

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020  
VOLUME 50, EDITION 8  
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

# THE PENDULUM

## Elon University students react to LEVEL 3 COVID-19 ALERT



The move to Level 3 leaves some students thinking the university could do more to bring students closer while keeping physical distance

Miranda Ferrante | Elon News Network | @ferrantemiranda

Elon University sophomore Stephanie Miljanic already felt constrained by COVID-19 restrictions, but a recent shift in guidelines has made socialization even harder.

Following a recent increase in identified positive COVID-19 cases on campus, Elon University moved to Level 3 — High Alert on Sept. 21, according to an email from Jeff Stein, chair of the Ready & Resilient committee.

In Level 3, the university is advising members of the

community to adjust daily activities and limit social interactions to increase safety. Data collected daily from on-campus sources and health providers allows university leaders to set a color-coded status.

According to an email from Stein, the university has implemented a social hiatus — which includes a temporary suspension of visitors to on-campus residence halls — to delay the spread of the virus and

attempt to avoid more extreme measures.

Miljanic is a mentor for 30 freshmen on campus and said that many of them have not found close friendships yet.

According to Miljanic, the actions of the university are not socially sustainable and students are struggling with the lack of interaction. Miljanic has the added stress of being immunocompromised, putting her at higher risk than other students. Miljanic felt that

students are wondering what the long-term impacts on their interpersonal relations and mental health will be.

Miljanic said the university is not doing enough for their students and that many are struggling.

Elon University freshman Sarah Dodman said she feels safe on campus, but is scared that COVID-19 is worsening among the Elon community.

Dodman said making friends on campus was difficult at first

because of university guidelines and regulations to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

“I was definitely struggling to meet people at the very beginning of the year because of the limitations on how many people [could] be in a group at one time,” Dodman said. “Now I have a steady group of friends and I have even managed to get to know the people in my classes.”

See **LEVEL 3** | pg. 6

## Elon University ranks #381 for social mobility category

Elon works to increase socioeconomic diversity through adding additional scholarships

Grace Terry  
Managing Editor | @gfterry9

Elon University senior Alicia Powell had all the scores, grades and extracurriculars necessary to get into college, but she needed to find a school that was more than just a good fit. She needed to find a school that would support her financially, as Powell’s mother got laid off while she was applying to colleges.

Powell applied to 12 schools, but once she heard she had been accepted into Elon’s Odyssey Program — a selective merit-based program that

provides students with scholarships — she knew Elon was the one. Powell calls this program the biggest blessing of her life.

However, Powell wishes her identity did not define her experience at Elon.

“I feel like I am here because I’m from like a lower income family, because I’m Black and because I’m a woman,” Powell said.

On top of being an Odyssey scholar, Powell is among only 12% of Elon students that receive a federal Pell Grant — which is up from 9% last year, according to the Elon University Common data set. This is one of the statistics used in determining the rankings for social mobility among national universities by the U.S. News and World Report.

In this category — known as

social mobility — Elon ranked in the bottom 20 for national universities or No. 371. According to the U.S. News and World Report website, the factors that go into the social mobility category are a part of the “17 different measures of academic quality” that go into determining the overall rankings. Elon ranked No. 88 overall.

The social mobility category looks at a school’s capabilities to graduate and support students who receive a federal Pell Grant, a grant in which students living in homes that typically make less than \$50,000, though most Pell Grant money goes to students with a family income below \$20,000.

See **MOBILITY** | pg. 5



Alicia Powell



**NEWS • PAGE 4**  
Homeless shelter works to maintain community service.



**LIFESTYLE • PAGE 11**  
Members of the engineering club have bonded through projects.



**SPORTS • PAGE 15**  
Fencing club is no longer practicing.

# THE PENDULUM

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

### CORRECTIONS POLICY:

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

Contact  
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### WHEN WE PUBLISH:

- The Pendulum**  
publishes weekly on Wednesdays
- Elon Local News**  
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broadcasts Thursdays at 10 a.m.
- ENN Radio Podcast**  
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## CORRECTIONS

No corrections were issued for the last issue of The Pendulum.

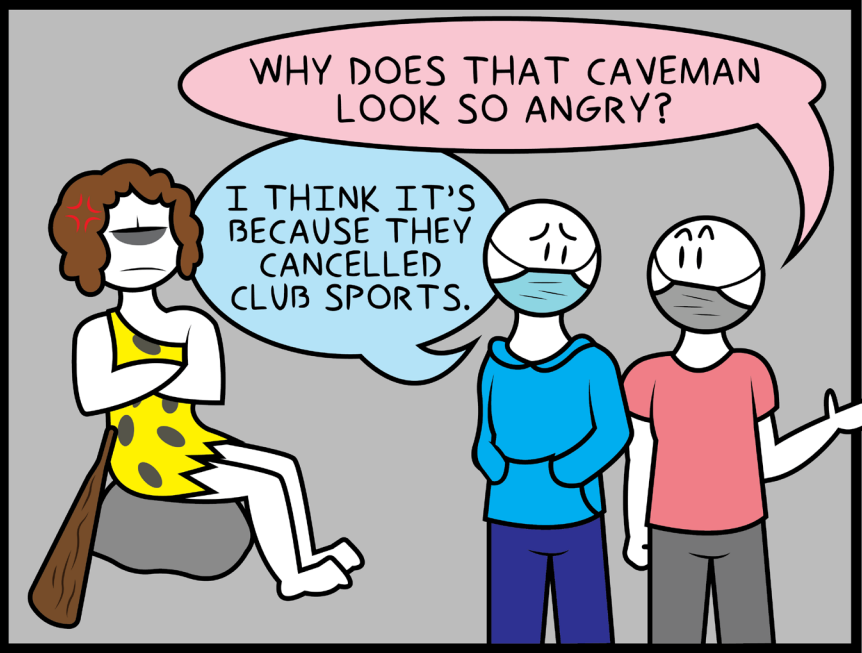
## GAMES

**How to Play:** Guess the missing word in the five clues, then find them in the word search below. Words can be found backwards, diagonal, etc.

1. Elon transitioned to Level 3 on \_\_\_\_\_ 21, upon receiving an email from Jeff Stein, the chair of the Ready & Resilient committee. *See page 6 for answer.*
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Churches of Alamance County’s homeless shelters has not reported a single coronavirus case. *See page 4 for answer.*
3. Senior Megan Noor is the sole \_\_\_\_\_ on campus. *See pages 8–9 for answer.*
4. Fencing was classified as a \_\_\_\_\_ sport by Elon, but the club unanimously decided to cancel practice due to the risks presented by COVID-19. *See page 15 for answer.*

