming years.

"I always fear that. It doesn't usually or almost never happens for us, but it could," Holsinger said. "We keep track at the end of the semester [and] at the end of the academic year. We always look very closely to see what were courses that we had the highest usage and how many tutors we have employed coming into the next year to meet that."

This is something DaSilva has experienced, as her weeks of availability continue to be booked far in advance.

"It's a lot of pressure, but at the same time, the tutoring supervisors do a good job of reminding us that it's not our job to ensure that a student does well," DaSilva said. "It's simply our job to help them."

Effect size by subject grade from 2018 to 2021



A study done by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction shows the pandemic had a negative impact on all subjects except one. The scores compare the 2018 academic year and the end of 2021 academic year.

CAROLINE MITCHELL | DESIGN CHIEF

Elon sees 12% increase in freshman enrollment

The university will increase its number of first-generation students

Erin Martin

Elon News Network | @ErinMartin35

Following the May 1 national enrollment deadline, Elon University's Vice President for Enrollment Greg Zaiser reported the number of committed students for the following year. Elon is expected to enroll 1,785 students in the class of 2026 in fall 2022. This is a 12% increase in enrollment from the previous year.

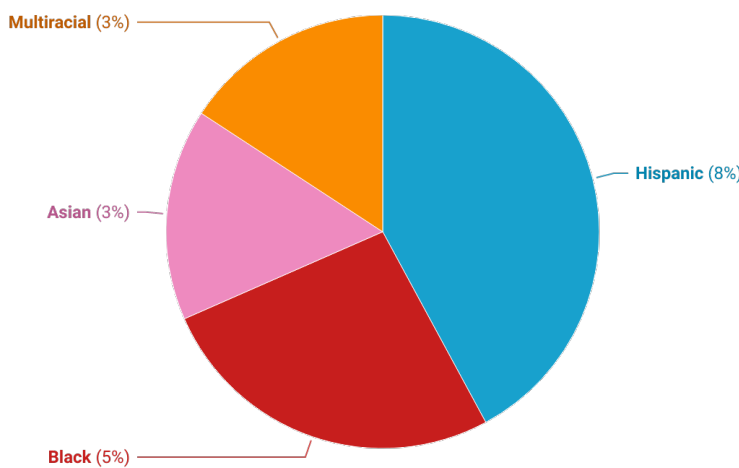
Although 281 students have not yet decided their major, the top 10 declared majors are: psychology, finance, biology, business analytics, exercise science, marketing, entrepreneurship, engineering, elementary education and journalism. Finance jumped from the 10th most popular major for incoming freshmen in 2021 to the second most popular major in 2022.

Of the class of 2026 students, 42% are men and 58% are women. This aligns with Elon University's traditional gender ratio of about 40% men and 60% women, which it has seen since 2000.

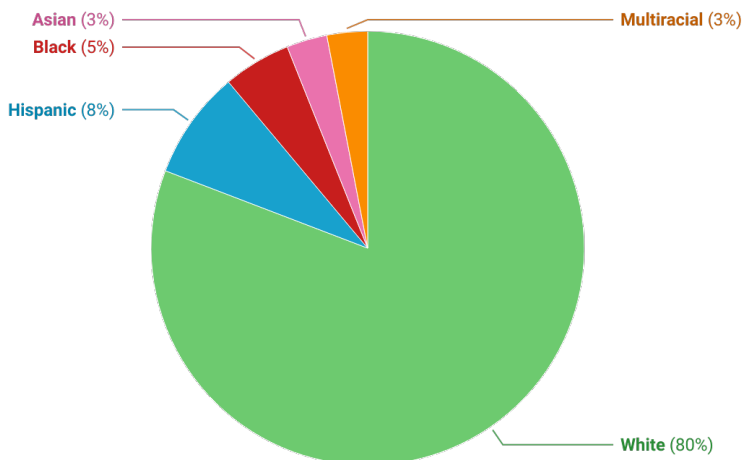
The class of 2026 has 203 first-generation students. This compares to last year's enrollment of 62 and the year prior's of 45. This class's racial breakdown is similar to years past, with 19% of students of color.

Elon class of 2026 students of color demographics

Native American students are excluded from this pie chart as they make up 0.0006% of Elon's class of 2026. This is equal to 4 students.



Elon class of 2026 race demographics



Created with Datawrapper

BY THE NUMBERS

1,785

students are expected to enroll in Elon's class of 2026.

19%

of the incoming students are people of color.



Senior Olivia Archer and sophomore Alison O'Dea celebrate winning a point in their doubles match in Elon's CAA Women's Tennis Tournament championship match against William & Mary on May 1 at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center. Archer and O'Dea lost 6-2 and Elon lost 4-1.

JACOB KISAMORE | SPORTS DIRECTOR



Sophomore Erin Rhode sings inside Whitley Auditorium during the Shirley Tempos spring concert on April 29.

JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR



Senior Nirvana Mansour Hosseini Tari forms a dumpling during the spring dumpling making event hosted by the Asian Pacific Student Association on April 29 in the Moseley Center.

ABBY REED | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Evan Gatti, an associate professor of art history at Elon, reads names of Holocaust victims on April 28 in front of the Moseley Center as part of the "The Reading of the Names" event organized by Elon Hillel and Jewish Life.

JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR



Junior Kasey Fountain paints a sign on May 3 in the Maker Hub in preparation to attend a protest in Graham in support of Roe v. Wade.

KYRA O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TENANTS AND LANDLORDS ALIKE LOOK FOR SUPPORT, ASSISTANCE, AS EVICTIONS CONTINUE

CAROLINE MITCHELL | DESIGN CHIEF

EVICTIONS | from cover

Christopher Stella, an eviction defense attorney, has been an activist for many years, primarily dealing with issues of poverty. Stella began his work during an “eviction cliff,” or the expected time after eviction moratoriums are lifted at the state, county and city levels.

