

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

EXTENDING EDUCATION'S REACH

Christian G. Gano | Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Helping underprivileged students in Alamance County is the focus of several programs at Elon University while the student body's socioeconomic diversity stalls.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ASHIKA CHARLES SOMETIMES DRIVES her daughter to Elon University on Wednesday evenings. But sometimes her mother will, depending on if Charles has enough money for gas. "Employment... yeah I've been having my ups and downs," Charles said. Charles recently lost her job, which

has made transportation to and from Elon much more difficult. Her daughter is a participant in the "It Takes a Village" Project at Elon. The program aims to give underprivileged students in the community access to quality education, a resource which Charles said is hard to come by. Charles said her daughter's education is her top priority, despite

any financial hardship she faces. Charles said she spent her youth in New York City as the oldest of nine siblings, yet she described herself as shy. She said she started to learn more about the world when someone took an interest in her education.

See **Education** | pg. 3

Dancing with "The Wolves": Elon's newest musical production

Sarah DeLappe's all-girls soccer team takes the field in Elon University's production of 'The Wolves'

Miranda Ferrante
Elon News Network | @ferrantemiranda

The theater production process is intimidating in any capacity, but Elon University's performing arts department is going after its goals in just a twelve-day period. In a traditionally male-dominated industry, Sarah DeLappe's "The Wolves" is a modern play by a woman for women, which raises the curtain on the world's most pressing issues through an incredible coming-of-age story, highlighting atomic girl power. Director Kim Shively explained that the crew

began production on Jan. 3 and will work from 9a.m.-6 p.m. everyday until completion. "We will have worked for twelve days with admirable commitment from the students," she said. "The team warms-up and dribbles while dealing with the cut-throat, competitive world of high school sports," Shively said. As the teens struggle with the transition from adolescence to adulthood, they sweat their way through this funny and poignant play. "Very often, female stories are told or written by men, [but] 'The Wolves' is a play about women empowerment, by a female playwright, which is really unique," Shively said.

See **Wolves** | pg. 8

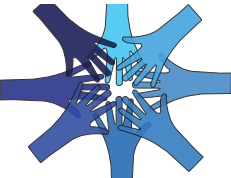


CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The members of Elon's production of Wolves pose for a photo in the upcoming show in Roberts Studio Theater in Arts West on Tuesday Jan. 14.



NEWS • PAGE 7
Bernie Sanders discusses issues close to home for college students at Iowa Caucus



OPINION • PAGE 9
Examining privilege and a sense of belonging on Elon's campus



SPORTS • PAGE 10
Former Elon football player finds his way home a decade later.

THE PENDULUM

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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.

- Lashika Charles is hoping to move out of Section _____ housing, in order to enroll her daughter in a better school. *See Page 3 for answer.*
- SGA will be updating the _____ manual over the winter term. *See Page 6 for answer.*
- Elon University’s performing arts department will be putting on “The _____” with only 12 days of preparation. *See Page 8 for answer.*
- _____ Bland is back at Elon as the Phoenix cornerback coach . *See Page 10 for answer.*
- Charlie _____ is the senior captain of Elon Club Hockey . *See Page 11 for answer.*

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

CALENDAR: JAN. 15 – JAN. 21

MINDFUL YOGA 11:30 A.M. McBride Gathering Space, Numen Lumen 15	WINTERFAITH 11:45 A.M. Elon Community Church 15	EV! BLOOD DRIVE 12:30 P.M. Moseley Center 15	5TH ANNUAL HUMAN LIBRARY 11 A.M. Koenigsberger Atrium Second Floor 16	CREDE BLACK STUDENT FORUM 6 P.M. Moseley Center Meeting Room 215 16
WINTER WONDERLAND 10 P.M. Lakeside 17	THE WOLVES 7:30 P.M. Scott Studio Roberts Theatre 18	CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT 12 P.M. Lakeside 19	3D PRINTING: GETTING STARTED 5 P.M. Maker Hub - Downtown 21	MLK JR. SOUP AND SOCIETY 5:30 P.M. McBride Gathering Space, Numen Lumen 21

EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT



Left to right: Lashika Charles greets her daughter Skylee Ferebee when she gets off the bus in Graham, North Carolina, on Tuesday, Jan. 14.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EDUCATION | from cover

“A preacher had came up to me and said, ‘You know what, timidness ain’t going to do nothing for you but shun your dreams,’” Charles said. “He said, ‘You don’t know what that means?’ And I said ‘no,’ I didn’t. He said ‘Maybe if you go to one of my reading classes you can learn what timid and shun means.’”

