

PARC DEVELOPMENT SET TO BRING 1,000 NEW HOUSING UNITS TO TOWN OF ELON

Newest development to bring grocery store behind Schar Center

**Charlotte Pfabe**  
Elon News Network

Over the next 10 years, around 1,000 new housing units are expected to be built in the town of Elon.

Three new projects have been approved by the Elon Town Council for development: PARC Northwest, PARC East and, most recently, PARC Village. The three-part project is the first time GreenHawk has worked with the town.

PARC Village was approved by the town of Elon Town Council on March 24 to be constructed behind Schar Center. This is the third GreenHawk project, and PARC Village will be different from the other developments. The area where PARC Village will be located received a conditional rezoning to be a mixed-use development, allowing for both residential and commercial structures on the property.

According to GreenHawk's development plans presented to the town council, PARC Village will include housing units, office and retail buildings, a hotel, and a grocery store.

Town of Elon Planning Director Lori Oakley said conditional rezonings are common for large developments and require the developers to follow the guidelines and requirements set by the town.

While there is some flexibility embedded into the contracts, the town of Elon is responsible for ensuring GreenHawk's compliance with the agreed conditions. The conditions will also apply to any future owners or developers if the project is acquired, Oakley said.

**Expanding the town of Elon**

The town of Elon has not seen major development since the completion of the Cable Square subdivision three years ago, according to Town Manager Richard Roedner.

"If we build three houses a year, we've had a busy year because we're so small and we're mostly built out," Roedner said.

Roedner said some community members are hesitant about the new developments because they haven't seen many changes, besides construction through Elon University. However, he said the town emphasized the importance of blending the new development into the community during its conversations with GreenHawk.

"Our goal is that it's going to blend, it's going to fit, and it will be something that the entire town can benefit from," Roedner said.

In 2019, the town of Elon developed a strategic plan called Envision Elon 2040, which detailed the town's aspirations for expansion and development. According to Envision Elon 2040, the area designated for PARC Village was already set aside for a mixed-use development.

The plan projects that the population of the town of Elon will be 18,977 people by 2040, with university growth, projected at 100 students per year, accounting for around 25% of the growth. As of June 1, 2023, the population of the town was 11,520 people according to the U.S. Census.

According to Roedner, the town of Elon is 42% non-taxable. With the new development, the town will lower that percentage through an increased collection of property taxes.

**Traffic concerns**

With PARC Village neighboring Elon University, questions about traffic and safety were raised by the school. Patrick Noltemeyer, Elon University's associate vice president, said the university has been in contact with GreenHawk to address pedestrian safety in the



Image courtesy of the town of Elon

The "Parc Village" development would include office, retail, hospitality, grocery and residential spaces. Developers say the project could be completed by 2040.

area once PARC Village and its sister projects are completed. With an increase in traffic in the area, Noltemeyer said the university is especially concerned with the safety of students who run in the area.

"We would prefer that the traffic be slowed on University Drive to enable safe pedestrian passage for anybody that's making that run," Noltemeyer said.

Noltemeyer also said GreenHawk agreed to create an access point off Williamson Avenue near the northernmost exit of the Schar Center parking lot through

PARC Village for travel during large university events, such as Convocation and Elon Athletics game days.

"They've agreed to provide an access point into their development so that cars could turn left into the GreenHawk development out of the Schar Center parking lot and weave their way through the development as another point of egress out onto University Drive," Noltemeyer said.

According to Roedner, traffic studies have been conducted by both GreenHawk and the North Carolina Department of

Transportation. With these studies in mind, Roedner said two new intersections will be created to better control the flow of traffic.

While traffic is top of mind for Elon University, town of Elon Mayor Emily Sharpe is focused on the walkability of the area. As the town pushes to encourage more multi-modal transportation in accordance with its Envision Elon 2040 plan, she sees the PARC developments as a step in the right direction.

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15 residents apply for open seat on ABSS Board of Education

ABSS sees the most applications ever for a vacancy

**Anjolina Fantaroni**  
Elon News Network

The Alamance Burlington School System is reviewing 15 applications from individuals seeking to fill a vacant seat on the

seven-member board of education — the most people ABSS has ever had apply for a vacancy, according to ABSS board of education member Seneca Rogers. The seat is open following the resignation of Chuck Marsh on Feb. 24. The board will hear from the applicants during its April 28 meeting and could potentially vote the same night to appoint the seat.

The Alamance Board of Education is the local governing

body of the Alamance County School System that sets policy and direction and adopts an annual budget.

To fill the vacancy, individuals had to submit a letter of interest that includes background information, and if the applicant is eligible to vote in Alamance County, to the board chair, Sandy Ellington-Graves. Originally, 16 letters of interest were submitted, but one applicant, Gregory Scott wrote in

a statement to Elon News Network that he had removed himself from consideration due to the high number of qualified applicants.

"I think it's important to have a diverse board that reflects the community, and I think the seven of us, we each bring a very unique perspective to the board," Ellington-Graves said. "We each have our own knowledge, education and experiences that we bring to the board."

Rogers joined the board through a vacant seat in 2023 and said it's important to have a full seven-member board because with the vacancy, votes could be left at 3-3.

"You don't want to sit too long," Rogers said. "In that situation without it being a way for stuff to move forward and to have a majority on the vote."

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Holi to bring color and cultural experiences

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Over 10,000 people protested in Raleigh

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2026 Winter Term trips announced

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# Truitt Center prepares to fill campus with color

Holi celebration to take place 4 p.m. April 11 at Speaker's Corner, highlights festival of color

Megan Walsh  
Elon News Network

Preparations are well underway to celebrate Holi, the festival of color, for Elon's Truitt Center — even though it's almost a month past the actual Hindu holiday.