## COMIC

### JOIN THE CLUB



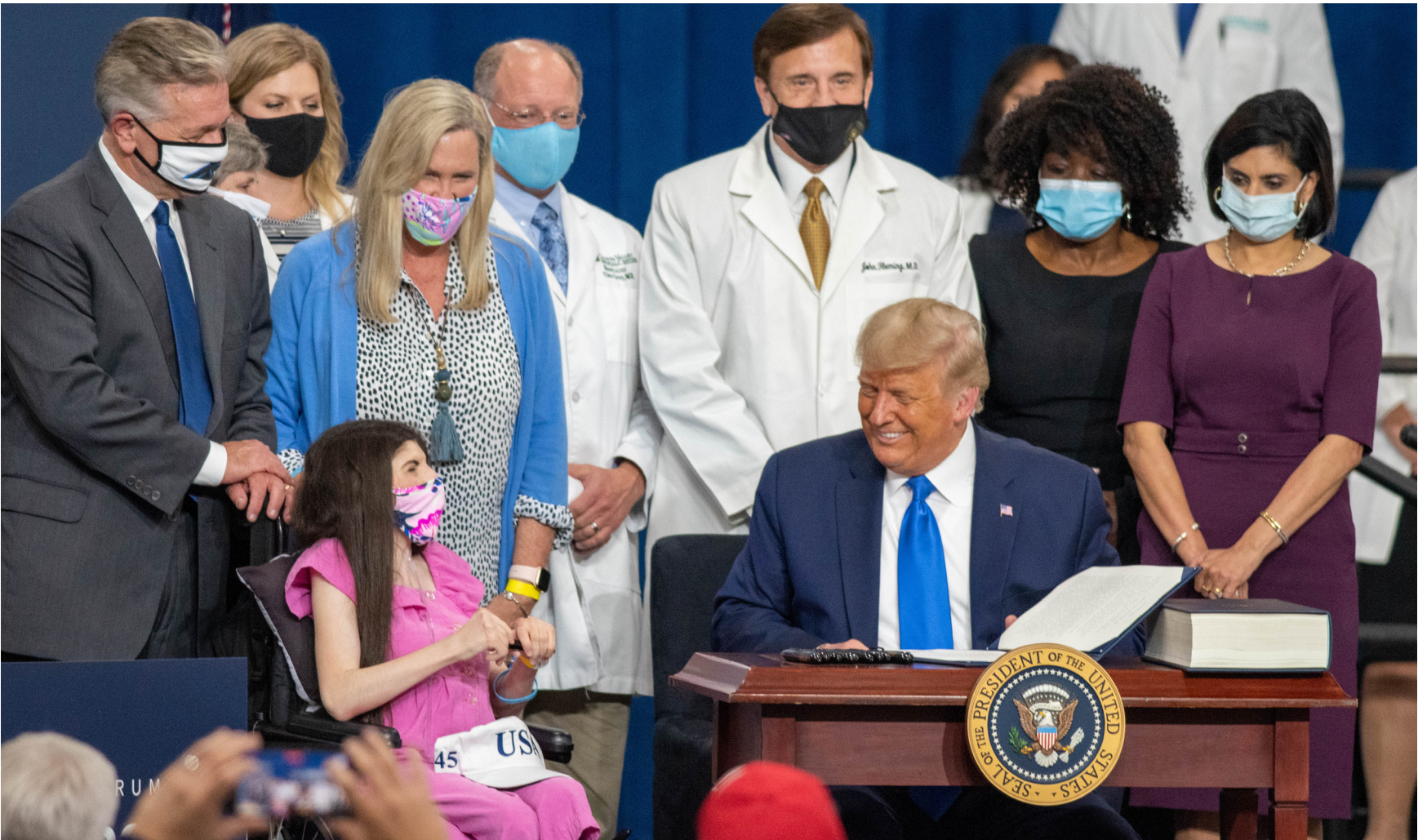
COMIC SAMS – SAM POROZOK

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E L L J M Q T K J X B J H J D  
E F S G Q Z Z F R U U Z G P M  
F C P T C K K L H M B Y V C Q  
O P L M O W R G O A S D J X T  
U C N W N V O M F W Q P I V D  
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D Q J W B I M N N K L B A S Y  
Z G U E P P Z O N V F Y K Q E



President Donald Trump giving a speech announcing his “America First” health care plan at the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport on Sept. 24.

MADDIE SHOSTEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



A butterfly sits on a flower outside of Belk Library on Monday, Sept. 28.

FRANCES O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Perspective students and parents visit Elon University and take a tour of campus on Monday, Sept. 28.

FRANCES O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A demonstrator flies a Black Lives Matter flag in front of the Alamance County Civil Courts building during the “March On, Graham” demonstration on Saturday, Sept. 26. The American flag photographed is at half-staff in honor of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died on Sept. 18.



JACK HALEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# HOMELESS SHELTERS

## maintain service to communities during pandemic



KYRA O'CONNOR | ENTERPRISE STORY COORDINATOR

Executive Director Jai Baker stepped into his role at Allied Churches of Alamance County in 2019 after serving as a shelter advocate and case manager.

Adapting to physical distancing and staffing shortages is a challenge for homeless shelters

**Kyra O'Connor & Graysen Shirley**  
Elon News Network

Allied Churches of Alamance County's homeless shelters have not reported a single coronavirus case. When he mentioned it out loud, Executive Director Jai Baker said he hoped he wouldn't jinx it.

"We had a system set in place if individuals in the shelter tested positive ... they will immediately be moved to a location where they could be quarantined and still live safe and fruitful lives, but go through that quarantine," Baker said. "To this day, we have not had to use that protocol."

The coronavirus pandemic has posed unique problems to homeless shelters like ACAC, forcing them to reevaluate everything from how beds were arranged to what cleaning supplies could be used in the shelters and how to fundraise virtually.

According to data from the National Coalition to End Homelessness, many systems experienced situations similar to ACAC and became overwhelmed by their new responsibilities to create a hygienic environment and a lack of personal protection equipment — as well as other supplies — due to the pandemic.

NCEH surveyed communities across the country in May and July to examine how communities' Continuums of Care — agencies created by localities in the United States that coordinate housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals — were responding to the new circumstances created by the coronavirus pandemic.

ACAC's mission is to provide basic needs and shelter, while empowering community members experiencing homelessness to overcome their situation, according Baker.

### BY THE NUMBERS

# 72%

the percentage of CoCs allowing symptomatic individuals to stay in designated hotels and motels.

# “

ONE OF THE THINGS THAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT OUR SHELTER IS WE HAVE BEEN FOCUSED ON HOUSING — AT LEAST FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS — WHERE WE WANT IT TO BE ABLE TO BRING INDIVIDUALS IN AND RAPIDLY GET THEM OUT. SO, THE NUMBERS, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SERVED FAR MORE PEOPLE THAN NORMAL, NUMBERS INSIDE THE SHELTER REMAIN RELATIVELY THE SAME.

### JAI BAKER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
ALAMANCE COUNTY HOMELESS  
SHELTER

ACAC — which is headquartered north of downtown Burlington — operates a perpetually open homeless shelter, an empowerment center where community members can use computers and to search for job opportunities and a community kitchen called Joe's Diner.v

Baker said ACAC experienced a 30 to 45% increase in demand for shelter services since the pandemic began. This is not uncommon — 81% of shelters surveyed by NCEH indicated that they have experienced more requests than average for assistance since the pandemic began — and Baker said he credits ACAC's ability to handle the increase to the staff and community.

"One of the things that's unique about our shelter is we have been focused on housing — at least for the last four years — where we want it to be able to bring individuals in and rapidly get them out. So, the numbers, although we have served far more people than normal, numbers inside the shelter remain relatively the same," Baker said.

NCEH found in May that 19% of shelters surveyed closed emergency housing and 83% of shelters surveyed reported obtaining hotel or motel rooms for temporary housing. ACAC's shelter can house 49 men, 24 women and 25 people in the family dorm. ACAC generally operates at about half capacity, serving 40 to 45 people at one time. Because of this ACAC was able to adapt to COVID-19 physical distancing regulations much more easily than a shelter that may have had to reduce its capacity, Baker said.

Baker and staff members make a game out of hand-washing to encourage kids in the family dorm to sanitize and clean. Using the game "red light, green light," Baker said any staff member can come in and say "red light," and kids know to wash their hands.

Rather than fundraising face-to-face as Baker had been, ACAC went to social media, posting photos and the shelter's needs online. The shelter also sends out a

monthly newsletter, updating supporters and volunteers on what is changing and being updated.

Social media has allowed for donors and volunteers to stay engaged, Baker said, even from the comfort of their own homes. Through options like the ACAC online Amazon wishlist, community members who want to donate can order items and have them shipped directly to ACAC.

"It's awesome to be able to put a nice list out on social media and almost instantly start to see those products being dropped off," Baker said.

On any given day before the pandemic, ACAC would have about 100 volunteers, Baker said. Many volunteers at ACAC are older, and therefore at risk of contracting COVID-19. Because of this, Baker said there are no volunteers at the shelter currently.

Joe's Diner, part of ACAC, is a sit-down community kitchen located inside the shelter. While the inside dining area is closed for eating, the community kitchen is still available to those in need. Since the pandemic began, Baker said ACAC saw an increase of approximately 40% in meals served. Meals are served in to-go containers, and the dining area now serves as a space for local children to do online learning with stable internet connection.

Many changes, such as the signage around the shelter to remind community members to socially distance, or the temperature check stations, will stay, Baker said

Despite the added challenges, ACAC was able to continue renovations to the interior of their building, an initiative the shelter started in 2018.

The progress and change within the shelter comes just two years after its almost closing.

"That is something that you should be proud of," Baker said. "I say it all the time, who knew that this little old shelter in Burlington would be able to be recognized as having one of the strongest housing programs in the state."

# University in bottom 20 schools for social mobility

## MOBILITY | from cover

There are two factors that go into this ranking. The first is the graduation rate of a student with a Pell Grant and the second is the graduation rate of students with Pell Grants compared to the graduation rate of the rest of the student population. In this section, the report is heavily adjusted to benefit schools with high populations of students on a Pell Grant.

According to the Elon University common data set, during the 2019-2020 year, Elon's 6-year graduation rate of students who received a Pell Grant was 88% which is higher compared to their 6-year graduation rate of students who did not receive a Pell Grant, which was 85%. In Elon's undergraduate student body, only 9% receive a federal Pell Grant.

The University of La Verne, a small college in La Verne, California — which was the highest ranked private university in this category — has a 6-year graduation rate of 73% for students who received a Pell graduation compared to a 6-year graduation rate for the whole student body of 71%. However, La Verne's undergraduate student population is made up of 49% Pell grant students.