Charles said the preacher’s act of kindness in going out of his way to teach her to read gave her a new perspective. Now, she’s passing on the favor.

“I took that skill he gave to me, and I did it with my daughter” she said.

As a young adult, Charles said she was a victim of molestation, abuse and discrimination, all of which she said affected her chances of finishing college.

“It was a struggle up there. So much struggle,” Charles said.

She said she moved to Alamance County following a domestic dispute, which was when the challenge of finding an affordable, sustainable education for her daughter began.

“I packed up my one bag of clothes with \$600 on my card ... and I came straight down to North Carolina,” Charles said.

In order to provide for her daughter, Charles has worked many jobs as a single mother, including waitressing and hair-dressing. She said she is also currently enrolled in online classes, remaining dedicated to supporting her daughter Skylee.

Charles described Skylee as a bright and fun-loving 9-year-old. Skylee currently attends Haw River Elementary School, which is not far from their two-bedroom apartment in a public housing complex in Graham.

For Skylee, her academic career is just beginning. Charles said she wants her daughter to get the best education she can.

“Education is our generation’s route right now. It’s our journey” Charles said. “Education is one of the main factors of being successful in this world today. I just think that gives edges to anyone. Any individual should have education.”

For now, Charles is making between \$8,000-\$10,000 per year. She said she is doing her best but that her current financial situation makes it difficult to support her daughter’s academic endeavors, which include buying school supplies and attending field trips.

Skylee’s elementary school qualifies for Title I program services, which provides federal funding to schools in which at least 55% of students are considered economically disadvantaged.

According to a 2017 national study on high school graduates’ pursuance of higher education, college enrollment immediately following high school graduation is 10% lower for students who attended a high school classified as low income than for those graduating from higher-income schools.

“

A LOT OF LOW INCOME STUDENTS DO DREAM OF GIVING THEIR PARENTS THE HOUSE THEY WANT... BUT I THINK ONE THING WE ALL HAVE IN COMMON IS THAT WE ARE APPRECIATIVE OF OUR PARENTS, BECAUSE IF IT WASN’T FOR THEM I DON’T THINK WE WOULD BE PUSHED SO HARD.

KEVIN ALVARADO
JUNIOR

Charles said she wants to eventually move out of Section 8 housing, potentially allowing her to enroll Skylee in a school that could better prepare her for college enrollment.

The one that got away

In a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood in Burlington resides the Alvarado family, who emigrated to the U.S. from Ecuador before welcoming twins.

One of those twins is Kevin Alvarado, who was accepted into the Odyssey Program at Elon University, despite an economically disadvantaged upbringing.

Patrick Murphy, director of financial aid at Elon, speculates that Odyssey applications “are probably in the several hundreds.”

Odyssey Scholars at Elon must be first generation college students who have lacked opportunities to be involved in enriching educational programs within their school systems. They are described as students who will “bring cultural or socioeconomic diversity” to the school.

Growing up, Alvarado, his mother and his sister shared one bedroom in their Burlington home. Attached to their home was a care center, where Kevin’s mother often prepared meals and provided a living space for people in the community.

Alvarado said he is grateful to have had his mother’s support, which helped him get to where he is today.

“A lot of low-income students do dream of giving their parents the house they want, giving their parents the car they want ... but I think one thing we all have in common is that we are appreciative of our parents” Alvarado said. “If it wasn’t for them, I don’t think we would be pushed so hard.”