The Truitt Center will host a Holi Celebration April 11 with color throwing, food, kite flying and a chance to learn something new about Hindu culture.

Holi, pronounced ho-lee, is a Hindu celebration meant to mark the end of winter and arrival of spring with a festival full of color. The main event of the celebration is the experience of throwing powdered paint into the air, but University Chaplain and Dean of Multifaith Engagement Kirstin Boswell said there is so much more to the celebration than throwing color.

"Yes, throwing color is part of the celebration, but that's not just what we're celebrating, Holi itself is a Hindu festival," Boswell said. "It is celebrating light over darkness, victory of good over evil, the coming of spring, new beginnings, all of those types of things, and so we want to make sure that people are aware of that."

Outside of Elon, the Hindu holiday was celebrated March 14, almost a month ago, during Elon's spring break. Boswell said it is common for Truitt Center celebrations to take place after the actual event to try and schedule around the school's academic calendar.

In addition to the fact that the holiday was during Spring Break, the center also wanted to wait for better weather to hold the event, Hillary Zaken, director of multifaith programming and engagement, said.

"When we're asking folks to come out and throw color, we want to make sure it's not going to be freezing," Zaken said. "In addition to the consideration of keeping it close to the actual holiday date, which this year wasn't possible, we're also looking at the weather."

Zaken said that when planning religious events with the Truitt Center, they always try to make sure the events are authentic to the culture and bring out people who have never heard of the event or culture.

One way Zaken said the Truitt Center tries to keep its events authentic is by bringing in partners from around campus and the community. For Holi, the Truitt Center is partnering with Kappa Phi Lambda, Elon's Asian-interest sorority, as well as Elon's Bollywood dance group Surtal, which will be



MEGAN WALSH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of Surtal strike their final pose at the end of a practice run-through of their Holi dance April 2.

performing at the event.

"All of our things are better when we partner with student groups and other departments," Zaken said. "If we want to engage the campus with as part of our mission, the wisdom of the world's religious, spiritual and ethical traditions, we can't do that on our own."

This is not the first time Surtal has performed at Holi, and vice president of the club sophomore Anita Bhat said she is particularly excited for this year since the group is changing its costumes.

"This semester, we're going to try and just wear white t-shirts instead so that we can participate afterwards," Bhat said. "I'm really excited about that."

Member of Surtal sophomore Santosh Gopalan said he loves performing with Surtal at events such as Holi to see people sharing in Indian culture who might not be familiar with the holiday otherwise.

"It's just having fun with people getting into Indian culture and seeing how people show up and show out," Gopalan said. "I think Surtal is very excited to perform for Holi."

Beyond campus partners, Zaken said the celebration will include local Indian restaurant Tazza Bistro, which will be catering appetizers for the event.

In addition to Zaken, much of the planning for events such as Holi is done by the Truitt Center's multifaith interns, including junior Ahron Frankel.

Frankel said most of the process started with the logistics of finding a location and taking inventory of what is needed.

"I've been reaching out to community members, trying to find people to make speeches, taking inventory of the stuff we have from last year, stuff we need to order, finding activities to do outside of just throwing paint

with things like that," Frankel said.

In addition to throwing color, Frankel said the event will also feature kites people can fly if they do not want to get messy.

"Flying kites is a pretty big thing in Indian culture, and it's not always necessarily related to Holi," Frankel said. "It's usually associated with another springtime, end of winter festival."

In addition to the logistical side of planning, Zaken said that interns spent time talking with members of the Hindu community to make sure the holiday is well reflected.

"Part of their job is to do research about Holi, but the most important part, at least for me, is to talk to members of the Hindu campus community, right about the holiday they want to see and experience," Zaken said. "Our interns engage in what are called multifaith connection meetings, and that's our best way to understand the pulse of the campus and what they're looking for in terms of religious holidays and festivals."

According to the Spring 2025 Elon University Registrar Report, there are 28 Hindu students.

Overall, Zaken said she hopes that people come to Holi and not only have fun but learn something new.

"We succeed in the world when we learn to connect across differences, when we learn from people who are different than us," Zaken said. "What better way to do that than through a fun festival where you understand what means something to someone, right?"

Holi will be celebrated at 4 p.m. April 11 at Speaker's Corner, right outside the Moseley Center on Young Commons. Students are encouraged to RSVP via the QR codes that can be found on signs or electronic boards around campus.

## ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR

### APRIL 11

HOLI\*

4 P.M. | SPEAKER'S CORNER

### CHINESE CLUB LANGUAGE HOUR: QINGMING FESTIVAL

7 TO 8 P.M. | CARLTON COMMONS

### ASPA & K-DNS: TANGHULU AND DANCE WORKSHOP

7 TO 8 P.M. | LAROSE STUDENT COMMONS

### APRIL 14

COMMUNI-TEA TIME  
NOON TO 2 P.M. | CREDE

### SPEAKER: COLLECTING ORAL HISTORIES WITH ASIAN DIASPORA

4 P.M. | MOSELEY 224

### APRIL 17

COMMUNITY DINNER\*

5 P.M. | LAKESIDE 212

### APRIL 18

VAMOS A LA COCINA:

APIHM EDITION

1 TO 3 P.M. | EL CENTRO

### APRIL 22

"UPSTREAM" MOVIE STREAMING

6 P.M. | GLOBAL MEDIA ROOM

### APRIL 23

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:  
PACIFIC ISLANDS

5:30 TO 7 P.M. | CREDE

CHINESE CLUB: PAINTING 101

10 TO 11 P.M. | UPSTAIRS LAKESIDE

### APRIL 25

APSA: PAINT AT THE PLAZA

TBD | TBD

### APRIL 28

GLC: RAINBOW BOBA

4 TO 6 P.M. | CREDE

COMMUNI-TEA TIME

NOON TO 2 P.M. | CREDE

\* DENOTES AN RSVP IS NECESSARY

## SEE CALENDAR DETAILS HERE



## CORRECTIONS

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





Elon Muslim Society president and senior Fatmata Bah has henna applied to her hand at one of the stations available for attendees during the Eid al-Fitr event April 2 outside Elon's Truitt Center. Eid al-Fitr is an Islamic holiday marking the end of Ramadan and is also known as the "Festival of Breaking Fast." "After the whole month of Ramadan, a time of reflection, self-discipline and good deeds, we come together to greet Eid, enjoy and celebrate with our communities," Bah said. ETHAN WU | PHOTO EDITOR



Jacqui and Delroy Harris attended Gibsonville Girls night for the first time on April 4. This is a biannual event and was created to support female-owned businesses in Gibsonville. The couple just retired and moved to Gibsonville in October, and Jacqui said she couldn't be happier. "I wasn't gonna miss it," Jacqui said. "I was so excited." LILLY MOLINA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Sophomores Eden Perry-Benton, left, and Zoe Pighet dance together April 5 during the Alpha Phi Alpha "Shadow and Secret" party at the Taphouse. ETHAN WU | PHOTO EDITOR



Phoenix Fashion co-president and sophomore Elise Whitaker and Asian-Pacific Student Association co-president and sophomore Cece Eboru drink milk together as the Phoenix Fashion and Milk Club Scavenger Hunt happened simultaneously with the APSA Ramen Across Asia on April 5 in the Moseley Student Center. ETHAN WU | PHOTO EDITOR



Vendor Emily Cook from Triple Arrow Farm discusses the differences between quail and chicken eggs April 3 at the Elon farmers market. This was the first farmer's market of the season and is its 18th year running. Sarah Bass, Elon farmers market manager, said they are expecting about 25 stands each week, though she expects that number to fluctuate as crops are harvested on different farms at different times. "There are all kinds of things people would like to come out and sell," Bass said. "And I think that's neat, I think that speaks to the uniqueness of people." The farmers market is at 3 to 6 p.m. every Thursday until Oct. 30. EVAN COOPER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



# Protesters against Trump gathered in state capitol



Protesters hold up signs from cars at the “Hands Off” protest at the State Capitol Building on April 5. There were over 10,000 attendees in Raleigh protesting against President Donald Trump and head of the Department of Government Efficiency Elon Musk, according to North Carolina press representative Cole Dragotta.

KATRINA HOLTZ | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The protest was part of a nationwide series of events on April 5 organized by Hands Off

Kate Gray  
Elon News Network

RALEIGH – Protesters gathered between North Carolina’s State Legislature and State Capitol Building on April 5 to protest President Donald Trump and head of the Department of Government Efficiency, Elon Musk.

This protest and hundreds of others across the country were part of a nationwide series of protests known as Hands Off. There were over 30 Hands Off protests scheduled for April 5 in North Carolina alone, with the three largest in the state expected to be in Charlotte, Asheville and Raleigh, according to 50501 North Carolina press representative Cole Dragotta. The organization 50501, which stands for 50 protests, 50 states, 1 movement, is a decentralized movement with chapters in each state to better confront local issues.

The Hands Off movement has partnered with almost 200 organizations across the country, including 50501 and the Women’s March. According to Dragotta, Hands Off called for April 5 to be a day of action and asked 50501 to assist in raising awareness about events in every state.

Dragotta said they were expecting at least 6,000 attendees in Raleigh based on online sign ups but told Elon News Network that the total was over 10,000, with protesters filling the plaza and surrounding green areas in front of the State Legislature and State Capitol Building.

Protest attendees Anita and James Hollister came out specifically to oppose book bans at their grandchildren’s schools and Trump’s reorganization of the federal government.

“Their reading is being threatened and what they’re learning is being threatened,” Anita said. “Things are being taken out of schools — out of all history — they’re being blocked out. And we need to keep even the bad things that we did in history.”

For James, he is concerned about the safeguards of democracy, such as judges being removed.

“I’ve always been proud to be an American but it’s really hard right now,” James said. “It helps to see all these people, but somehow we’ve got to get our country back.”

He emphasized the importance of communication and making your message heard.



THINGS ARE BEING TAKEN  
OUT OF SCHOOLS – OUT OF  
ALL HISTORY – THEY’RE BEING  
BLOCKED OUT.

ANITA HOLLISTER  
PROTEST ATTENDEE

“I go back to the time of Martin Luther King,” James said, getting emotional. “The marches helped then, and I hope they help now.”

Anita and James are among a large group of older adults who were in attendance. Naoma Lane was another, and she also spoke about preserving democracy.

“It’s all ages out here, but there really are a lot of senior citizens,” Lane said. “Because not only do we not want to lose our social security, but we’ve been around and know what’s up.”

Tristan, who only shared his first name due to concerns of losing his job, was wielding a large umbrella with cut outs of hands and the word “off,” representing the movement’s slogan.