According to Associate Vice President of Strategic Communications at La Verne, Rod Leveque, La Verne has grown throughout the years, but supporting Pell Grant recipients has just recently become a part of their culture.

"We take a lot of pride in helping our students to create better lives for themselves and their families, so I think it's really foundational to what we do," Leveque said.

Elon has made efforts to improve their socioeconomic diversity, one being the Elon LEADs campaign, which has the goal of raising \$250 million dollars for the school, over half of which would go to scholarships.

The Odyssey Program is one scholarship program that Elon is trying to increase. About 75% of Pell Grant eligible students are supported by the Center for Access and Success in the Odyssey Program and First Generation Student Support Services, according to Jean Rattigan-Rohr, vice president for access and success. An Odyssey scholarship is generally about \$25,000 and can be renewed annually.

According to the Elon's Odyssey Program website, they look for students who are "academically strong, civically engaged, action-oriented leaders in their communities who will benefit from an Elon education and demonstrate high financial need."

Since starting the Elon LEADs campaign, the university has been able to add about 74 new Odyssey scholarships. As a part of the 2030 strategic plan, they aim to have 400 students on these scholarships, 100 in each class. However, each Odyssey scholarship requires a \$500,000 commitment from a donor.

According to Elon's Vice President of University Advancement Jim Piatt, the goal is that none of that money will be spent and instead put in Elon's endowment and grown through investments in the financial market. Then the money made from those investments are then used for scholarships and other expenses.

"We return the endowment earnings and that's what we give in the form of a scholarship and that way, the scholarship never goes away," Piatt said.

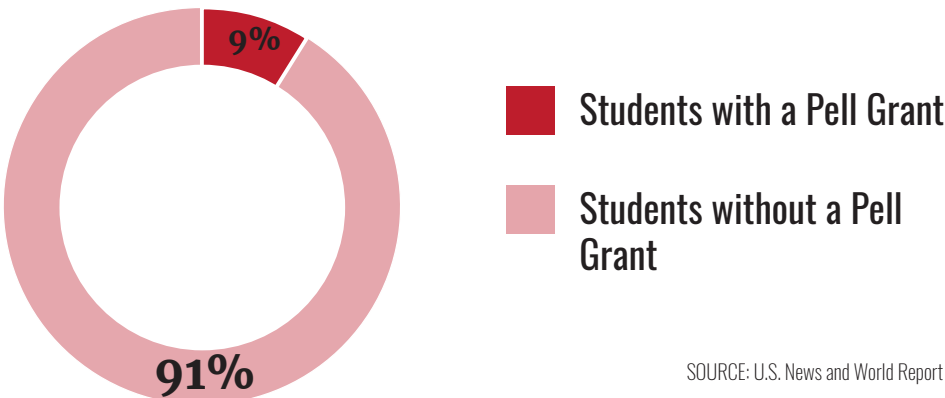
According to Piatt, 70% of Elon's endowment goes to supporting scholarships. Elon's endowment is just over 200 million which is much lower than average endowment among national universities which is 1.4 billion according to U.S. News and World Report.

Schools with larger endowments have the ability to invest more in scholarships and earn more money, according to Piatt.

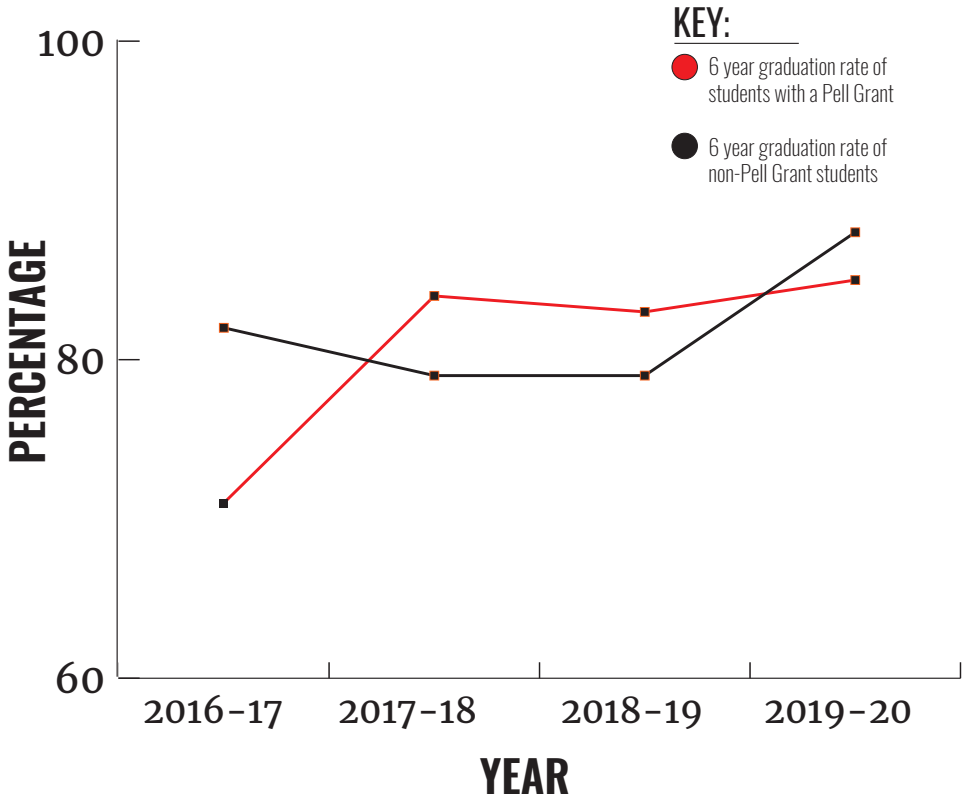
"It's just the power of the investment that helps support your scholarship so that's why our goal is to continue to try and grow the endowment," Piatt said.

Powell sees the investment Elon is trying to encourage.

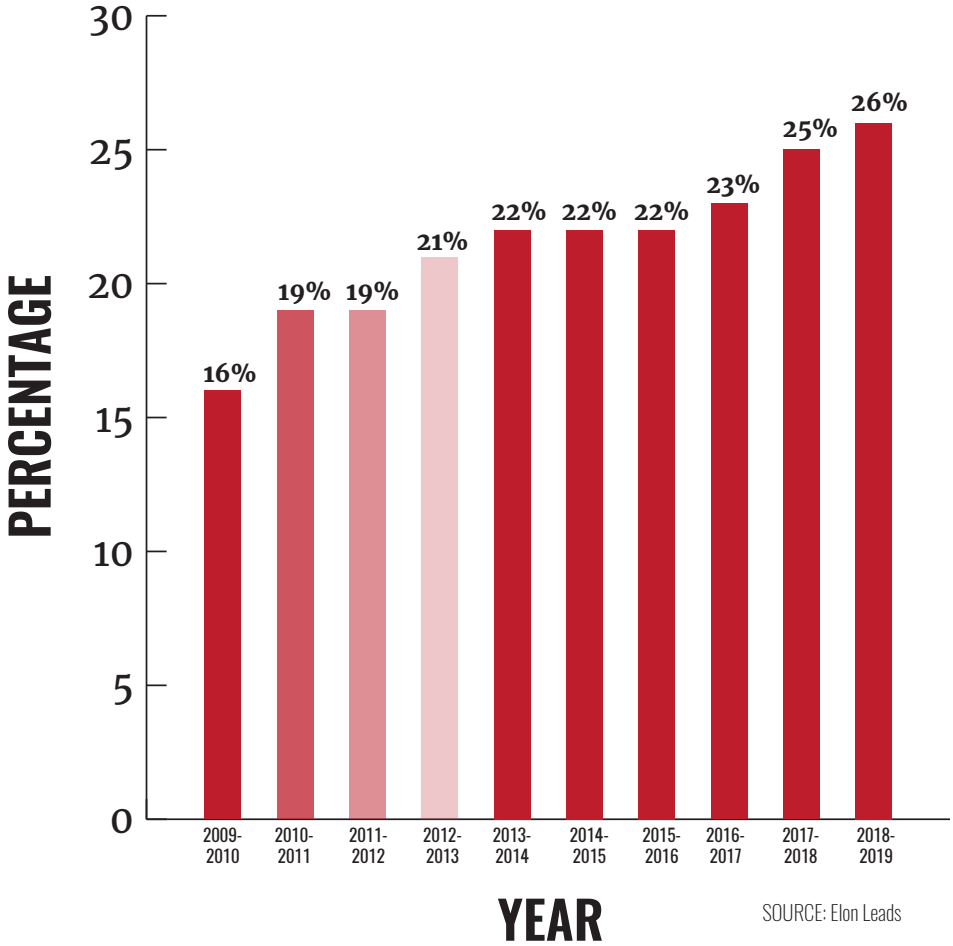
PERCENTAGE OF ELON UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS THAT RECEIVE A PELL GRANT IN 2019-2020



GRADUATION RATE OF PELL GRANT RECIPIENTS COMPARED TO THE GRADUATION RATE OF NON-PELL GRANT RECIPIENTS



PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ALUMNI WHO HAVE MADE DONATIONS EACH YEAR



"I work with Dr. Book and the senior staff on the President Student Leadership Advisory Council, and I see the behind the scenes and I see what they're trying to do to help and bring about our scholarships," Powell said.