Alvarado also attended the Elon Academy, which is a program dedicated to helping local students with financial need pursue higher education. He said it allowed him to get his foot in the door of higher education and set him up for success when the college application process rolled around.

“Out of my 10 friends, I’d say four to five of them dropped out. Three of them are working,” Alvarado said. “Even though they graduated high school, they’re continuing working construction and stuff like that.”

According to the latest data on North Carolina high school dropout rates, the Alamance-Burlington school system is among the top 20 with the highest dropout rates.

When Alvarado arrived on Elon’s campus, he said it was luxurious. He said the fact that students owned particular items, such as cars and clothes, was off-putting to him.

“I come from a school where people barely even have a house. They may rent a trailer or they may live in some kind of government subsidized housing,” Alvarado said. “Coming to Elon where like students are like, ‘Yeah, I own this or my parents bought me this for my birthday, it’s kind of crazy,’” Alvarado said.

Alvarado is currently in his junior year. Next semester, he plans on studying abroad in Spain, an opportunity he said he never would have had if it wasn’t for the help of Elon.

Alvarado said he is humbled to have experienced such hardships growing up because it only makes his achievements more special.

“I do feel grateful,” Alvarado said. “All those late nights I stayed up studying and tried to get the best grade I could, it will pay off.”

Socioeconomic diversity at Elon

Programs at Elon for students from disadvantaged economic backgrounds are the Odyssey Program, the “It Takes a Village” Project, and the Elon Academy, all of which were started under Leo Lambert’s tenure as president.

According to Vice President of Institutional Advancement Nan Perkins, Lambert was known for caring about students with disadvantaged economic backgrounds. In her contribution to an article on Lambert’s legacy, she recalled him saying, “Elon cannot be an island of prosperity in a sea of poverty.”

Progress on The Elon Commitment reveals that the university’s strategic 10-year-plan is 96.9 percent complete. One of the three subgoals within the goal to “double need-based financial aid,” which are listed as “In progress

but will be completed,” is to increase need-based aid as a whole. This would lead to higher participation in the Odyssey program and more socioeconomic diversity at the university.

Need-based aid uses the Free Application for Federal Student Aid application (FAFSA) to award financial aid based on a student’s family’s financial situation. According to Murphy, just over half of the student body at Elon applies for need-based financial aid, which includes students who do not qualify for aid.

“We actually do have people that make over \$1 million that apply for need-based aid” Murphy said. “I guess need is relative in everyone’s mind.”

Murphy said around 35 to 36 percent of the student body actually qualifies for need-based aid.

“We’re working with a fairly low number of students,” Murphy said.

However, Murphy said that students who apply for need-based aid do not necessarily come from a low-income family, meaning they do not contribute to the socioeconomic diversity at Elon.

“There’s kind of a myth out there that financial need is dependent upon income,” Murphy said. “That’s not necessarily true. There’s a whole lot of factors that play into that. So, say you could have a family who is making well over \$100,000 a year, but they might have six kids in college. That’s a very high need family.”

Murphy said in total, two-thirds of students receive some type of aid. As for socioeconomic diversity, Murphy said that’s what awarding financial aid is all about.

“It’s designed to level the playing field to enable somebody who normally would not be able to attend to be able to be here,” Murphy said. “I would say that’s the underlying purpose of financial aid at the root.”

According to a 2017 New York Times report based on millions of anonymous tax records, the median family income at Elon is \$208,300, and nearly 80% of the student body comes from a family in the top 20% of households based on income.

Murphy said the priority of the university has been to focus on “keeping the tuition low, which also means that our financial aid is low.”

The Center for Access and Success said the university has taken tremendous strides toward socioeconomic diversity. The Odyssey Program has increased its pool of applicants, and there was recently a large increase in new scholarships, which drew half a million dollars from endowments.

For low-income students applying for need-based aid, Murphy said he suggests taking time to discuss the road ahead.

“Sit down as a family and just discuss what is realistic,” Murphy said. “We’re not going to be stepping it up if they fail the plan for their four. So realize that college is a four-year proposition.”