The CDC issued a federal moratorium on evictions beginning Sept. 4, 2020, and it was extended to June 30, 2021. The moratorium did not offer protection to all, as landlords could still file a complaint in summary ejectment for a violation of a lease or for “criminal activity.” But the moratorium provided protection from tenants who met five requirements: they earned less than \$99,000 a year, received a CARES Act stimulus check or are not required to report taxable income to the Internal Revenue Service, cannot pay rent due to medical expenses or loss of income, the tenant pays a portion of rent, and if evicted, would have no place to go.

“These people are human beings experiencing one of the lowest days of their life,” Stella said. “Housing, in Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, is crucial for everything else. You don’t have a house, you don’t have a job. You don’t have a house, you don’t have a place to cook. You don’t have a house, you don’t have safety for your children or yourself.”

As tenants try to make ends meet, landlords in Alamance County feel the strain of the pandemic as well. Joel Martin walked into the courthouse on April 20, holding summary ejectment paperwork in his hands. Martin, a landlord in Alamance County for over 20 years, said the paperwork will be used to evict a tenant at one of his properties.

“By and large, for the better part of almost 20 years, people pretty much paid like they were supposed to, and there would be evictions from time to time,” Martin said. “In the last five, six years, maybe seven it’s been, I’ve had more evictions than I’ve ever had before.”

Martin said the case he brought to the courthouse on Wednesday was one of many. Landlords in Alamance County like Martin are feeling the pressure of surging evictions, late payments and a backed-up court system due to the pandemic.

Abby Boshart, a policy coordinator at the Urban Institute, said the difficulties communities are facing across the country have come to light during the pandemic, but they started much earlier. Boshart works specifically with eviction, rental assistance and renter stability. Renter stability has been an especially large part of her job since the pandemic began.

“America really has a shortage of housing, and especially affordable housing, and we started to see the consequences of that,” Boshart said.

Boshart said gathering national data on evictions is difficult, as there were no federal protections in place for tenants at the beginning of the pandemic. As COVID-19 continued to spread and evolve, so did the local, state and federal guidelines concerning evictions.

Additionally, even if the number of evictions settled in courts could be tracked, Boshart said that “informal evictions,” which occur when a landlord does not file an eviction in court but rather changes the locks or turns off utilities to convince the tenant to leave, are impossible to track.

“We do know that landlords did use those tactics during the pandemic, but we don’t necessarily know what level that happened,” Boshart said.

The number of evictions nationally has not risen past pre-pandemic levels, according to Boshart, but that does not mean it won’t change. Because data is difficult to put together, Boshart said it is hard to truly say the country has avoided the pandemic predicted “evictions cliff.”

“Unfortunately, now we thought we avoided

the immediate crisis,” Boshart said. “But since we’re seeing rents rise so significantly, more people are finding themselves at risk of eviction, even if they had avoided it or avoided real financial instability during the pandemic.”

Some support

North Carolina’s Housing Opportunities and Preventions of Evictions Program, or HOPE, provided rent and utility bill assistance to renters who were considered low-income and impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. HOPE funding was provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus Relief and the U.S. Department of Treasury Relief Fund allocations.

Alamance County received HOPE funding but not direct federal funding, like Guilford and eleven other North Carolina counties did. The initial intake period for HOPE closed Dec. 17. From June 15 to Dec. 17, the HOPE Program expanded intake to serve applicants earning less than or equal to 80% of the area median income. Prior to June 15, one had to earn 50% of the area median income or less to apply.

While Stella said he thinks HOPE gave people breathing room and was helpful, no other funding has been put forth to help tenants struggling now.

“There seems like there was not a whole lot of long-term game planning with employment and assistance nationwide with evictions,” Stella said. “There was temporary, immediate help that has now left some folks really struggling.”

Martin said HOPE funding did little to help tenants and provided no help to landlords.

“I’ve lost so much money since COVID because they didn’t really look after the landlords, as far as the assistance. I still had to make my payments to the banks on all these things, but yet the renters didn’t have to make payments to us. But where’s our assistance now?” Martin said. “It would’ve been nice if the landlords got some of the same assistance that the renters got.”

Understanding the process

For Afiya Alexander, evictions are the worst part of her job as property manager. Alexander has been a property manager in Alamance County for a few months now and has already

filed evictions.

“That’s always the last step that I would like to go through as a manager. I do understand unfortunately is necessary, because at the end of the day, you do need the funds to come in to be able to support the property,” Alexander said. “It’s never an easy position.”

According to Legal Aid North Carolina, a statewide nonprofit law firm that provides free legal services, a landlord asks the court to order the tenant to move in an eviction complaint. A landlord can also ask the court to make the tenant pay rent, late fees, court expenses, damage for property utility and other costs.



WE NEED TO REEXAMINE, IN ALAMANCE COUNTY, WHAT HOUSING MEANS, AND WHAT IT SHOULD LOOK LIKE, AND THE PROTECTIONS IN PLACE FOR IT.

CHRISTOPHER STELLA
EVICTON DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Additionally, once a summary ejectment is filed, it stays on a tenant’s credit record for five years, impacting the person’s ability to find housing if evicted. However, if meditation occurred between the landlord, the tenant and a third party arbitrator, the summary ejectment could be a last resort.

Once a judge makes a decision in favor of the landlord, who is acting as the plaintiff, the defendant, or tenant, has ten days to appeal the decision. If the decision is not appealed, a writ of possession can be taken out, and the sheriff will enforce the tenant’s removal process.

The landlord has to prove that the tenant has violated the law, either by not paying rent, staying over the end of a lease or engaging in a narrowly defined criminal activity.

“Landlords need to prove the case because they are taking away something from someone else,” Stella said.

In eviction cases, the tenant is not entitled to or required to have legal representation. In some cases, this can mean the difference between eviction or the ability to stay.

“We’re dealing with law here. There are elements, and the landlord has the burden to meet those elements,” Stella said. “If you don’t know the elements to look for, you can’t argue that the landlord has met the burden ... so a right to counsel would be incredible.”