According to Piatt, donations are also important to the process and in the last 10 years, Elon has seen an increase in over 10%. Elon ranked No. 22 by the U.S. News and World Report in their alumni giving rankings. However, the coronavirus pandemic is having negative effects on donations.

Piatt said that the pandemic has brought challenges to donations because "people who have wealth" or can give to the university may have lower confidence in the financial markets — which have been impacted by the pandemic — and may be hesitant to donate money.

The challenge we have with the pandemic," Piatt said, "is that what that does to the financial markets for people who have wealth, for people who have really the capacity to give these kinds of gifts, when they have a lowering confidence or when they're when they're concerned about whether or not the markets are going to hold strong that often makes them more hesitant to make gift."

As for why Elon's endowment is below the average among national universities, Piatt cited a couple of reasons.

"It's really been in the last three decades or so that Elon became more of a national kind of school," Piatt said. "Our fundraising program where we're asking folks to support is really not that old."

However, it is possible to support Pell Grant students without a large endowment. University of La Verne has an endowment of over \$100 million, about half of Elon's.

"It's a matter of priority. We typically dedicate about 25% of our annual operating budget to institutional financial aid," Leveque said.

The increase in Pell Grant recipients this fall may be due to Elon's decision to join the Common Application, according to Vice President of Enrollment Greg Zaiser.

"The decision to join the Common Application in 2019-2020 was largely to increase access to the university," Zaiser wrote. "As the 'go-to' platform for college applicants, Elon is able to reach a larger and broader audience of students."

Applications to Elon last year increased 46% from the prior year, according to Zaiser.

According to Zaiser, Elon's biggest struggle with recruiting students that require a Pell Grant is providing scholarships and the endowment.

"Elon's discount rate [is] relatively low, but rapidly growing endowment make recruitment of Pell eligible students challenging," Zaiser wrote in an email.

Zaiser said another obstacle is that Elon has tried to keep its tuition lower than other private schools which prospective students apply to. According to Zaiser Elon is on average around \$18,000 less than those schools which include Loyola University Maryland, University of Richmond and Ithaca College.

"By keeping the cost as accessible as possible, given the significant value, each student essentially receives a scholarship," Zaiser wrote.

As for La Verne, despite being a private university, they do not compete generally with other private schools. They tend to attract many of the same students the California State institution attract, according to Leveque, as they have a large in-state population.

"I think it's making a concerted effort to recruit and attract the students who are consistent with the demographics of this area right and so I think that's really our mission," Leveque said.

As for the future, Powell hopes people continue to donate to Elon and that she will be able to donate herself one day.

"Hopefully in the future I could be successful enough to give back to the Odyssey program and create my own scholarship for students in need of financial support," Powell said.

# COVID-19 high alert impacts students socially



One of the rooms on the 3rd floor of Sankey Hall is closed due to Elon moving to Level 3 COVID-19 status on Monday, Sept. 21. In order to use the space, it needs to be reserved; however, it is not open for reservations during nights and weekends.

LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## LEVEL 3 | from cover

Though she has since managed to find her group of friends, the manner in which students can see each other is changing significantly.

According to Dodman, the social limitations implemented by the university will make it much more difficult for her and other students to have face-to-face interactions with one another.

Miljanic thinks the COVID-19 pandemic affects mental health in general. She feels that the lack of social interaction is not only impacting her but other students as well.

Miljanic said the social hiatus makes it hard to hang out with people and encourages students to congregate in larger groups as the no visitor policy restricts students from going into residence halls other than their own.

“I’m mad at the school because they are not doing enough to keep us safe,” Miljanic said. “The school is saying they are cracking down on things, but they are just trying to cover themselves and [put on] brave faces to the parents and those who are paying.”

According to Stein, colleges experiencing high numbers of cases are asked by state and federal officials to shelter students in place, making the transition to Level 4 — Very High Alert a possibility for the Elon community.

In a letter to community members, Elon University President Connie Book wrote, “people are wondering what happens if we do reach Level 4 — Very High Alert. If that happens, our current plans are to shelter

“

I'M MAD AT THE SCHOOL BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT DOING ENOUGH TO KEEP US SAFE. THE SCHOOL IS SAYING THEY ARE CRACKING DOWN ON THINGS, BUT THEY ARE JUST TRYING TO COVER THEMSELVES AND [PUT ON] BRAVE FACES TO THE PARENTS AND THOSE WHO ARE PAYING.

STEPHANIE MILJANIC  
SOPHOMORE

the campus in place for two weeks, go to remote classes during that period, then test again for an all-clear before reopening.”

Miljanic said that quarantining in a dorm room for two weeks is not a way to live. Miljanic thinks it could be more beneficial for everyone on each floor to quarantine together, rather than isolating everyone.

“It’s almost like prison,” Miljanic said. “If the school is locking students in, it would be better to group them with others.”

Miljanic also believes that students should all be tested before the decision to go into a two-week quarantine is finalized, as she thinks the lack of social interaction that comes with isolation would be damaging to students mentally.

“Personally, I need to be around people,” Miljanic said. “Locking me in my room without social interactions will be detrimental to my mental health.”

Although Miljanic believes that a two-week quarantine would be harmful to the mental health of students, she does not think the university should send students home, as it would risk infecting parents and families.

Dodman said that she is a physically active person and the possibility of going into a two-week quarantine frightens her.

“If we have to stay in the same place for two weeks, it would be hard for me to be cooped up for so long,” Dodman said. “I love interacting with other people, and it is something that makes me happy. I’m concerned that I won’t have enough social interaction with others and it will change my mood.”

Dodman said she is also worried that a possible lockdown would have a negative

## BY THE NUMBERS

206

positive COVID-19 cases on Elon University’s campus as of Tuesday, Sept. 29.

255

students in quarantine/isolation as of Tuesday, Sept. 29.

effect on her grades.

“I enjoy learning in person rather than online because it can be harder to focus and do well,” Dodman said. “If we go into a two-week quarantine, my classes would have to transition to online and that may prove to be difficult for me.”

Miljanic feels that the possibility of Elon shifting to Level 4 would have a negative impact on students’ mental health as well as their overall academic success.

“I do not think locking us in our own bedrooms is a great idea,” Miljanic said. “I think the university needs to take better steps to keep us safe before they imprison us in our dorms.”

# Elon’s Student Union Board adapts to coronavirus pandemic

Elon’s SUB is still putting on free weekend events throughout the semester, despite COVID-19

**Sophie Rosenthal**  
Elon News Network | @sophrosenthal

Elon’s Student Union Board has organized free weekend activities for the student body since 1984. But when the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way that people can safely interact with one another, SUB had to alter their event planning for the fall 2020 semester.

According to their website, SUB’s mission statement is “to provide entertainment which complement, reflect and respond to the university’s student community.” The board is made up of different sectors: Late Night, SUB Presents, SUB Cinema, Fan Engagement, SUB Performance and their marketing team. SUB puts on free events from 10 p.m. to midnight every Thursday and from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. on some Fridays and Saturdays.

Late Night hosts weekly events every Thursday. These events commonly include bingo, trivia and movie nights. SUB Presents brings performers to campus. In the past, some of these performers have included the Chainsmokers, Maroon 5 and Mac Miller.

Fan Engagement hosts school spirit events, such as tailgate parties during the football season. SUB Performance brings the spring comedian to campus and puts on the homecoming concert. SUB Cinema puts on movies every weekend in Turner Theatre. Last year, SUB put together a carnival, a casino night and more.

“[The events are] just kinda to give students the opportunity to still have fun but make sure that it’s safe ... so that students aren’t going out and doing things that could be potentially harmful to them,” said Late Night chair and sophomore Christina Carr.

Adapting to COVID-19 has still caused challenges. Before campus closed due to the pandemic last semester, the board had already



CLARE GRANT | PHOTO EDITOR

The Student Union Board hosted “Oaktoberfest” on Oct. 5, 2019 Under the Oaks. There were many different activities, such as a s’mores pit, corn hole, a live band, and pumpkin painting to start off the month of October.