“We’re saying hands off our autonomy, hands off our community,” Tristan said. “This is the first time in the entire history of the United States where we have the entire world not looking at a country — they’re looking at one guy, who’s in the White House, and saying, ‘This is not right.’”

Kelly Somers and Tracy Chellis are federal employees and expressed their discontent with the government on a federal and local level.

“If we are active locally, then we hold our leaders accountable for what we’re sending them to Congress to do,” Chellis said. “I think sometimes it’s easy to lose sight of that with so much national coverage, it’s easy to get distracted, but really at home, where we care about our own communities, that’s what matters.”

They also noted they don’t take their privilege for granted.

“I’m not out here because I’m at risk of losing my job,” Somers said. “We matter for one another, our communities are important to all of us. We are so interdependent and we can’t lose sight of that.”

Behind Bicentennial Plaza, the crowd continued, starting their own chants as they were too far to hear speakers from the stage. Passing cars honked their horns in support.

Protester Evan Bryant stood with that crowd waving the resistance flag from Star Wars. Bryant works in the steel industry in Johnston County, about 45 minutes from

Raleigh.

“I’ve seen a lot of competition there, from inside the nation,” Bryant said. “We’re required to buy American steel, and now that we have to compete, prices are getting crazy.”

As the protest wound down, event speaker John Freeman announced on the main stage that Raleigh had raised around \$4,000 and collected food donations. He also introduced the final performer, artist/activist Sarah Mosseller, who led the crowd in a modified version of “If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands.”

The crowd clapped to the last verse at 1:35 p.m.:

“If you’re tired of Donald Trump clap your hands,

if you’re tired of Donald Trump clap your hands,

America has no king, and the people kiss no ring,

if you’re tired of Donald Trump clap your hands.”

“I hope that Trump and his people notice that we are not going back and we are not staying silent,” Lane said.



Protesters do the “Hands Off” slogan outside the state capitol as part of the “Hands Off” movement April 5.

KATRINA HOLTZ | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Future housing, commercial spaces to come to Elon

## PARC | from cover

“It’s about people of all ages who want to have the type of lifestyle that you might find in a big city, but here in our small town,” Sharpe said.

Since there isn’t a grocery store within town limits, the town of Elon is considered a food desert. GreenHawk plans to include a grocery store in PARC Village, which would keep more people in town, Oakley said.

“Bringing these services to town, keeping folks in town, hopefully keeping them walking,

keeping them on sidewalks that will be built would be great to get them out of their car,” Oakley said. “As a planner, I’d love to see the different forms of transportation, the multimodal aspect of it, and to be able to walk to a grocery store or a restaurant. I think it’ll be great.”

### A 10-year build

Construction for PARC Village isn’t anticipated to begin for a few more years, according to Oakley. However, she said the first GreenHawk development, PARC Northwest, is expected to have houses built and occupied

by the end of 2025. The development will have a variety of housing options like PARC Village with 150 multifamily apartment units, 130 single family detached units and 130 townhome units according to the town of Elon’s website. PARC Northwest sits on 57.7 acres of land with 100,000 square feet set aside for non-residential use.

The initial timeline for PARC Northwest had houses built sooner, however, Roedner said construction delays pushed the completion date back. Roedner said that while GreenHawk plans to be completed with PARC Village within the next 10 years, many external factors

can delay development.

“If interest rates go real high again, that might slow them down,” Roedner said. “If interest rates drop to where they were a couple years ago and finance becomes easy, that might speed the process up.”

Over the next decade, Sharpe said the town will see significant change, but she is excited for the town’s growth.

“I think any time you have a big change, it can be concerning,” Sharpe said. “But I am looking forward to it. I feel really positive about it, and it’s something that we’ve needed for a long time.”



# 15 Alamance County residents apply for open seat on ABSS Board of Education

**ABSS | from cover**

Rogers said that having 15 people apply for the position is the most there's ever been for a vacancy, and it shows that the community cares about Alamance County's public education.

"I mean it's a very broad, diverse range of people and backgrounds that I think is very important to have whenever you're going to be in governance," Rogers said.

There are three Elon University employees applying for the vacancy — Evan Small, professor in wellness; Eric Hall, associate provost for

scholar and creativity; and Evan Sprinkle, dean of undergraduate admissions. Ellington-Graves said it says a lot about Elon's commitment to the community.

"I think it's great to have that higher education knowledge that can be brought in, because that's what we're preparing our students for — what comes next," Ellington-Graves said. "What comes after that K-12 experience?"

Rogers said the relationship between Elon University and Alamance County is significant, like partnerships such as It Takes a Village Project, an after school tutoring session, and Elon

Academy, a nonprofit college access program for students in Alamance County. "Having an actual university in Alamance County with as much history and dedication to education, having three people who actually work at Elon wanting to try to put their name in there for interest, to try to fill that seat, I think it's very important," Rogers said.

Improving academic outcomes and supporting the students are some goals that the board of education has for this year. Ellington-Graves said that before they can accomplish these, their main goal is to first fill the seat.

"Serving on the school board is a privilege, but it does carry a lot of weight," Ellington-Graves said. "It brings a lot of rewarding activity, but there's also a lot of challenge, so somebody who's up for that task."

The board is non-partisan and has Republicans, Democrats and unaffiliated individuals, Ellington-Graves said. The race itself is nonpartisan and so when candidates are running they are not running with a specific party. According to Ellington-Graves, 10 applicants have children enrolled in ABSS, and four work in higher education.