Uniquely Alamance

Being from North Carolina, Stella said he witnessed a housing market that was in line with the income of the area throughout his undergraduate years. Upon returning to North Carolina, the rent and housing prices had increased, but the average median income had not.

“Our minimum wage is still \$7.25. You’d have to work hundreds and hundreds of hours to make these increases in rent,” Stella said. “And because of the population boom from folks on the West Coast and the Northeast, or more urban areas in the South, we’re seeing these tremendous rent increases.”

While many towns, cities and states across the country are dealing with inflation and a precarious housing market due to the pandemic, Stella said Alamance County’s eviction problem is different. In Alamance County, the pandemic is one of many factors that impacted the housing market, including gentrification, and because of these factors, the housing market does not match up with the real earned income of the people living in the community, Stella said.

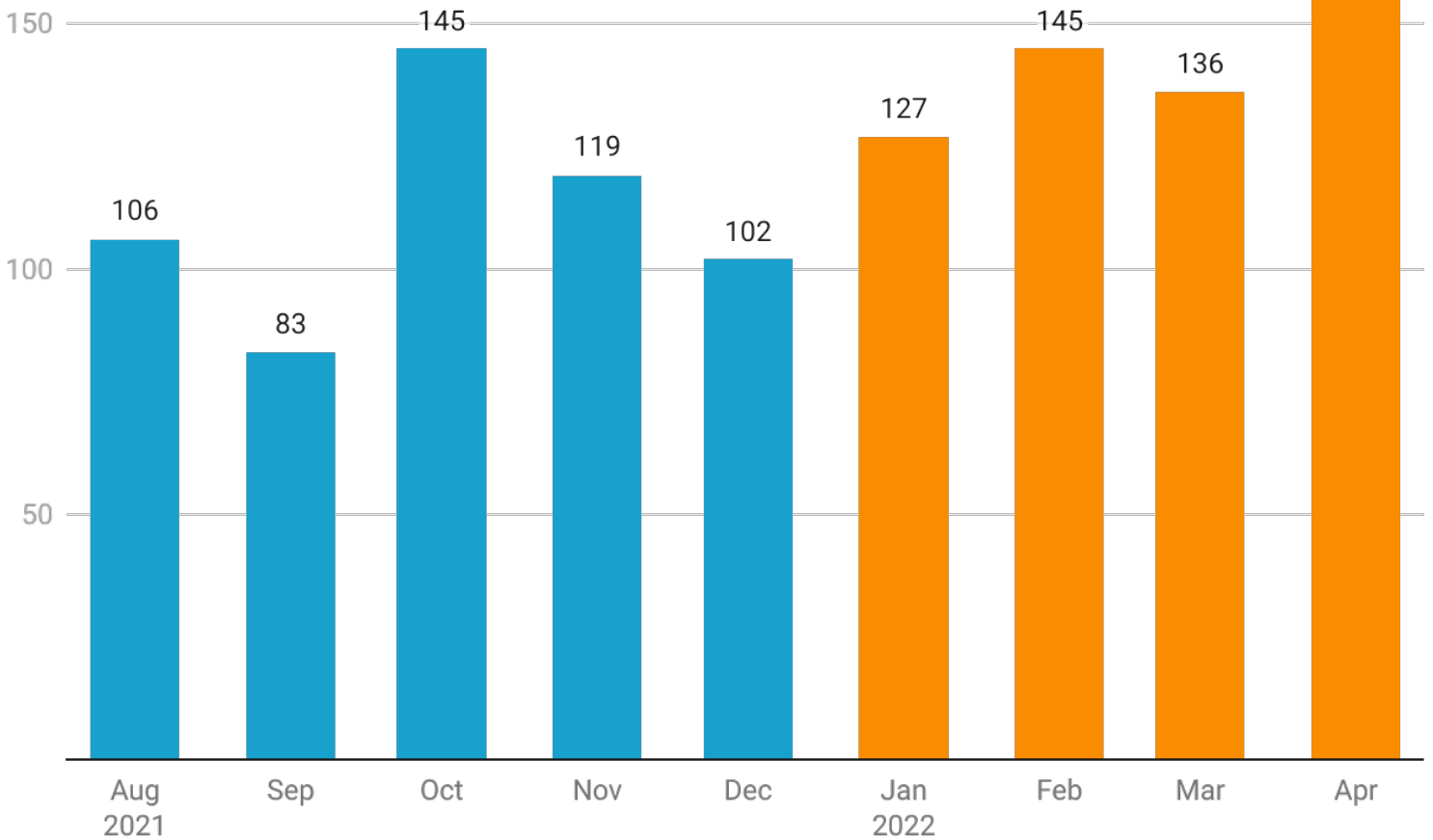
Since the HOPE assistance program started, inflation has also increased, impacting the housing market. Professor of Economics at Elon University Casey DiRienzo said the market presents challenges to renters and landlords alike.

“Supply is so low. The number of homes that are for sale currently is significantly lower than it was pre-pandemic, and the demand for housing has gone up,” DiRienzo said.

DiRienzo said as difficult as the market is, she does not see this changing anytime soon, and landlords may end up facing the hard choices for even longer than they thought.

“We need to reexamine, in Alamance County, what housing means, and what it should look like, and the protections in place for it,” Stella said.

Evictions in Alamance County from August 2021 to April 2022



CAROLINE MITCHELL | DESIGN CHIEF

The number of complaints of summary ejectment, or evictions cases, filed in Alamance County from August 2021 to April 2022, excluding cases that were appealed.

LGBTQIA+ communities respond to targeted legislation



Senior Melissa Sturtz reads a book on the coming out stories of those in LGBTQIA+ communities. Sturtz completed undergraduate research on the correlation between authenticity and sexual orientation in young adults. SAMANTHA SUSSMAN | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Elon students address comfort with expressing who they are on campus and how they have grown in light of recent legislation

Samantha Sussman
Lifestyle Editor | @Samanthasussman

For senior Ailene Woznicki, Elon University has provided her with an outlet to be more confident in her identity and opportunities to experiment with who she is.