Former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg addresses a crowd of around 300 supporters in Winterest, Iowa, on Jan. 13.

JON SARVER | REPORTER



Elon sophomore Trinity Dixon protests the prospect of a war with Iran outside of the Alamance Building on Jan. 9.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Elon forward Simon Wright spins toward the hoop as he drives for a layup against UNCW on Jan. 11 in Schar Center. Wright put up nine points and seven rebounds in the Phoenix's 80-63 win over the Seahawks.

THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Elon freshman Hunter McIntosh breaks down the court against College of Charleston sophomore Zep Jasper in Schar Center on Thursday, Jan. 9.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Elon graduate student Marcus Sheffield II dunks the ball against the College of Charleston Cougars on Thursday, Jan. 9 in Schar Center.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Former Elon University English professor Anne Casebaum speaks at the "No war with Iran" protest outside of the Alamance Building on Jan. 9.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Members of Elon University's production of "The Wolves" stretch to get ready for their game in the show in Roberts Studio Theater in Arts West on Jan. 14.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Former "Sesame Street" actress Sonia Manzano speaks about diversity at McCrory Theatre on Jan. 14.

IAN MYERS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Elon guard Ariel Colon goes up for a layup while on a fast break against the College of Charleston on Jan. 10 in Schar Center. Colon scored 13 points in only 16 minutes in the Phoenix's 90-48 victory.

THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SGA treasurer, finance board amend treasurer's manual

The 7-month-old model will undergo changes after students express frustration

Emery Eisner

Elon News Network | @eisneremery

Throughout Winter Term, Amanda Yaffa, senior and executive treasurer of Elon University's Student Government Association, will draft changes to the treasurer's manual with the finance board. Yaffa said she hopes to see the changes implemented in the spring semester when she said SGA will likely vote on the issue at the first or second business meeting in February.

"The treasurer's manual just needs to be updated in terms of numbers that may have been beneficial to people in the past but just aren't anymore," Yaffa said. "I think another thing that's going to be updated in the treasurer's manual is just more specifics, more explanations on exactly what will be funded, what won't be funded."

Yaffa said she also hopes to be able to increase the amount of discretion held by the executive treasurer for small requests, such as money for food, at a meeting. According to Yaffa, this could help alleviate stress on the finance board and cut back on the wait time for larger requests, which she said is the source of the majority of complaints directed at the finance board.

Jana Lynn Patterson, dean of students and SGA advisor, works with Yaffa and the accounting team to process requests over a period of up to four weeks, according to Yaffa. If a request includes a receipt that is not itemized or does not show the last four digits of the credit card number used, the request will be denied and must be resubmitted, which draws the process out for a longer period of time.

Information regarding budget allocations, both to organizations and individuals, from the fall semester will be made available to the public by the beginning of the spring semester, Yaffa said.

"I do think this treasurer's manual has been great. By no means am I trying to redo this whole process," Yaffa said. "But I do think that we can make it in a way that is benefiting more organizations, organizations that have been struggling a little."

Modeling change

The treasurer's manual was drafted by former executive treasurer Max Pivonka '19 and was implemented in June 2019. According to Pivonka, one of the main goals of the new funding model was granting more access to smaller organizations.

The old model "didn't really reflect change in our campus climate and the changing nature of our student body," according to Pivonka.

"I think with smaller organizations, they have the opportunity to apply and to apply more," Pivonka said. "At the end of the day, whether people are seeing it or not, the funding is a lot more accessible than it has historically been."

Pivonka also said that the new model – which was heavily inspired by Northeastern University's finance model – is more "equitable" since it "provides more of a check on SGA," because it has to request

funding like every other organization. However, according to a report by Northeastern's student newspaper, the university recently shifted to a system of annual budget allocations much like the system Elon's SGA used before Pivonka drafted the new model.

Northeastern's new system, in which the majority of funding allocations are granted annually, allows the budget to be spread out more "equitably," according to Northeastern SGA comptroller, David Hope.

Hope said with Northeastern's new system, the finance board has less "financial oversight" since the new model grants greater flexibility with organization spending. Both systems have "pros and cons," according to Hope.