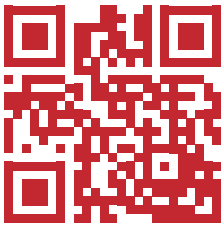
started to plan events for the fall, but some of those events had to be canceled and changed to fit safety guidelines. Carr said it’s been difficult to come up with ideas that come across both virtually and in-person, since a big factor of past in-person events have included contact and food. Another issue that they’ve been having is just getting the word out that SUB is still programming this semester.

Even with these challenges, SUB is moving forward and trying to make the best out of this new reality. They want students to know that despite the university’s current Level 3 — High Alert coronavirus status, there are still things to do around campus.

Through the fall 2020 semester, SUB is hosting hybrid events so that students can choose to attend in person or on Zoom.

“Our events are just as fun and just as engaging and welcoming to students, especially now with some students not being on campus. Like, if you’re at home ... you can still join the

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SUB EVENTS  
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2. Focus on the QR code
3. Click the pop-up link

“OUR EVENTS ARE JUST AS FUN AND JUST AS ENGAGING AND WELCOMING TO STUDENTS, ESPECIALLY NOW WITH SOME STUDENTS NOT BEING ON CAMPUS. LIKE, IF YOU’RE AT HOME ... YOU CAN STILL JOIN THE ZOOM CALL AND PLAY BINGO, EVEN THOUGH YOU’RE NOT ON CAMPUS.”

**CHRISTINA CARR**  
LATE NIGHT CHAIR

Zoom call and play bingo, even though you’re not on campus,” said Carr.

SUB has taken the pandemic as an opportunity to get more creative with their event planning. They’re hosting outdoor movies in Rhodes Stadium, an idea they had not previously considered.

“A lot of first-year students have never been to the stadium, and so this can be their first time to go there. Even though there’s not a sports game happening, it still brings in that school spirit,” Carr said.

Weekly SUB events can be found on their website, elonsub.org. Subscribe to their mailing list to learn about events going on every week. Students can follow SUB on Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat at @elonsub.

# Freshman mentors nonprofit, receives financial backing from Google

Google has provided Alonesy an annual recurring grant of \$120,000 for advertising the service

**Jack Norcross**  
News Director | @JNorcrossNews

What was once just an idea to make mental health resources accessible to teens is now becoming a reality for Elon freshman Jack Bowers thanks to passion, fundraising and a financial boost from Google.

Back in high school, Bowers conceived the idea of providing free counselors to teens via a smartphone app. Alonesy — which launches in December — will match teens with a volunteer mentor after they answer a series of questions.

Bowers has raised half of the \$30,000 he needs in this year to help pay for insurance, licensing and the app’s development. Amid the challenge of raising money for a nonprofit during a pandemic, Bowers received the news he needed two weeks ago: Google was awarding him a \$120,000 grant to help advertise his service.

“So they’re like, ‘Hey, here’s this money.’ And I’m over here. I’m like, ‘what?’ Like, this is more money than we’ve ever raised,” Bowers said.

Bowers — who spent three years of his childhood in therapy with his parents spending thousands of dollars — realized the same resources afforded to him were not available to everyone.

“That process just made me feel so isolated and alone,” Bowers said. “Coming out of that, I realized, you know, there are so many people that are really going through this same thing.”

In high school, his big aspirations to help teens were immediately quashed from a teacher at his school. But it encouraged Bowers to work harder.



GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR

Freshman Jack Bowers is pictured wearing an Alonesy shirt, the name of the online mental health service that he created and will be launching in December.

“My high school teacher was like, ‘yeah, you need to have lower expectations, Jack. You’re not gonna be able to do that,’” Bowers said. “And then I was like, ‘okay, watch me.’”

In preparation for the launch, Bowers has 25 mentors who applied to volunteer with Alonesy. Each mentor undergoes a six-week training with professionals he’s connected with virtually. While the service is free for users, Bowers sees the program as an opportunity to connect mentors with any teen in an isolated situation regardless

of their economic status.

“You can have a child that is the son or daughter of a billionaire and they could have money,” Bowers said. “And sure, they could probably afford a therapist – probably a really good therapist – but if they don’t feel comfortable talking to their parents and saying, ‘Hey, I’m struggling with my sexuality’ ... If it feels like the parents are not accepting, it doesn’t matter how much money they have, you know, they don’t have that support.”

Being awarded the Google grant was

enough for him to call his high school principal to flex how far he had come.

“I was like, ‘Hey Brad, guess what? I got a grant. So you can go tell my teacher to take me seriously,’” Bowers said. “Don’t listen to the haters, you know? You gotta keep going and it’ll work out.”

As he still has money to raise, Bowers plans to use the grant to advertise their fundraising campaigns.

Alonesy is raising money and seeking volunteers to be mentors, public relations managers, fundraisers and recruiters.

# A LOOK AT ELON'S devoted beekeeper

Elon senior breaks down her  
beekeeping process as caretaker

**Jakob Reuter**

Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Elon University senior Megan Noor is in search of a new caretaker for the bees she's helped manage the last three years. Noor, who spent the spring taking care of bees, has been interested in bees ever since she joined the organization her freshman year.

While Covid-19 has seemingly affected and altered every inch of our lives, beekeeping for Noor hasn't changed a bit. Noor expects to continue her hobby years down the road and will hopefully find a beekeeper, as passionate as herself, by the end of her last year at Elon.

After taking a class with the Alamance County Beekeepers Association, she was able to obtain a grant that bought her the

bees that are on the Loy Farm now. Noor has continued to take care of the bees and teach interested students on how to care for them.

One of the ways Noor takes care of the bees is by using the smoker. Using dead leaves or dry grass the smoke serves two functions: first to "make the bees kind of tired and sleepy and a little confused" and second to "make them think that their hive is on fire," which causes them to retreat to their hive and occupy themselves with flapping their wings in an attempt to put the fire out.

In addition to using the smoker, Noor runs through the steps of opening the hive and inspecting it. With a "hive tool" in hand, Noor has to use it to separate the different frames within the hive because of the sticky substance that holds them together.

"Propolis, which is like a gluey substance that they use to stick the parts of their hive together ... it's also got antimicrobial properties so I use it to fill up any cracks in their hives where pests or bacteria could be growing," she said.

Noor also described what her normal

inspection process looks like. She said that hive inspections are to check for pests such as Varroa parasites, hive beetles, and wax moths. Walking through every step of the inspection process, Noor demonstrates her method using a cup of bees, a mesh lid, and powdered sugar. She scoops bees into a mason jar, fills it with powdered sugar, and shakes it around to essentially coat the bees in the sugar.

"The powdered sugar gets under the mites feet so they can't stick to the bees and they fall off. Then you turn the jar upside down and kind of shake it onto a paper towel where they land so that you can count them," Noor demonstrated.

She also checks for the presence of a queen and if she is laying eggs or not. The hive is organized into frames and Noor removes and inspects each frame for either honey or baby bees, called brood, in the wax honeycomb.

Recently, Noor obtained a new beehive, but one that was described to having particularly aggressive bees. Noor and her

Beekeepers Association mentor suspects that these are Africanized Bees because of their aggressive stinging behavior. Noor explained that while there are good parts of Africanized Bees, like how they are more resistant to parasites and certain diseases, they are pretty dangerous to have as a beekeeper.

By killing off the current Africanized queen and replacing her with a new queen, without Africanized genes, the hive will become less aggressive as new bees are born. Noor places the new queen in a plastic cage, isolated from the other bees and it stays in there until the hive adjusts to her pheromones. Then she is released into the hive.

While the bees are indeed producing honey, Noor said that she will not be removing any because the bees are so new to the hive and they'll need it as a food to survive the winter. She also mentions honey extracting equipment would be required but Elon does not have any of that at the moment.

**1** Sophomore Valentina Echavarria learns how to load the smoker and get it started using dead leaves and a lighter.

Megan Noor attempts to generate smoke while answering questions about the process. **2**

**3** Noor removing the top hive to reveal another one beneath it.

Using the smoker, Noor attempts to calm the bees down before she starts her hive inspection. **4**

**5** Covering the entire hive, Noor smokes the bees to have them retreat inside the hive.

Noor holding and inspecting a plastic cage that holds the hive's new queen. **6**

**7** About to release the queen back into the hive, Noor observes the behavior of the bees surrounding the queen's cage.

Noor looking for the queen and signs of beetles and parasites. **8**

**9** Holding a hive tool that helps Noor separate the different frames of the hive, she inspects one of the frames for parasites, signs of a queen, and the general condition of the frame.

Noor inspecting the propped up frame revealing the comb and honey that the bees have produced. **10**





# LIFESTYLE

## SISTERS SET OUT TO CREATE A sustainable style



Adrienne Hedvat tailors clothes for her client before starting the upcycling process on Sept. 25. Sisters Brigette and Adrienne Hedvat launched UENVI in June of 2019 to create environmentally sustainable clothing and swimwear.