"Our top priority is bringing

somebody on the board who can catch themselves up to speed pretty quickly," Ellington-Graves said. "We're in the middle of budget season, and that's always a challenge." The April 28 meeting is open to all candidates to speak in front of the board. The May 27 board meeting is when the selected applicant will be sworn in.

"It could become a vote, and somebody could get appointed that night," Rogers said. "We're hoping to have it done before we have our evening meeting in May, because we want to actually have somebody at that meeting getting sworn in so they can start in that seat."



**Ade Eniolorunda**



**Beth Carlin**



**Brandy Whittaker**



**Carisa Jeffries**



**Casey Johnston**



**Eric Hall**



**Evan Small**



**Evan Sprinkle**



**Jeffrey Williams**



**Jessica Stoner**



**Kevin Cromwell**



**Lateerah Brown**



**Laurie Smith**

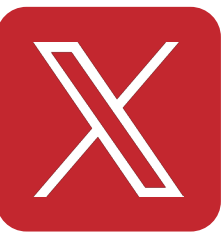






**Patricia E. Lewis**



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# Global Education Center announces 2025-26 Winter Term study abroad programs

35 programs will be available to students, including new trips to Chile, Sri Lanka

Evan Cooper  
Elon News Network

Senior Jack Halpern didn't take much interest in studying abroad as a freshman. Now, he's a global ambassador for the program, hoping to change the minds of students who were like him.

"When I came to Elon I never thought I'd want to study abroad," Halpern said. "And then one day I decided, now's the time to try something like this out, so I might as well. And then I absolutely loved the trip."

As a global ambassador, Halpern promotes Elon study abroad and study USA programs to other Elon students, and answers their questions about the programs.

The study abroad programs for the 2026 Winter Term were announced March 24. There will be 35 programs offered to students. GBL 2355: Patagonia: Connecting through Storytelling: Oral (Hi)stories of Patagonia and the Atacama and GBL 2325: Sri Lanka: Postcolonial Sri Lanka at the Global Crossroads are two programs being offered this year that weren't offered last year.

Programs are led by two faculty or staff members, and are limited to 30 students. Nick Gozik, Dean of Global Education, declined an interview but sent a statement to Elon News Network and wrote that the Global Education Center is working on giving spots to all eligible students.

"Most programs typically fill. This year, we've added over 200 additional spots," Gozik wrote. "While some programs may have waitlists due to high demand, all eligible students will have the opportunity to study away."

The Patagonia program will take students across Chile and the Patagonia region, where students will learn about Chile's geography and literature. Program leader Ketevan Kupatadze said she wanted a program that could combine geography and culture and saw Chile as a unique combination of the two.

"It was my love for storytelling, but at the same time my interest and curiosity about the geography of Chile," Kupatadze said. "I wondered how geography also played a role in the cultural production and literary production



MEGAN WALSH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Executive Director for Global Programming Allegra Laing (left) and Director of Short-term Programming Gia Pineda discuss Winter Term study abroad options at College Coffee on Phi Beta Kappa Commons on April 1.

of this country, that was the original interest."

In the Sri Lanka program, students will learn about the impact of colonialism on Sri Lankan politics and literature as they travel across Sri Lanka, visiting locations depicted in the in-class readings.

One of the Sri Lanka program leaders Dinidu Karunanayake wants students to learn about a country and culture that has been underrepresented in American schools and hopes students will come away with a broader global perspective.

"Oftentimes Sri Lanka gets collapsed into dominant literary work from India," Karunanayake said. "While there can be some common elements between Indian and other South Asian literary cultures, there are distinct differences, so we want to nuance them out."

In addition to these new programs, the program GBL 2450: Barbados: Culture, Politics

& Society has been reimagined with more focus on poverty and social justice, according to program leader Vanessa Drew-Branch. The program will keep environmental and conservation lessons and will now examine the social landscape of Barbados and other Caribbean communities.

Drew-Branch hopes students can learn from communities in Barbados. Drew-Branch said Bajans — Barbados locals — advocate for themselves and their neighbors, and she said she hopes students will do the same.

"The Bajan folks, they're already trying to figure out how to internally address climate justice, how to help with disability services," Drew-Branch said. "It is really a learning lesson for our students to see how communities try to heal themselves from social issues."

Other 2026 Winter Term study abroad programs can be found on the Isabella Cannon

Global Education Center's website. Not all of the prices for Winter Term programs have been released and can be expected late August or early September. The prices listed for each trip range from \$5,200 to \$12,400, with the average price for a trip being around \$8,000.

Students will be able to sign up for these programs and their respective fall preparatory seminars during registration. Students interested in learning more are encouraged to visit the GEC for advising, open Monday through Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m. until the end of classes, May 12.

## IF YOU GO

Learn more about the Winter Term study abroad courses by visiting the Global Education Center open Monday through Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m. until May 12.

## SGA to choose vice presidents of finance, communications

Applicants interviewed by committee, recommended by president-elect, approved by senate

Trista Panagakos  
Elon News Network

While the new Student Government Association executive president and vice president prepare to be sworn in on Thursday April 10, an SGA interview committee is deciding who will take over the roles of vice president of finance and vice president of communications. Unlike the senate, the president and vice president positions, the two executive roles of vice president of finance and communications are not voted on by the student body. After interviews, the chosen applicants are selected by the incoming president and approved by the new senate.

SGA declined to provide the names of the applicants to Elon News Network.

The vice president of finance is in charge of allocating student activity fee funds and works with the finance board. The money that is requested by organizations is reviewed by the vice president of finance to ensure it falls within the bylaws to be distributed.