“I grew up in a very Catholic, conservative community and didn’t really have that opportunity,” Woznicki said. “Even just physically expressing my appearance differently has been a fun thing for me — like trying out new styles, and doing different things, and dating different people and not really having the expectations put on me, and that’s been really great.”

But Woznicki said she is worried by the recent surge in anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation across the U.S. Her concerns extend to the possible effects the legislation could have on future college students in situations similar to hers.

Over 200 anti-LGBTQIA+ bills have been introduced across almost 40 states in 2022 so far, according to the LGBTQIA+ rights group Freedom For All Americans. One highly publicized example is Florida’s HB 1557 — commonly called the “Don’t Say Gay” bill — which was passed in late March by Gov. Ron DeSantis. The bill censors language in schools on gender identity and sexual orientation from kindergarten to third grade.

While this bill does not directly address higher education, Woznicki fears that if students are not educated on sexual orientation early on in their development, the impact will ultimately be felt in college

settings.

“One of the key things in order to encourage accepting difference, and to realize that there is difference in general, is early education,” Woznicki said. “You have the ability to explore your identity, and you have the ability to think about these kinds of things. If you never hear that, you don’t really feel like the opportunity is ever there. And that really affects your whole identity development.”

Senior Melissa Sturtz recently completed undergraduate research on the correlation between individual’s sexual orientation and their sense of personal authenticity. She found that in adolescence — the average stage in which people discover same sex attraction — authenticity levels drop. But around 20 years old — the average age of coming out — authenticity levels begin to rise again, correlating with a typical college timeline.

While Sturtz didn’t specifically look at the Don’t Say Gay bill, a theme that arose in her research and interviews was normalized homophobia, which she thinks encompasses the legislation. She said 71% of people whose coming out stories she studied discussed normalized homophobia and how it impacts their ability to be themselves.

Sturtz’s research found stereotypes, representation and normalized homophobia all had a significant impact on the development of sexual orientation and identity. The bill prohibits speech about sexual orientation, which could further perpetuate homophobia among younger generations, and in return, have a significant impact on the development of sexual orientation.

But Sturtz also believes sexual orientation will always be inherent in discussions, no matter how the legislation attempts to bar the topic from schools.

“Every time you talk about a married couple or people on TV, you’re inherently talking about sexual orientation because

the people in the novel getting married or whatever, they’re heterosexual,” Sturtz said. “No matter what you’re teaching about sexual orientation, it’s just excluding a whole section of people.”

Representation on campus

Of the 355 students who responded to the survey for the 2022 Preliminary Report at Elon University, 68% identified as heterosexual, 15% as bisexual, 4% as queer, 3% as lesbian, 3% as asexual, 1% as gay and 1% as pansexual. Additionally, 3% of respondents said they preferred not to say, and another 3% were unsure or questioning.

While the survey was only comprised of 355 voluntary participants out of the 7,127 total students at Elon University, according to the data, 30% of Elon’s population are members of the LGBTQIA+ communities.

Woznicki said while she mostly feels comfortable being out at Elon, there are some aspects of campus life that can make her or other students feel excluded, such as not being able to wear her girlfriend’s sorority’s letters while many other women wear their boyfriend’s fraternity’s sweatshirts.

“I think that people don’t recognize the privilege that they have being in heterosexual, cisgender relationships,” Woznicki said. “The looks you get on campus walking around, and also Elon in general as a town. I think there’s been those people who drive by in trucks and honk at protests and events that we have — all that kind of thing. That doesn’t make campus feel super safe, I’m sure, for a lot of people.”

Woznicki works as a student assistant for Elon’s Gender and LGBTQIA Center and said she and other staff members are always there to talk to members of the communities and provide resources to help students, such as helping them to move rooms because of gender-based issues.

Emily, an Elon student who requested to keep her name anonymous, said she

has attended a couple of events hosted by the GLC and thinks it has good resources. However, she said she doesn’t necessarily feel the need to go.

“I wouldn’t not go, I just don’t have it on my priorities,” she said. “Because again, yes, it’s an identity of mine. But also, it’s not something that I’m just saying.”

Emily said she has felt comfortable and accepted by peers on campus, which has been a welcome change of pace from her hometown, where she does not feel safe publicly embracing her identity.

“I came from a kind of judgmental, everyone’s all up in your business kind of town. And then when I came here, some of it is still very much like that ... but I think I realized here that it’s OK, I could like be my weird self, which includes all of the different identities that I have,” Emily said. “I definitely think there is inclusion here on campus in that regard, especially with the LGBTQ+ community because you see same-sex partners holding hands on campus so it’s definitely not against it.”

For seven consecutive years, Elon has ranked among the “Top 30 Best of the Best LGBTQ-Friendly Universities in U.S.” by Campus Pride, a nonprofit organization that helps create safer environments for LGBTQIA+ communities on college campuses.

Sturtz said she was surprised by Elon’s Pride Index being rated five out of five stars by Campus Pride, but as a senior, she said she has seen an increase in LGBTQIA+ representation throughout her time on campus and thinks the Pride Index is accurate.

“I think it kind of ties back into the representation part of when you see people like wearing crazy earrings and dyeing their hair, you’re inspired by like, ‘Oh, I can do that too,’” Sturtz said. “I feel like as I became more accepting of myself, my own identity and then also coming out, I just feel more authentic. I’m more able to express who my true self is.”

STUDENTS REACT TO MA ON LANDMARK RUL



RACHEL CURTIS

“It’s really discouraging to hear, I think, because it’s just limiting access to health care even further, and a lot of the legislation and a lot of this decision has come from white men who have been in positions of power for centuries. And so I think that it’s just really discouraging that people who will never have to deal with a problem like this are so aggressive about it and not even taking into consideration the people that it affects the most.”