The Hedvat sisters have used their love for fashion to create sustainable clothing

**Anna Terry**  
Elon News Network | @atterry63

While spending time in Prague during her study abroad experience in the fall of 2019, Brigette Hedvat '20 noticed that in contrast to America, Czech people had a stronger commitment to sustainable lifestyle choices. It was this cultural difference that inspired Hedvat to start a clothing brand. In June 2019, Brigette Hedvat launched UENVI with her sister, Adrienne Hedvat, who is now a senior at Elon University. UENVI is a sustainable lifestyle company that makes an array of one-of-a-kind pieces ranging from t-shirts to swimwear. The company name has a few meanings. The "U" stands for universal, unisex and university. "ENVI" is short for the environment, while also acting as a play on words — those who do not wear UENVI envy people who wear UENVI because they wish they had their clothes. "We want it to be sort of a play on words; like, you envy whoever is wearing UENVI because you should be wearing UENVI," Brigette Hedvat said. "And I think it's kind of awesome the way that that worked out, because I think it still sounds kind of cool and catchy." Although the sustainable practices they use to make their clothes is inspired by the Czech Republic's environmental

practices, the style seen throughout their pieces comes from the personal fashion sense the Hedvats have adopted throughout the years growing up in Connecticut while also making frequent visits to New York City. "I think our mom always encouraged us to express ourselves through fashion and the arts starting at a really young age. Maybe we didn't realize that we were standing out, but we were always encouraged to be different," Brigette said. The sisters always knew they wanted to start a clothing company and were transforming their old clothes into new creations starting at a young age with the help of safety pins and scissors. Part of their draw to fashion was due to the fact that both of their parents worked in the industry. On the weekends, the two would go into Manhattan with them to their clothing boutiques and while in the city they were exposed to the array of styles seen among the people. **Working without waste, genders or sizes** When looking for fabric to use to create pieces for clients, the duo said they get donations from friends while also making use of Goodwill. But wherever the fabric comes from, nothing goes to waste, according to Adrienne Hedvat. Since the start of their company, the Hedvats have made use of a wide variety of items for their pieces from old t-shirts to shoe bags. "It's been fun for people and for us to see what we can create out of something random," Brigette said.

“WE FELT THAT LIKE DOWN TO OUR SOUL, THAT WE HAD TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP ANOTHER MINORITY COMMUNITY IN THIS COUNTRY.”

**ADRIENNE HEDVAT**  
SENIOR

UENVI is a unisex company and does not have its clothing split up into men's and women's categories. They believe that any person of any gender can wear any of their pieces. "We don't want anyone to feel like they can't buy something just because we said it's for another gender ... it's that we don't think that that's how fashion should be, because it's such a creative and free-spirited industry," Adrienne Hedvat said. "We figured, 'why even have these categories anyway?'" On their website, like gender, no sizes are listed. Each piece in their collections is one-of-a-kind, available in the one size it was made in. The sustainability efforts seen in this brand extend beyond the fashion itself. On each UENVI clothing item, the tags are made from old fabric with writing on

it saying where the original piece was donated from. After completing an order, the sisters place their pieces in recycled packaging that includes a hand-written reminder reading, "please reuse me." Not only are the clothes recycled but Brigette and Adrienne Hedvat are also recycling part of their profits by donating to different causes and charities. **Recycling profits** As a minority-owned company themselves — their mother is Puerto Rican and their father Iranian — the sisters felt a duty to support Black Lives Matter movement. "We felt that like down to our soul, that we had to do something to help another minority community in this country. So when we saw how awful, I guess you could say this summer one in terms of just like racial injustice and the divide in this country, we immediately knew that we had to do something for it," Adrienne Hedvat said. Thus, UENVI decided to have a BLM day, donating 100% of the proceeds from the UENVI 1 collection and 50% of the proceeds from their luxury masks to The Black Feminist Project, an organization based out of Manhattan. "Manhattan being our second home, it just felt right for us to donate to that cause specifically," Adrienne said. Their most recent collection, a swimwear line called Para La Isla, was released July 27. Part of the proceeds from this collection went to the organization, Para La

Naturaleza, a nonprofit dedicated to conversing Puerto Rico's ecosystem. "After everything that has happened to Puerto Rico with the environment and the way that the United States has handled helping the island has been really awful," Brigette Hedvat said. "Because our mom is from Puerto Rico and we spent a lot of our childhood going there, we wanted to do something where we could give back." Aside from donating to causes in need, Brigette Hedvat said one of the most rewarding things she has seen since the start of UENVI is the impression it is making on its customer. "We have made relationships with random clients where they just feel such a connection with us, which is such an incredible feeling because we've made such an impact on their lives," Brigette Hedvat said.

SCAN TO SEE  
UENVI CLOTHING  
OR VISIT  
[WWW.UENVI.COM](http://WWW.UENVI.COM)



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

# Elon engineers pioneer STEM in the piedmont



Left: The Elon engineering and physics clubs make ice cream. Elon engineering has done other activities such as cardboard boat racing and slime-making. Top: (Left to right) Elon University juniors Reed Stasko, Julia Perline and Henry Chance are the leaders of Elon's engineering club. One of the club's long-term projects is to create a dynamic sign with interactive letters that spell out Elon. This will be put into the new engineering building next to the McMichael Science Building. Bottom: Elon engineering at Elon's organization on Young Commons fair in the fall of 2019.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELON ENGINEERING CLUB AND JINGER CALLWOOD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon Engineers is helping students find their place in STEM and prepare them for careers

**Jinger Callwood**  
Elon News Network

Cardboard boat racing, slime-making, and the Pumpkin Chunkin – a competition in which students design a catapult to see who can launch a pumpkin the furthest – are all projects that have been undertaken by Elon Engineers, a small group of students with a passion for engineering.

The organization is pioneering projects and working alongside faculty to develop Science, Technology, Engineering and Math programs at Elon.

The club typically meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. to discuss upcoming engineering events and work on projects.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the club to alter their meetings and projects in order to follow guidelines restricting the size of in-person gatherings.

“It is harder to do in-person group stuff. We are kind of at a standstill as of right now until we can figure if we’ll be able to safely do projects,” said Reed Stasko, a junior and the club’s treasurer.

The pandemic has placed limitations on the club, but they were still able to start the mentoring

program, which gives underclassmen and new students a way into the engineering program.

The mentor/mentee program matches upperclassmen with first-year students who are thinking of switching into the engineering program. The mentorship organization allows students to seek advice and create connections within the engineering department.

“It is mostly just to ask questions about what classes to take or somebody to rant to,” said junior and club president Julia Perline.

Perline and other executive members are mentors and are grateful for the faculty, who have been advocating for the program.

“We have a lot of support from the faculty on this program. We are hoping through collaborating with the faculty and Elon Engineers that we can keep this thing going for years to come,” said junior and club vice president Henry Chance.

The club continues to work on engineering projects. Currently, they have multiple initiatives and are planning more for the future. Chance said he thinks completing a couple of projects every year is important.

“We can have something to show for at the end of the year to be like, ‘hey, our club worked on this project. We were able to do this,’” Chance said.

One club initiative is a long-term project to create a dynamic sign with interactive letters spelling out Elon that would be put into the new engineering building next to the

“IT IS HARDER TO DO IN-PERSON GROUP STUFF. WE ARE KIND OF AT A STANDSTILL AS OF RIGHT NOW UNTIL WE CAN FIGURE IF WE’LL BE ABLE TO SAFELY DO PROJECTS.”

**REED STASKO**  
JUNIOR AND CLUB TREASURER

McMichael Science Building.

The club also works to prepare students for their professional careers. Last week, they hosted events with John Ring — the director of engineering outreach at Elon — and Laurie Judge and Robin Kazmarek from the Student Professional Development Center to discuss resume building and internship opportunities.

Stasko has also been able to do research with assistant professor of engineering and Elon Engineers adviser, Richard Blackmon.

Stasko is especially looking forward to the new Innovation Quad being built on campus as part of the Boldy Elon plan for 2030. According to the plan, the new quad will be a center for STEM advancement housing, labs, classrooms, research facilities and workspaces.

Elon Engineers’ executive committee is all part of the original dual-degree program where students can complete the first three years with a STEM-related major then transfer to an engineering school for an additional two years and earn degrees from both institutions. The new four-year plan allows students to spend four years at Elon studying a STEM field and graduate with a bachelor of science degree.

“The four-year program has existed for three years. A part of me is a tiny bit jealous that all of these things are happening that I couldn’t have been a part of, and another part of me is like ‘I’m part of it. I’m a part of the movement,’” Perline said.