The vice president of communications runs the SGA's social media platforms, its website and is the liaison between SGA and other student organizations. Current vice president

of communications, Ella Kucera, said one of her goals she worked on during her time in this position was to make SGA senators more recognizable to students and to reduce the preconceived notions about SGA. Both roles are paid \$15 an hour and are required to work 10 hours a week. A senate term is 52 weeks, according to past Elon News Network coverage, totaling to a yearly pay of \$7,800. The minimum wage for student pay at Elon is \$13 an hour.

"I really wanted to get the senators' faces out there and get students on campus to know who their senators are and what SGA really does," Kucera said.

This year, four people applied for the vice president of finance position and only one person applied for the vice president of communications position. Applicants submitted a resume and an application on PhoenixConnect. The application included nine questions about an applicant's experience and collaboration skills. Applicants are then interviewed by a committee consisting of the outgoing vice president of finance, the finance board adviser, the SGA adviser, the administrative assistant and the administrative associate. After interviews are conducted, executive president-elect Anya Bratic will make a recommendation to the senate who approves and confirms the applicant.

For Bratic, she said she will be looking at the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate and who will fit each role best.

Kucera said having only one applicant for the communications role causes SGA to place more trust in the person's skill and knowledge, but she said she did not feel it limited SGA's decisions.

"At Elon so many students are so talented and passionate, so it doesn't matter if it's one or two applicants," Kucera said. "We trust that the students know that they're willing and

have what it takes to lead."

Bratic said she is also excited to work with the newly elected senators who will be sworn in April 10.

"I'm really looking forward to watching them shine in this new senate," Bratic said. "I know a lot of them have incredible passion and drive, and I know I will be available to work with them."



TRISTA PANAGAKOS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon's Student Government Association met during its regular business meeting April 3. Newly elected senators will be sworn in Thursday, April 10.



# BEHIND THE CURTAIN

WITH LG



Lily Gooding  
Columnist

Oh hey! It’s me, LG.  
I’m so glad you’ve taken a look at this part of the paper because you’ve just come across my column, BEHIND THE CURTAIN, WITH LG.  
This mess of text should be a 300ish-word blurb that does the following:  
- Make you chuckle  
- Reveal something peculiar (behind the curtain)  
- Poke the brain  
This is a series where I’ll “pull back the curtain” on the quirks, curiosities, and hidden gems of Elon (nothing to do with Musk)

University. Expect blurbs on topics such as Jon Dooley, Campus-Specific Life Hacks, Bet-You-Didn’t-Know stories from professors, How Your Brain Makes Excuses, A Talk About Carpets, Addressing Career Anxieties and much more.  
But hold on. You might be thinking ... “LG, what even is this? These topics are all over the place!” All in good time. #expecttheunexpected.  
This column might not always seem organized or make sense ... but that’s part of the fun.  
OK. Without further adieu ... read below.

Send

To

Elon Community

CC

SUBJECT: PLEASE HIRE ME

Guys. It has been a busy last few months trying to secure an internship. I’m sure it’s not much better trying to secure a job either (shoutout seniors).

The actual practicalities of getting an internship/job is difficult, yes, but also the ego death of getting rejected (by not even hearing back) from a lot of opportunities is brutal. To make matters worse, I’ve just diagnosed myself with none-of-these-jobs-feel-rightingitis, and maybe-I-should-change-my-majoreanza. Will my spirit be crushed? My soul broken by the 9-5 cubicle? WILL I FIND MY LIFE PURPOSE? WILL I GET PAID WELL? I needed to address this hysteria so I called on my new life mentor/therapist/inspiration (even though she doesn’t know it yet) Brooke Buffington, the assistant vice president for our Student Professional Development Center.

Here are tips, tricks, and comforts that Buffington presented when I told her about my recent self diagnosis:

**Create a plan/goal.**  
How many hours a week are you dedicating to this? Or, how many applications do you want to get done? #googlecalender

**Quality OVER quantity.**  
Buffington said a quality application is an application AND some other sort of outreach. Tap into LinkedIn Elon alumni. Comment/connect with the company’s LinkedIn posts. Buffington used to interview entry-level candidates and shared the advice that, “your job is to be a great candidate ... know why the company excites you.”  
Buffington also presented me with the idea: “Be professionally

relentless.” So what I’m hearing is maybe I should combine this idea with ChatGPT’s advice to mail my resume with a pizza delivery to get noticed. But seriously, ... it sounds like I’ll have to get creative and even more determined to get noticed.

Know your unique identifier.  
“Know what you want and what you have to offer.” Buffington said.

What makes you unique? Be able to apply that to interviews and make it clear in your resume. Sometimes motivation can make up for skill — the hiring team wants to see your passion and eagerness to learn.

In the end, for your first internship or job, Buffington emphasizes that the opportunity is good if you can learn something new.