Growing Pains

Since the new manual has come into effect, organizations such as North Carolina Student Legislature have struggled with changes in regulations. Sophomore Daniel Dorociak, treasurer of NCSL — an organization in which students can write resolutions and debate them up to the state level — said he has had issues with funding conferences: the new model restricts the amount of money that can be allocated for hotel rooms to \$80 per night, which is not enough to cover the full cost, according to Dorociak.

Pivonka said that while some SGA funding should help students get to conferences, it isn't meant for students "to be staying in the nicest hotels." He said he acknowledges that "80 bucks is tight, but a lot of times you can find a hotel room, depending on where you are, around that range. It's doable is what it comes down to."

While initially Dorociak paid approximately \$300 out-of-pocket to cover the withstanding costs for NCSL's hotel stays, he said the department of political science has since reimbursed him.

NCSL advisor and assistant professor of political science Baris Kesgin declined an interview but said political science "has been supportive" of Model UN and NCSL. He added that "both organizations have been adapting to the SGA's new funding procedures, which all student organizations

must follow. The Department has been committed to support these organizations when their expenses are not already covered by the SGA."

Pivonka attributed the frustration with the new model to the fact that this is the first year of its implementation.

"We anticipated that there would be some growing pains, I'm sure there already have been some, I think that's one of the nice things about the treasurer's manual, it is a flexible guide," Pivonka said.

However, former SGA senator Stefanie Milovic '19 said the manual's lack of explicit guidelines has led her and other students to fear speaking out against SGA.

"The rationale here is the student government is also responsible for allocating funding to every organization on campus, and as I'm sure every student can attest to, their organization, their kind of chosen family, is the crux of their Elon experience," Milovic said. "There lies that fear every single time they apply for funding, then. Is my comment going to impact my organization and its future performance? That's why so many people



JAKOB REUTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior and executive treasurer of the Elon University Student Government Association Amanda Yaffa sits at her desk with the new treasurer's manual in front of her.

are afraid to say something. Because whether or not it will definitely impact their organization, there is always that fear of it."

Milovic said that while the "concept" of SGA is "absolutely full of principle and integrity," it is impossible to ignore the biases that each person carries.

Yaffa said she shares concerns about the "discretionary" nature of the finance board.

"I bring things to the finance board and certain things are just up to their discretion," Yaffa said. "The way I present things can also lead to certain outcomes, and so the person that's in this position has to be aware of that. I do have concerns with that, and that's something that's hard."

Yaffa said this issue is also something she hopes to change when revisions to the manual occur over Winter Term.

The assistant to the executive treasurer, senior Franky Storm, said he considers the lack of specific regulations stated in the treasurer's manual to be a strength.

"It isn't restrictive. There is a reasonable amount of discretion allowed to the finance board," Storm said. "I think we've done a very good job at understanding in particular that we're the first finance board, and that means that there are a lot of decisions that are going to be setting precedents. So we make sure that we have a discussion about what this means for the future every time we make a decision."

According to Storm, it is worth students "knowing that it really has been working out."

"It's been profoundly successful and it's going to do a lot of really good for organizations on campus," Storm said. While he addressed NCSL's issues with funding at a recent SGA town hall, he said it was also important to recognize the successes of the model.

"It's important that we realize that particular organizations, like, let's say NCSL, may not have had this problem in the past, but there were other organizations that weren't receiving funding that they needed, and we've already allocated more money this semester than the previous model allowed us to," Storm said. "And I don't want to diminish the amount that the model can be frustrating for some organizations but ... we're actually helping more organizations than the few that are being hurt."

Senior Matthew Mitton, treasurer of Phoenix Phanatics, said his experience with the new funding model has been "overwhelmingly positive," and said that without the change to the model, Phanatics would be limited to "cheering in the stands," rather than putting on events.

Yaffa said that student involvement will be necessary when changes to the model are being made.