# Fall activities during Coronavirus: What activities can you do while being safe

The pandemic has altered the traditional fall activities due to physical distancing guidelines

**Cailey Cetani**  
Elon News Network

With fall just around the corner, people are gearing up to celebrate the season. However, the pandemic has canceled most fall activities, leaving only a few options to enjoy the fall weather. In spite of the fact that activities are limited, there are still ways you can enjoy autumn and be safe.

Fall is all about getting out and enjoying the fall air, which has been encouraged as a safe way to be active during the coronavirus. You can go apple picking, pumpkin picking, hiking or just on a nice walk around the campus.

According to Freshman Megan Malone, the warm and familiar feeling of fall gives comfort to students.

“I have a lot of fond memories surrounding fall because it’s when the holiday season starts so like Halloween and dressing up or decorating and carving pumpkins, stuff like that. It feels very cozy to me ... because it’s getting colder outside.” Malone said.

Some farms opened around the Elon campus are still allowing visitors to go apple and pumpkin picking. However, there are some farms that are not doing their normal fall activities.

According to Malone, the search for a place to go apple and pumpkin picking has gotten a lot more difficult because of the coronavirus

“I was a little upset because originally we had the whole plan in mind but I double checked the website of where we were going to go to see how much it cost and then I saw that it said ‘closed for the 2020 season’ and I was like ‘oh my gosh’ and then I looked up a bunch of other places and they were all closed. So it was kind of really disappointing,” Malone said.

An example of a farm who has reinvented itself to stay open during the pandemic is Millstone Creek Orchard. Located in Ramseur, the farm is allowing families to go apple and pumpkin picking through reservations to allow for crowd control and social distancing to be present.

If you’re not into the labor part of apple picking, Perkins Orchard, located in Durham, gives you the fall experience you are looking for in the form of a cute farmers market. They sell fresh seasonal produce and allow you to pick out the perfect pumpkin without going out into the patch.

There are other options besides apple and pumpkin picking. You can go hiking on the myriad of trails North Carolina offers or just have a bonfire and eat some s’mores. For people 21 and over, just outside of Winston Salem, Divine Llama Vineyards allows visitors to sample their wines while getting up and close with their vineyard llamas. They are covid friendly by requiring masks and enforcing social



distancing to allow for a safe and fun experience.

On campus, many fall activities have been moved to zoom to help slow down the spread of the virus. For instance, Homecoming will be from Oct. 12-18, where you can talk to alum, participate in town halls and much more. In addition, some neighborhoods have had events such as an outdoor painting class and decorating your own mask.

According to Malone, she was amazed that there were still opportunities to do activities on campus.

“After having senior year online, I was kind of expecting not that many opportunities to do activities and things like that. I was actually pleasantly surprised that we were able to do some neighborhood activities. We did an outdoor painting session and we got to decorate our masks so that was nice.” Malone said.

For more information on some of the activities on campus, you can check Phoenix Connect or the university’s website for more information on Homecoming and other events.

## ELON BITE

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

# A trip to “Tickle My Ribs,” an Elon Barbecue Joint



**Jack Chambers**  
Senior

This week, I drove off campus to Tickle My Ribs, a North Carolina barbecue restaurant that serves smoked pork, beef and chicken, among other things. On this trip, I ordered a two-meat tray that had their signature ribs, pulled pork and sides of seasoned fries, mac and cheese and coleslaw.

I figured I would dig into the ribs first. The ribs were the star of the tray for me. They were juicy and tender but still held their shape when I bit into them. They emitted a wonderful aroma of smoke and acidic homemade barbecue sauce, one that pairs perfectly with the sweet rib meat. The only drawback to the ribs that I found was that they were not cooked evenly around; some spots of each rib were slightly overdone, where others were perfect.

After the ribs, I dug into the pork, which upon pressure from my fork, oozed out some of the fat locked inside — a good sign. The moist shredded pork had a nice balance of acidity from the vinegar that cut the sweetness of the barbecue sauce and the savory taste of the rendered fat in the pork shoulder. This pork was packed with more layers of flavor than any of the other items I tried; however, it did leave me wanting just a touch more spice and heat to bring it all together.

I had high expectations for the side dishes and was happy with what I found. The mac and cheese was delicious. It was creamy, cheesy and warm — everything that is great about comfort food. The french fries were wonderful

## JACK'S SCORE

# 6 of 10

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

as well. Fluffy on the inside, crisp on the outside and seasoned with smoky spices, the starchiness was a nice balance to the richness of all the meat on the tray. The coleslaw was the last piece of the meal I got into. The slaw was good, garnished with a slice of dill pickle which I thought was a nice touch. The shredded cabbage was bitter; the dressing was creamy but a little heavy; the carrots added a bit of sweetness that was nice; and the pepper it was seasoned with gave it just a hint of spice that really elevated the rest of the ingredients. Lastly, the restaurant surprised me and threw in some warm and crispy hushpuppies that were delicious and paired well with their house barbeque sauce.

Overall, I would say that “Tickle My Ribs” was a really delicious meal where you get a good amount of food for your money. The meats were the superstars while the sides really tied the tray together to make something solid. It also is a great place to take future family members or visitors off-campus if they want to try barbeque. I would give “Tickle My Ribs” a 6 out of 10 overall.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK CHAMBERS  
Ribs, pulled pork, mac and cheese, coleslaw, and a side of seasoned fries from “Tickle My Ribs” in Elon, North Carolina. Jack Chambers gives “Tickle My Ribs” a 6 rating out of 10.

# OPINIONS



# NOT ENOUGH

Elon's response to the Trump convoy is woefully inadequate

## CAMPUS VOICES



**Kennedy Boston**  
Elon Sophomore  
@LunaTimeLady

I thought it was the train coming.

I was directing one of the School of Communications' student television shows Under the Oaks on Saturday, Sept. 19. I heard a loud noise in the background of the audio and I quickly realized it wasn't a train. It was a convoy of trucks adorned with Confederate flags and Trump 2020 paraphernalia.

This isn't an uncommon sight to see on our campus; trucks circle Elon University constantly and harass women and people of color. Usually there's only one at a time. That Saturday, there were well over 200 — and it was terrifying.

The people in the convoy — which was born out of a Facebook event supporting the reelection campaign of President Donald Trump — screamed that "black lives don't matter," used white power hand gestures, threw milkshakes at people's cars and even threatened to rape several people who were simply walking across the street. The worst part is how Elon University Police Department prevented students from crossing the street to stop the convoy, telling them that it was a "permitted parade" when it was not.

I tweeted about the convoy several times in the hours afterward, asking why we hadn't received an E-alert about the event and why it was taking so long for an official response from the university. Later that night, I received an email from Vice President and Associate Provost for Inclusive Excellence Randy Williams. He said he had heard of a "bias incident" from my tweets that day and asked me to file a report.

I AM SO HAPPY TO BE HERE, AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO SPEND MY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE ANYWHERE ELSE, BUT I AM SO INCREDIBLY FRUSTRATED BY THE LACK OF CARE AND COMPASSION THIS UNIVERSITY HAS SHOWN TOWARD STUDENTS OF COLOR.

**KENNEDY BOSTON**  
ELON SOPHOMORE

The minimization of what had happened to just a "bias incident" was insulting, and I wrote that back in my response.

Williams then gave me the most honest response I have gotten from any administrator: he showed not just compassion for me as a student, but empathy as a Black person.

It took the university 28 hours to officially respond to the rest of the student body, and the response we got was lackluster. While they had issued no-trespass orders to the people who harassed students, students were encouraged to send Campus Police any videos of the events from Saturday and the school increased the number of EUPD officers patrolling campus at any

given time. It was insulting to see more EUPD officers on campus than before the incident since they effectively sat by doing nothing. I was hurt to see our administrators so far removed from what had happened to think that increasing police was the best way to keep students safe, but it wasn't nearly as hurtful as President Connie Book's video response on Wednesday.

The message starts with Book comparing the convoy to a motorcycle or vintage car drive as if those are at all similar to what we experienced Saturday. What was worse to hear was that there was going to be a task force that included safety officers, the very officers who sat back and did nothing to stop Saturday's events.

Book then claims that most of the people were respectful, as if shouts of "black lives don't matter" and threatening people with rape is respectful. The convoy was planned well in advance and came through campus as a way to scare and intimidate students, especially those of color. That is the most disrespectful thing the people in the convoy could have done and for Book to downplay it is negligent and ignorant.