That’s all for now folks. Try to stay secure while uncertain. #thatsdeep

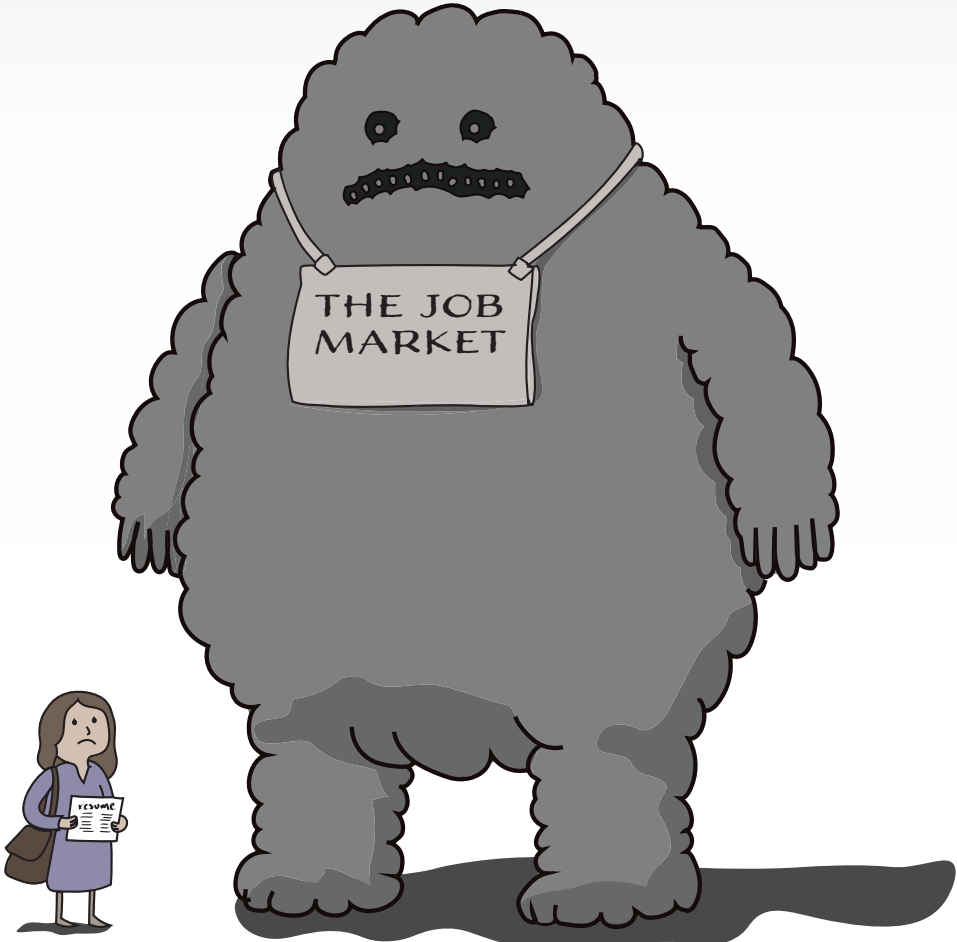


ILLUSTRATION BY AUDREY GIEB



# THIS PAST WEEK IN ELON ATHLETICS

## Lacrosse

Elon lacrosse lost its first conference game of the season after Delaware got off to a fast start, jumping to a quick 7-0 lead midway through the second quarter. The loss snaps Elon's seven-game conference win streak. Elon was never able to bounce back from the early deficit.

## Women's Tennis



Lisa Kranec

Elon women's tennis went 2-0 this week, starting it off with a dominating 6-1 victory against North Carolina A&T. The team then followed it up with a clean sweep over the College of Charleston. Freshman Lisa Kranec won 6-0, 6-0 to secure a 14-2

record at singles this season, the best on the team.

## Men's Tennis

Elon delivered a dominating performance against Presbyterian, winning 6-1. It is its fifth straight win as they move to a 8-6 record. Freshman Rafael Ymer was dominant

at No. 2 singles, winning 6-1, 6-2 to improve his singles record to 8-2 in the last 10 matches.

## Baseball

Elon went on the road for a series against William & Mary, looking to bounce back from a three-game losing streak. Elon looked strong early in the opening game of the series with a 3-0 lead but seven runs by the Tribe in the fifth inning doomed the Phoenix. Elon narrowly lost the next game 13-12. It entered the final inning down four runs, but closed the gap to 13-12 thanks to a RBI-double by senior Charlie Granatell. However, William & Mary held on to win



Declan Lavelle

a close game. Elon won the final game of the series 10-0 thanks to 8 strikeouts from graduate student Declan Lavelle.

## Softball

Elon hosted the College of Charleston for a three game series and started off by winning in dramatic fashion. The opening game of

the series was a pitcher's duel for most of it and went to extra innings tied at 2-2. With two runners on in the ninth inning, senior Allee Seering hit a single up the middle, walking it off. Seering said confidence was key to staying focused in the pressure of the moment.



Allee Seering

"My mentality going into the at-bat was just stay confident in what my coaches taught us previously and what we work on every day," Seering said. "I had no thoughts in my mind besides being confident at that moment." They followed it up with a shutout performance in the next game thanks to senior McKenna McCard, who pitched a complete game. Elon's pitching was strong again in the final game as it won 5-1. Sophomore pitcher Anna Dew also threw a complete game and attributed it to her hard work in the offseason. "It means the world to me," Dew said. "I always have had the confidence that I could do it. It's just keeping those walks down, getting ahead of hitters and keeping the pitch count low. I worked in the offseason to improve that."

# A year off the diamond elevates catcher's performance

Alex Duffey credits coaches, new routines for his performance after a year out of baseball

Benjamin Berfield  
Elon News Network

Redshirt junior Alex Duffey had no idea how his decision to sit out the 2023 season would play out. In his first year with Elon University baseball, Duffey only played in 24 out of 55 games and was going into his sophomore season playing first base behind former Elon infielder Cole Reynolds.

Duffey said that it was difficult to have a comfortable position on the roster so he talked to head coach Mike Kennedy shortly before the 2023 season about taking the year off.

"It was kind of a back and forth thing where I'd be in and out of the lineup," Duffey said. "There's nothing wrong with it at all, but it was tough to get myself in a groove. I went to coach Kennedy the day before the 2023 season and said this would be really good for me."