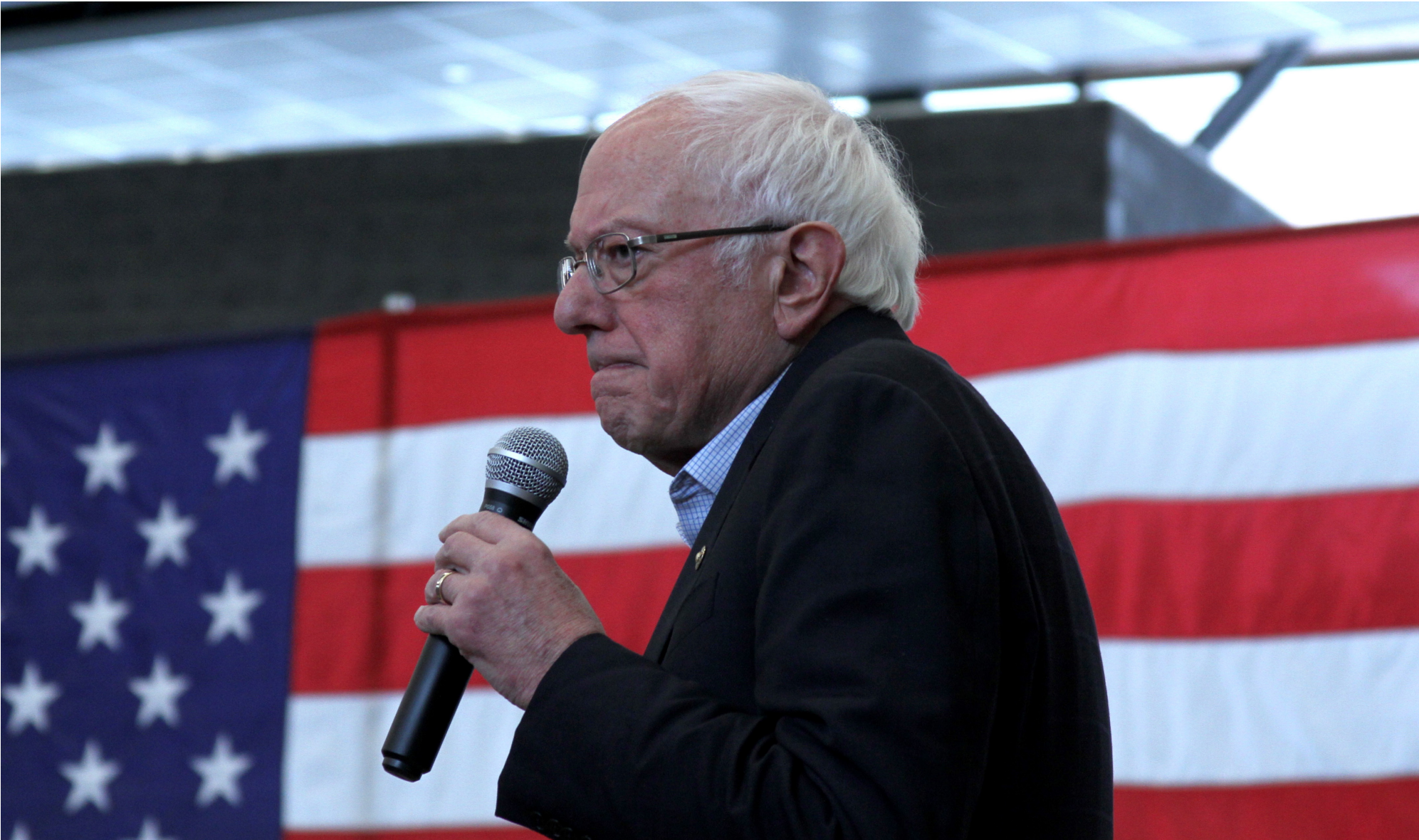
"I want people to know that I want them to be involved in the process as well. I would love for people to come meet with me at the end of J-Term when I'm having an event about this, and I would love for people to come at the beginning of spring term as well when they're back for people that are abroad," she said. "I'm open to suggestions, we want to make this manual in a manner that benefits people more and explains things more."