TAYLOR BARBADORA

“Personally, I believe that life begins at conception, and I think that putting the power on each individual states to choose whether they want to allow abortion in their state or not, is something that I think would be is a great step to really just limit the number of abortions that are happening and to overall just stop killing innocent children.”



SYD DANZIGER

“I’m devastated and disgusted. Especially because Roe v. Wade was initially decided, because of a basis of the right to privacy, and so what else is overturnable based on the fact that the Supreme Court no longer values that right to privacy. But I mean, putting the decision in the hands of the states takes away the rights and livelihood of about 1,000 bajillion people who deserve better.”



JONATHAN JENSEN

“It’s scary, and it’s disgusting and really terrible because that’s just taking away the woman’s rights. That’s ridiculous, like it still happens so recently, like still just recent history, and it’s already being ... taken away like it’s nothing. That they can control, and it really affects just the lives of either young people or just people who can’t control it, and it’s not fair whatsoever. I really hate it.”



Abortion-rights protesters yell at anti-abortion counter protesters at the Supreme Court during the Women’s March.

ROE V. WADE | from cover

Junior Kasey Fountain said when they heard the news last night, they weren’t entirely sure how to feel about it.

“If I’m honest, I wasn’t surprised, which made me sad,” Fountain said. “Growing up in this generation, it’s like one thing after the other, and I don’t even know if I have the capacity to feel shocked or angry anymore.”

Junior Juliana Schiano found out about the news Tuesday morning, when she received a text message from Fountain. As a woman and non-binary identifying individual, Schiano said the news hit close to home.

“The rights of millions and millions of women, and people who don’t identify as women but still have uteruses or would be affected by these reproductive laws, are being determined by not even nine people, but five,” Schiano said. “And three of those five people were elected by one person during a four-year span and have the ability to change laws and all of those things for the entirety of the time that they choose to be on the court.”

President of Elon University’s College Republicans and senior Daniel Dorociak said he agrees with the draft, as he relies on the values he grew up with.

“I’ve been raised Catholic, I still am Catholic, so my belief is I’m very much pro-life,” Dorociak said.

Senior Maria Mendoza has been studying abortions at Elon University for a while now,

with her research for the Journal of Abortion Clinic. Mendoza said she has pro-life rights, and when she heard the leaked draft decision, she was not surprised but also not surprised.

“

OBVIOUSLY WHEN YOU HAVE ACCESS TO A PREGNANCY, YOU WILL HAVE TO GIVE UP TO ADOPTION, BUT ALWAYS A POS

MARIA MENDOZA
SENIOR

“Ever since Ruth was taken away and they had to go to the Supreme Court just to get it back conservatively. I kn

MAJORITY OPINION DRAFT LEAKING IN ROE V. WADE



Protest in Washington, D.C., on October 2, 2021.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Mendoza said. “It is very disheartening, and it’s very sad.”

Attorney and community organizer Jamie Paulen said that if Roe v. Wade is overturned, it will mean different outcomes depending on what states people live in. Though various bills that would restrict access to abortion in North Carolina have passed through the state legislature in recent years, Gov. Roy Cooper has vetoed all of them. Attempts to override the vetoes failed to receive three-fifths of the vote in each chamber.

“The people who are not going to be able to access what many women, including myself, consider to be essential medical treatment, are going to be poor, Black, brown, rural and gender non-conforming people are the ones who are going to have the inability to get this life saving medical care,” Paulen said.

Mendoza said for those who are interested in learning more, she suggests people educate themselves on what is happening, especially when it comes to the reproductive rights of women.

“Obviously we know what happens when you don’t have access to abortion,” Mendoza said. “You will have to continue a pregnancy. Maybe you can give up the baby for adoption, but that’s not always a possibility.”

With protests breaking out across the country in response, Roberts directed the Marshal of the Court to launch an investigation into the leak on Tuesday morning. The final decision will likely not be published until the end of the court’s term.

JEREMIAH LEE

“It caught me by surprise, I guess, because I didn’t expect it to actually — I mean, because you just hear it over the news last year. It’s like, ‘Oh, here it is again. They’re never going to make a decision.’ Yeah, it’s leaked for now. We don’t know 100%. But it’s kind of interesting.”



BECCA YARNALL

“I just think it’s just really scary. There’s always been abortion talks and Roe v. Wade talks, but I think that now, just the fact that this is actually something that could come true again, I think it’s just very terrifying to just be a woman. ... These are our reproductive rights, not someone else’s choice. So I just think that my initial reaction was just terrifying. And I think that for a lot of women, we feel the same way about it.”



REMI SHOOK

“It’s concerning that it’s 2022, and I feel like we’re going backwards instead of forwards, because I hear about other countries, such as Colombia, or I’ve heard a few Latin American countries, they’re going forwards with their abortion laws. Everyone usually looks at America as we’re forward — forward with some of our laws — but with our legislators, I feel like we’re going backwards. Definitely because I feel like we don’t have enough female legislators to advocate for women.”



ABBY BRANTMAN

“It’s really disappointing, the whole news that this draft was leaked. But I still think there’s things that we can do to help mediate the decision that they’re putting forth. You can call your Congress people to have them codify a woman’s right to choose and to state legislature. I think a lot of people think this is the end-all be-all. But I think there’s more to do before the actual decision is completely overturned.”



Students focus on mental health to prepare for finals



CAROLINE MITCHELL | DESIGN CHIEF

Self-care is just as important as academics during finals season for some students at Elon University

Betsy Schlehuber
Elon News Network | @betsyschlehuber

Instead of pulling all-nighters and hitting the books this exam season, freshman Hillary Collins is hitting the hay — a practice she began before coming to Elon University. “I adopted the rule in high school that if it’s not done by 10 or 11 p.m., I’m just going to go to bed,” Collins said. “I’m not going to do any good work past 11 or 12 p.m.”

With finals beginning May 12, Collins and other students across campus are preparing for exams, research papers, projects and presentations. But while academics are important for her, Collins is also prioritizing self-care.