Two years later, Duffey is now one of the team's most productive players. In 31 games this year, Duffey is hitting .350 and leads the team in RBIs with 30. He now has no regrets about his choice and was glad Kennedy supported it.

"It was the best decision me and him have made for my career," Duffey said.

During Duffey's one year hiatus, he used the time to prepare himself for the upcoming season by playing in the Northwoods League, a collegiate baseball summer league.

Duffey said the experience helped him make numerous hitting adjustments, including better discipline and preparation.

"I gained a much better understanding of my swing at the plate," Duffey said. "I also got a good feel for the drills and necessary prep work I needed to do to have success."

Duffey said finding a routine was also essential in preparing for games. Most of his mental preparation involved lots of positive self-talk in order to build up his confidence. Getting stronger was another focus for Duffey in 2023. He was able to find a routine that addressed arm problems as a result of the long season.

Assistant coach Robbie Huffstetler praised

Duffey using his off-year as a chance to utilize the weight room. He said Duffey's commitment to working out has made a significant impact on his performance.

"Duffey is probably the first one to tell you that he needed to get stronger, and he took the year to do that," Huffstetler said. "He hit the weight room, upped his calorie intake and put on a ton of strength, and it has only helped him throughout his career."

Huffstetler added that Duffey has developed more power behind home plate as a hitter, while also becoming more capable of handling catcher – his preferred position.



I GAINED A MUCH BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF MY SWING AT THE PLATE. I ALSO GOT A GOOD FEEL FOR THE DRILLS AND NECESSARY PREP WORK I NEEDED TO DO TO HAVE SUCCESS.

ALEX DUFFEY  
ELON BASEBALL CATCHER

Duffey said that despite his adjustments, his spot on the roster wasn't guaranteed heading into the 2024 season. He was competing for the catcher position with graduate transfer Shane Paradine.

"I didn't feel like I had a secure spot," Duffey said. "The fall was definitely stressful, working myself back into the lineup and proving to everyone that I could play at this level because I took a whole year off."

Eventually Duffey got the nod to start the season, and he praised Kennedy for communicating that with him in the months before the season.

Duffey said he was grateful to the coaching staff for helping him work toward becoming a key contributor from a hitting perspective and also thanked Kennedy for help on the catching

side of things.

Coaches such as Huffstetler were impressed by Duffey's growth over the past year. Huffstetler said Duffey has done a great job developing into a great player and leader.

"He started becoming a more mature person and leader," Huffstetler said. "Those aren't things that happen in one specific moment, but more him going through the maturation process and growing as a person."

Duffey said his breakthrough moment occurred in Elon's home win against Wake Forest on April 23. His two-run home run helped propel Elon to a 3-0 win against the No. 8 team in the country at the time.

"That was the point where I was like, 'I'm a part of this and I'm going to do everything I can to be a big role on this team,'" Duffey said.

Duffey finished the season hitting .297 with 32 RBIs and six home runs. He has now elevated his performance this year with D1 Baseball ranking him as the 38th best catcher in the country.

Duffey said last season's production has allowed him to play more freely this year as a result.

"I'm definitely a little more aggressive with everything," Duffey said. "Just confidence-wise, I know I can handle it now offensively and defensively, and last year gave me all the confidence for this year."

He knows that with higher expectations, pitchers are now preparing for him differently than last year, he said. Duffey sees a lot more off-speed pitches compared to fastballs, so he now looks to anticipate pitches such as breaking balls.

Duffey has also demonstrated more leadership qualities this season. Huffstetler said Duffey tends to lead through his performance but will be vocal anytime he finds it necessary.

"He's not going to be hollering at guys," Huffstetler said. "Now will he do that if he feels like he needs to be? For sure. There's been a couple of instances where he's stepped up and said some things to guys that needed to be said."

With Elon's record is 11-20, Duffey stated the importance of guys coming together. He said that while he enjoys the guys on the team, everyone needs to step up.

"We realize that as much as we love each other, it's time to really put our foot down and make some changes," Duffey said.

Denotes home game  
Denotes away game

## Scoreboard

### Baseball

April 4  
Elon 4  
William & Mary 8

April 5  
Elon 12  
William & Mary 13

April 6  
Elon 10 | William & Mary 0

### Women's Tennis

April 2  
Elon 6 | NC A&T 1

April 5  
Elon 7  
College of Charleston 0

### Men's Tennis

April 5  
Elon 6 | Presbyterian 1

### Softball

April 4  
Elon 3  
College of Charleston 2

April 5  
Elon 6  
College of Charleston 0

April 6  
Elon 5  
College of Charleston 1

### Lacrosse

April 4  
Elon 9 | Delaware 16

## Upcoming Home Games

### Baseball (11-20)

April 11 - 6 p.m.  
Elon vs. Towson

April 12 - 4 p.m.  
Elon vs. Towson

April 13 - 1 p.m.  
Elon vs. Towson

April 15 - 6 p.m.  
Elon vs. UNCG

### W Tennis (14-5)

April 9 - 2 p.m.  
Elon vs. UNC Greensboro

April 13 - noon  
Elon vs. Norfolk State

### M Tennis (8-6)

April 13 -noon  
Elon vs. Norfolk State

### Softball (20-14)

April 11 - 3 p.m.  
Elon vs. Drexel

April 12 - noon  
Elon vs. Drexel

April 13 - 11 a.m.  
Elon vs. Drexel

### Lacrosse (6-5)

April 11 - 5 p.m.  
Elon vs. Stony Brook