I tweeted several times after the message was sent out, angry that the pain minority students were feeling was actively being ignored. I tweeted about how EUPD has followed me around campus like I don't belong here, how I have never gotten help from them and how round tables involving them will solve nothing. Later that night, I actually received a call from Book herself. She wanted to know what she could do better for the student body and we had a conversation about the university's response. But

GRACE TERRY | MANAGING EDITOR

**Left: A parade of vehicles in support of President Donald Trump drove through Elon University's campus as part of a convoy organized by a member of Alamance County Taking Back Alamance County (ACTBAC), a group designated as a neo-Confederate organization by the Southern Poverty Law Center, on Saturday, Sept. 19.**

**Top-right: Elon University professor of computer science Megan Squire holds a Black Matter Lives sign while a car from the parade supporting the reelection of President Donald Trump drives down East Haggard Avenue on Saturday, Sept. 19.**

**Bottom-right: A car with flags in support of President Donald Trump drives down East Haggard Avenue, on Saturday, Sept. 19.**

none of what we talked about was mentioned in the town hall Book held Friday as she danced around the topics people really wanted to hear more about.

I want to be clear: I love Elon. I am so happy to be here, and I wouldn't want to spend my college experience anywhere else, but I am so incredibly frustrated by the lack of care and compassion this university has shown toward students of color.

It has been a traumatic summer for people of color, from the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd to the protests worldwide. Time and time again, Elon has had a chance to get it right and somehow, they fail every single time. Whether it be posting photos from white photojournalists on Juneteenth or taking weeks to say "Black Lives Matter," it has been an infuriating and painful summer. I am critical because I care and because I know Elon can do so much better.

# RECRUITMENT IN THE AGE OF CORONAVIRUS

## A different look at Friday Night Lights

Local high school football players have toured schools and met with college coaches virtually

**Colby Cook**  
Elon News Network | @Cook\_Colby20

The recruiting process is a difficult road for all college football prospects in a normal year. Choosing a college — a place to learn, grow and train — for the college football athlete is a very difficult process. Enter COVID-19, the virus that has impacted people all over the globe, and turned the college football recruiting process upside down.

Prospective college athletes are faced with lots of uncertainty as they decide where they want to continue their education and football career. Division 1 athletics have instituted a recruiting freeze, and lower levels have altered the way that they are recruiting players due to the pandemic.

Jackson Stokes, a senior free safety and quarterback from Eastern Alamance High School said that he was quite uncertain about committing to a school without an in-person visit.

“It’s hard, because you can do as much on-line research and everything that you want. But until you actually go and visit a school and talk in person and everything, it’s really hard to know what kind of school it is and the atmosphere and everything around it,” Stokes said.

Coult Fussell, a senior quarterback from Walter M. Williams High School, is also unsure about going to school without the experience of an in-person tour.

“Real visitors, they’re walking around, you get to see everything and then [with] virtual, it’s like, you know, they show you their high-lights of campus and the city and everything like that,” Fussell said. “It’s a little bit harder to ask questions because you don’t really see stuff that you might want to ask about.”

Players are seeing less face-to-face interaction with collegiate coaching staff and are relying more on video calls.

Amid all of the uncertainty, high school football players in North Carolina will have to wait until the spring season to play while states in the surrounding area are playing in the fall. This will create some challenges in players’ routines. Tyrese Crisp, an outside linebacker and running back for Cummings High School, noted the challenges that come with an adjusted schedule.

“You know, as soon as we hit the field, it’s going to be hard because I think we have a game weeks after we have our [first] official practice,” Crisp said.

With the coronavirus pandemic, coaches have not been able to work out with their players, but they are getting creative about how they help keep their players in shape. Stokes said EAHS players participate in “Zoom workouts” with the team to help maintain their conditioning.

“We’re also participating in zooms every day, like bodyweight squats, push-ups, things like that bodyweight workout, so we can stay in shape” Stokes said.

Dontae Neddham, a senior center for



Dontae Neddham of Cummings High School holds his ground against Eastern Alamance High School. Neddham, a senior at Cummings, has had to make adjustments to keep his hopes of being recruited by a college team alive.

“

BUT UNTIL YOU ACTUALLY GO AND VISIT A SCHOOL AND TALK IN PERSON AND EVERYTHING, IT’S REALLY HARD TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF SCHOOL IT IS AND THE ATMOSPHERE AND EVERYTHING AROUND IT.

**JACKSON STOKES**  
EASTERN ALAMANCE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

Cummings High School said the coaches at Cummings, like head coach David Grimm, have requested that their players send in videos of themselves working out so coaches can keep track of the player’s progress.

“He encourages us to work out. And he asks us to send him a short video of us working out every day, so he knows we’re getting that in,” Neddham said.

College prospects around Alamance County have differing opinions about the spring season, knowing that surrounding states are playing football in the fall. Players who have not yet committed and are headed into their senior year are faced with some tough challenges about how and where they want to proceed to the next level.

“I think colleges are gonna be as fair as they can in the recruiting process, and I don’t think they’re gonna hold the fact that I haven’t had a senior season yet against me” Stokes said.

Fussell noted that he transferred to Williams High School from a smaller school to broaden his collegiate options, but that the pandemic has shifted his plans.

“Especially coming from, like, a small school, you know, I transferred here to hopefully have a decision going into this winter of where I would want to go or have options,” Fussell said, “but, you know, we got our season postponed, so it’s real tough, not having the fall season, having to wait till spring when most kids are making their decisions just for me to get my options.”

High school players have had to exercise extra discipline this year in order to stay conditioned and in top shape for the season without the supervision of their coaches.

Neddham said the break has helped him become a stronger player, and he thinks that it has made the team stronger as well.

“I think it [the break] for sure has made us stronger as a team because in order to become stronger as a team, you’ve got to become a stronger individual,” Neddham said. “Having this time off is definitely making us work harder on ourselves.”

Crisp echoed Neddham’s sentiment of personal improvement during this time.

“I’m just taking this time to get better,” he said.

High school players in the state can’t wait to get back on the gridiron, and are itching to play ball.

“I just want to play the game. And at this point, I just want to be with my teammates and compete if we can,” Stokes said.

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# Club sports struggle with COVID guidelines

The fencing club practices in the south campus gym in late 2017. For the fall of 2020, members of the fencing club unanimously agreed to no longer practice and suspended the club for the semester.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FENCING CLUB

Club fencing comes to the conclusion with of their suspended season due to COVID-19 guidelines

Ian Taylor  
Elon News Network

Despite Elon University providing recommendations to keep club sports on campus safe, one sport — club fencing — decided to suspend their operations right away. Will Holzman, senior and club fencing president, cited multiple reasons for why the club thought it was best to not hold a season. Before the start of fall semester, the Elon administration handed down guidelines to club sports teams regarding practice and gameplay. Depending on the level of contact the sport required, the club was branded as either high- or low-risk. Low covid-risk sports, like golf and swimming, are permitted to travel while high-risk, high contact sports will not be

playing matches this semester. The guidelines were meant to keep athletes safe, but some student leaders felt there was a safer option than attempting to follow these guidelines: suspending operations for the fall semester. Holzman said that fencing was one of those sports. The club unanimously agreed to no longer practice. “Even with the club sports guidelines, it would still be the safest option to not have practice at all,” Holzman said. The club made their decision based on three main factors, the first of which was that the nature of fencing masks makes them very porous and ineffective at limiting the spread of the coronavirus. “The masks we use are essentially hardened metal mesh that covers and protects the entire front and part of the sides of our heads,” Holzman said. “This mesh needs to be porous enough to allow us to see and breathe through the mask, which means that there is basically no restriction to airflow, making them incredibly terrible at stopping the coronavirus.” Although fencing isn’t often considered

““ WE HAVE A PRACTICE SPACE FULL OF PEOPLE BREATHING HEAVILY AND POTENTIALLY SPREADING THE VIRUS.

WILL HOLZMAN  
CLUB FENCING PRESIDENT

to be close contact, competitors are still close enough to each other to make members feel uncomfortable. During a fencing match, competitors often come face-to-face with each other, making the spread of the coronavirus very likely.

“Fencers will get close dozens of times in a single match, meaning it’s quite hard to socially distance without sacrificing the typical style this weapon requires,” Holzman said. Fencing is a physically taxing sport. Since the sport involves intense, quick movements, members are more likely to breathe heavier, which they feared could increase the spread of the virus. “Our warm-ups are meant to increase our heart and respiratory rates significantly before we even put on equipment, meaning we’d have a practice space full of people breathing heavily and potentially spreading the virus before we even started fencing,” Holzman said. Thus, for the sake of slowing the spread of the virus on campus, ensuring that traditional fencing style could be maintained and not increasing the respiratory strain on the athletes, club fencing will not take place this semester. “It made sense to help do our part in stopping any potential spread,” Holzman said, “not only to each other, but to everyone else we interact with outside the club as well.”

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