“How I practice self-care is not pushing myself too hard,” Collins said. “It’s OK if I’m not perfect at everything. It’s not the end goal. Give yourself some leeway because college is freaking hard, and it’s difficult, and it’s stressful.”

Similar to Collins, junior Trevor Molin is making sure numbers and grades don’t define him. Molin said he’s had recent discussions with his therapist about battling perfectionism, especially in a college setting.

“It’s important for us to make sure we understand what we can and can’t do during finals season and not overwork ourselves,” Molin said. “It might be worse if we’re not making sure that we’re healthy and well through that process of potentially getting that good grade.”

Self-care is defined by the Global Self Care Federation as the practice of taking care of one’s mental and physical health and practicing a healthy lifestyle by relaxing, meditating and being active.

Self-care can be beneficial because it gives people the convenience of looking after themselves and improving the quality of their life without much outside help.

According to a 2020 survey conducted by the Harris Poll from the Samueli Integrative Health Programs, 80% of U.S. adults said they

will be more mindful about practicing self-care on a regular basis “once the pandemic is over.” The survey also found 46% of U.S. adults struggle finding ways to maintain their overall health.

As studies show that Americans are increasingly focused on self-care, Molin hopes people recognize its importance.



IT’S IMPORTANT FOR US TO MAKE SURE WE UNDERSTAND WHAT WE CAN AND CAN’T DO DURING FINALS SEASON AND NOT OVERWORK OURSELVES. IT MIGHT BE WORSE IF WE’RE NOT MAKING SURE THAT WE’RE HEALTHY AND WELL THROUGH THAT PROCESS OF POTENTIALLY GETTING THAT GOOD GRADE.

TREVOR MOLIN
JUNIOR

“I think that the reason that the self-care movement has gotten so much traction is because it is speaking to something very real,” Molin said.

Using time wisely

At the intersection of self-care and academics is time management. Collins said her schedule quickly filled up this year as finals came around, and she recommends other students plan more to avoid unnecessary academic stress.

“Don’t take your time for granted,” Collins said. “Plan every single day out, every single second, every minute, if it helps.”

Professor of statistics Ryne Vankrevelen said dedicating a little bit of time to

studying every day instead of cramming during one long study session can make retaining information easier, as consistent consumption gives the brain more chances to remember information.

“If you are thinking about studying eight hours on one day, you’re better off studying two hours on four days,” Vankrevelen said. “Part of good studying involves practicing retrieving information you’ll have on an exam, so that spaced-out studying gives you a chance to say, ‘OK, I looked at this the other day, now do I remember it on the next day?’”

Communicating with professors

To make finals season run smoothly, especially when he gets overwhelmed, Molin finds that being transparent about assignments and exams with professors is crucial.

“Talking with professors and being open about your situation can be really helpful, especially for me in the past, to better understand what they’re looking for,” Molin said.

Accounting professor Catherine Chiang said students can find out what professors want by looking at their syllabus for information about the final, utilizing any provided study guides and, most importantly, looking back at past assignments and exams.

“Gather all the previous exams and the graded assignments and look over problems that were marked wrong, because what I found is that sometimes students do not look at the previous exams,” Chiang said. “When I give them the same questions, they still make the same mistakes. Learn from your mistakes.”

Studying smarter

The American Psychological Association has found that cramming information during a study session does not have many benefits — students can remember the information for a short period of time but are unable to retain it. Studying over a longer period of time is much better on the brain and can result in better mental health, according to the APA.

Leading up to finals, Molin said he determines how much work he needs to put in for each class so he doesn’t overwork

BY THE NUMBERS

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46%

of U.S. adults struggle with finding ways to maintain their overall health, according a 2020 survey Samueli Integrative Health Programs.

himself.

“One thing for me has been looking back reflectively on the work that I put into the classes that I’ve already taken and seeing what that might mean for how much work I need to put into finals,” Molin said. “I think there’s some classes that I’m doing a lot better in that I might not have to prioritize as much because I have a little bit more leeway.”

When studying sessions begin, instead of simply rereading PowerPoints and notes, Vankrevelen suggests other study methods such as verbalizing the material and creating examples relevant to the content.

“Explaining to someone the steps that you took can be really helpful,” Vankrevelen said. “That could be going into office hours or just studying with a friend and saying, ‘OK, let me talk you through what I did in this problem.’”

As the school year comes to an end, Molin said he wants students to remember their well-being always comes first.

“The centering of our mental health and wellness is obviously important all the time,” Molin said. “When it gets toward the final season where we have so much work to do with so many different classes, sometimes I think that there is this mindset a lot of people have where classes always come first — I think even before classes, we come first.”



The Elon University track and field team warms up at the Jerry and Jeanne Robertson Track and Field Complex on Feb. 28. May 6 to 7 the team will compete in the 2022 CAA Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

TRACK AND FIELD LOOKS TO DEFEND CONFERENCE TITLE

The Phoenix will compete at the CAA women's track and field championships May 6 to 7

Jacob Kisamore
Sports Director | @jacob_kisamore

After helping the Elon University women's cross country team win its third consecutive Colonial Athletic Association championship in October 2021, redshirt sophomore Leandra Lorenz hopes to help Elon's track and field team defend its conference title this year as well.

For Lorenz, being a part of the recent success of Elon's track and field and cross country programs has been a great experience, but she said it also creates high expectations for each championship event they go into.

"It's added pressure because it's hard to win a title, and then it's even harder to defend it," Lorenz said. "Especially for track and field, the competition is really good, and it's not as predictable as cross country."

Elon will travel to Boston to compete in the 2022 CAA Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships from May 6 to 7 at Northeastern University's Solomon Outdoor Track facility. Elon won last year's team championship — its third CAA title since joining the conference in 2014.

After finishing eighth in the previous championships, Lorenz will again compete in the 1,500-meter race and is excited to contribute to the team's score this weekend.

"For most of us, it's the highlight or the peak of the season," Lorenz said. "We hope to defend our title. It will be hard, but I think everyone is fired up to give their best."

“

FOR MOST OF US, IT'S THE HIGHLIGHT OR THE PEAK OF THE SEASON. WE HOPE TO DEFEND OUR TITLE. IT WILL BE HARD, BUT I THINK EVERYONE IS FIRED UP TO GIVE THEIR BEST.

LEANDRA LORENZ
REDSHIRT SOPHOMORE

Freshman Jette Beermann was also part of Elon's championship-winning cross country team this season. Beermann, who had limited experience running cross country before arriving at Elon, won CAA Newcomer of the Year for the sport and said the experience propelled her to a successful first track season.

"Coming in, I had no clue where I would be on the team," Beermann said. "I was just



Elon University seniors Jessica Anderson and Blythe Hehmeyer run a 50-meter sprint set during practice at the Jerry and Jeanne Robertson Track and Field Complex on Feb. 28.

like, I'll do my best, and I didn't put any pressure on me, and that was great. To score and help the team was great."

According to sophomore Piper Jons, there is more pressure to perform well at this year's championship than last year's. Next season, North Carolina A&T State University will join the CAA, and Jons said the Aggies are expected to become the favorite in the conference.

"They are very competitive, and they're going to be really hard to beat," Jons said. "I feel like that is especially giving us more motivation because we want to do it now because it's going to be even harder next year."

Jons will compete in the 4x100 and 4x400-meter relays and the 200 and 400-meter races. Jons said she hopes to perform well in all her races to help the team's chances in the team championship.

"It's going to be a lot on my body, but I'll do it for the team," Jons said. "After this meet, we're all done, so we might as well leave it all on the track."

Elon will begin competing in events on the morning of May 6, which are qualification trials for finals on May 7.

Although this will be Beermann's first CAA Track and Field Championships, she does not expect to be nervous and looks forward to cheering on her teammates in their events.

"I'm just really thankful to be here," Beermann said. "I'm excited to see everyone race again because that's honestly so much fun, just seeing everyone else compete and do their best."

Carolina Panthers sign former Elon University quarterback Davis Cheek



Former Elon University quarterback Davis Cheek throws the ball during a game against the Delaware Blue Hens on Oct. 12, 2019.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cheek will compete for a roster spot this summer as an undrafted free agent for the Panthers

Jacob Kisamore & Caitlin Rundle
Elon News Network

The Carolina Panthers signed former Elon University quarterback Davis Cheek as an undrafted free agent following the final round of the 2022 NFL Draft on April 30.

Cheek started 40 games in five seasons at Elon. He missed the 2020-21 spring season due to a knee injury. He finished his career with 8,548 passing yards, 51 passing touchdowns and 21 interceptions, and he was named to the 2021 All-Colonial Athletic Association second team.

Since the first NFL Draft in 1936, only 17 players from Elon University's football team have been selected by NFL franchises, and only three other players have been taken since 1992. Cheek is the eighth Elon player to be signed by an NFL team as an undrafted free agent.

Cheek, a native of Matthews, North Carolina, will compete for a roster spot with the Panthers this summer. Each NFL team can have 53 players on its active roster and an additional 16 on its practice squad, which allows teams to have replacement players available in the case of injuries.

NFL teams can carry 90 players into the preseason, a three-game exhibition slate in August that allows teams to evaluate players. There are three rounds of preseason cuts in which teams will go from 90 to 53 players. Dates for these deadlines have not yet been announced.

This interview has been edited for clarity.

Can you explain the initial emotions you felt when you found out you were getting signed?

"It was kind of a crazy day. It was just a lot of anxiousness, a lot of you don't know what's going on. And so it's pretty stressful to be honest with you. I think that's the biggest thing of the day is you're hoping for good situations, at home for calls, people being like, 'Hey, we want you on our team.' And then finally, the Panthers, they reached out and that was a great situation. And obviously, it's my hometown team, and I was ready to go. I was like, 'Let's do it man.'"

What does it mean to you to be signed by your hometown team?

"It's the last thing I expected, honestly. Growing up in Charlotte, you always want to play for them, and you always have your eye on them, but you just think there's no way, and especially after they ended up picking up a quarterback in the draft. So I'm sitting and thinking this might not work out, but the way that things just shook out is that it ended up being the perfect place for me, so that was really cool.

"Also, I'm already intertwined with the community. I have my whole friend group from high school, I've got my coaches here, from when I was a little guy to now. That's just really something that's really special. I absolutely love Charlotte. I'm just excited to be able to get in the community and take advantage of the opportunity as much as I possibly can."

Are you thinking at all about that possibility and making the roster and what that would mean to you, either from the practice squad or the playing roster?

"That is my goal, and I think it's a completely realistic goal for me. It's an uphill battle, but it's one of those things that I think,

for me in my situation — being the fourth quarterback on the roster, being a rookie, being an undrafted free agent — you have a lot of proving to do with not a lot of reps.

"But I still think that I have enough ability that I can showcase enough to be able for them to say, 'Hey, this kid's got some potential, let's keep him around.' That's the main thing from day one I want to do, and then from there, I just want to get better at my craft. There's a lot of resources that you have being on an NFL team that maybe that you don't really get many other places, that at college you just don't necessarily get."

What has the reaction been like from friends, family and the Elon community?

"I really appreciate everyone reaching out, saying things either on social media or texts. It definitely gets crazy, so it's hard to respond and give that personal gratitude to every single person, but more than anything, I just really appreciate it. I really appreciate Elon making me who I am and playing a small role there, and then I'm really just extremely grateful for everything. This is an extremely exciting opportunity, and I hope that I can make everybody proud and really do some great things."

What does your schedule look like for the summer as you look to make the Panthers' roster?

"I actually have no idea, past that I'm supposed to be around Charlotte as soon as I can. And then from there, I'm going to basically be like, 'Hey, when do you need me here,' and I'll just be around as much as they'll let me be around. I just know that there's rookie minicamp, I know that there's some [organized team activities], there's all kinds of different stuff.

"But my goal is just to be around as much as possible, that's my job. It's just what I love to do. So it's not going to be too hard for me."



COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

BY THE NUMBERS

- 8,548
total passing yards in his Elon career.
- 51
total passing touchdowns in his Elon career.
- 21
total interceptions in his Elon career.



HOPE VALENTI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman Kai Whiteside demonstrates a move on his skateboard in front of Inman Admissions building and the Moseley Center on campus. Whiteside discovered his love for skateboarding during the beginning of the pandemic.

Stemming from a love of skateboarding, Elon Wheels cultivates passion and community on campus

Hope Valenti

Elon News Network | @HopeValenti12

The patios outside McEwen and Lakeside dining halls echo with sounds of wheels rolling and scraping against the pavement. Those on campus watch skaters utilize nearby tables, chairs and ramps as they transform the environment into a makeshift skatepark.

At the center of the movement is Kai Whiteside, a freshman who found his love for skateboarding during the beginning of the pandemic. When he arrived at Elon, Whiteside began to bond with other students who shared his passion and formed a small community around skating.

As the number of students grew, so did the need for an organized platform, so Whiteside created Elon Wheels, an organization for students with a passion for skateboarding, biking, roller skating and similar activities.

“We had this idea where we really wanted to create a safe space on campus for all skaters and all wheels,” Whiteside said.

Elon Wheels has an active social media presence on Instagram and YouTube, where their pages consist of videos and images of participants skating. Whiteside hopes these pages will showcase the reality of the group and its purpose.

“It’s become an important piece and aspect to make it a safe spot where people can see the passion and the positivity around wheels,” Whiteside said. “The main goal is to create a sense of community, both with people who are on wheels and people who are not.”

Through social media, the group has also gained attention outside of the Elon community. Whiteside said Elon Wheels has collaborated with skateboard enthusiasts from University of North Carolina Greensboro who came to Elon’s campus and skated with them.

Despite the positive feedback

from those outside of Elon, Whiteside said the group has dealt with other students, faculty and staff on campus who have a negative perception about Elon Wheels.

Joe LeMire, chief of Campus Safety and Police, said that complaints have been made against the group, with some individuals claiming they fear for their own safety. As a leader, Whiteside wants the community to know the group is working to improve its image and relations on campus.

“

IT’S BECOME AN IMPORTANT PIECE AND ASPECT TO MAKE IT A SAFE SPOT WHERE PEOPLE CAN SEE THE PASSION AND THE POSITIVITY AROUND WHEELS. THE MAIN GOAL IS TO CREATE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY, BOTH WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE ON WHEELS AND PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT.

KAI WHITESIDE
FRESHMAN

“One of the things I hear a lot, whenever the cops come out, is that someone called saying that they felt unsafe,” Whiteside said. “That’s always very wild because we’re always just by ourselves, so it’s really interesting to hear this because it does show that there is that stigma.”

LeMire said the Elon police force is supportive of Elon Wheels, as long as participants adhere to community guidelines such as yielding to pedestrians and not skating in the streets.

Currently, LeMire said, there is a lack of understanding surrounding the rules and regulations of skating in the town

of Elon. He advises skaters to familiarize themselves with the limitations in addition to wearing protective gear in order to protect themselves from any unwanted injury or infractions.

Whiteside and other members of Elon Wheels have communicated with officers to improve their perception of the club. Whiteside said Elon has been receptive to their requests, and are collaborating with the group to find a solution.

LeMire said officers have been met with respect when enforcing these laws but remain worried for the safety of both passersby and the skaters, in addition to possible damage to campus and individual property.

“We’ll have students try to do tricks and different stuff on the random railings or over by flower beds — that can cause damage to campus,” LeMire said.

Sophomore Holly Brakebill said she often gets annoyed when she encounters skateboarders and worries they are not being as cautious as they should be.

“Anytime I see one coming in my direction, I’m convinced they will either run me over or fall,” Brakebill said. “It really makes me nervous. What if someone gets hurt?”

Brakebill said despite her apprehension watching the skaters, she does find the sport fascinating.

“It can be fun to watch,” Brakebill said. “I think they’re good at what they do — it’s just nerve-wracking to see from the outside, so it’d be cool if they were more careful and mindful of that. But they are pretty big on campus and bring a lot of excitement.”

According to Whiteside, student concerns have fueled the club’s desire for a designated spot on campus, where individuals can come together and skate without putting others or campus property at risk. The club hopes skating in a more isolated location would diminish any feelings of insecurity to those who feel unsafe.

“I always compare skateboarding to artists — if you give a painter a paintbrush and paint but no canvas, they’re going to want to paint on the walls,” Whiteside said. “I think the number one thing you can do



HOPE VALENTI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Whiteside demonstrates a trick on a skateboard in the middle of Elon’s campus. As the founder of Elon Wheels, an organization for students with a passion for skateboarding, biking and roller skating, he hopes to one day have a designated skate spot on campus.

is be in these conversations and understand where we’re coming from. With skateboarding, we’re very creative. We really just want to do what we want and what we love.”

Whiteside said he and other members have been in communication with Elon administration to make their dream a reality. Though LeMire supports Elon Wheels, he said he does not see this as a feasible plan due to the lack of space on campus.

“It doesn’t mean we don’t want people to skate,” LeMire said. “It’s really the practicality of whether it could be available right on campus.”

Whiteside said Elon Wheels welcomes all, regardless of experience, and embraces spectators and beginners. He wants to build a positive perception of skating at Elon and give others the opportunity to experience the same joy and sense of community the sport has brought him.

“Being able to be that person and fuel other people’s passions and make sure that they’re growing has given me a sense of purpose in a way,” Whiteside said. “Anyone who pulls up with or without their skateboard is entering a family. We just want to share that passion and positivity with everyone.”