In a mass email sent on Jan. 6, Yaffa provided a link to a survey about SGA funding, writing that at the close of the fall semester, "SGA and the Finance Board are wondering how the first semester on the new SGA funding system affected you and/or your organization. While the new system has benefited many organizations, we do believe there is room for improvement."

The survey closes Jan. 15.

ELON IN IOWA

Sen. Bernie Sanders speaks on issues to college students



Sen. Sanders addresses a crowd in Newton, Iowa on Jan. 11.

JON SARVER | REPORTER

The presidential hopeful talks climate change, student debt and foreign policy

Emery Eisner
Elon News Network | @eisneremery

NEWTON, IOWA — Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), who leads the race for the Democratic Party nomination in the most recent Iowa poll, spoke at Berg Middle School in Newton, Iowa, on Jan. 11, just 23 days before the 2020 Iowa caucuses. While he spent the majority of the town hall speaking on the issues of universal health care, voting rights and climate change, he also addressed universal child care, alleviating student debt and his policy differences with President Donald Trump.

University of Arkansas sophomore Annie Shook, who attended the event, said foreign policy is important to her and that she also sees this passion in her peers.

“Whenever I bring up foreign policy or anti-imperialism, there’s a much bigger reaction than you’d ever expect, whereas the media never really speaks up about the American people really caring about that sort of thing,” Shook said. “I’ve gotten a lot of feedback about people being passionate about it.”

During the question portion of Sanders’ town hall, Shook asked the presidential hopeful about his stance on American involvement abroad. Sanders said he favored finding diplomatic solutions rather than using the military,

citing his 2003 vote against the Iraq War.

“I thought that there were ways to solve that issue and get [U.S.] troops out of Kuwait without military force,” Sanders said, adding that the two biggest U.S. “military blunders” were in Vietnam and Iraq.

“You need an administration which does not lie to the American people, but tells them the truth,” Sanders said. “Our job must be, whether it is Israel or Palestine, or Iran and Saudi Arabia, it must be to use our power to bring people together to solve their conflicts in a way that doesn’t involve war.”

Sanders suggested that military spending could be reallocated to fight climate change, which was another topic he spoke on extensively. He noted that politicians who deny the existence of climate change are “lying to the American people” and are “doing a huge disservice to their children and grandchildren and future generations.”

In his speech, Sanders cited the wildfires in Australia and California, as well as flooding in Houston, Texas and Venice, Italy, in order to illustrate the underestimated speed at which climate change is progressing. Sanders added that “for the future of future generations, we must get our act together.”

Sanders said he considers the climate crisis and the “moral direction” of the U.S. to be among the most important issues for young voters, in accord with the Spring 2019 Harvard IOP Youth Poll.

Grinnell University senior Mariyah Jahangiri, another event

“

I THINK THE FACT THAT BERNIE IS ADVOCATING FOR ELIMINATION OF ALL STUDENT DEBT IS INCREDIBLY NEW AND UNIQUE. BERNIE IS A CANDIDATE THAT BRINGS ELECTORAL POLITICS TO THE GROUND, AND I THINK AS MORE PEOPLE REALIZE THAT AND MORE OF MY PROGRESSIVE PEERS REALIZE THAT, THEY’RE ENTERING THE BERNIE CAMPAIGN SPECIFICALLY FOR THAT REASON, AND THEY’RE REALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT IT.

MARIYAH JAHANGIRI
GRINNELL UNIVERSITY SENIOR

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visit the “Politics” tab on elonnewsnetwork.com or scan the QR Code below.



attendee, said she hopes to see her peers vote in the caucuses.

“Every person in Iowa has a lot of power in terms of what happens in the rest of the election,” Jahangiri said. “Every person knows that their vote counts.”

Jahangiri also said she has seen how Sanders’ stance on student-centric issues can rally her peers.

“I think the fact that Bernie is advocating for elimination of all student debt is incredibly new and unique,” Jahangiri said, “Bernie is a candidate that brings electoral politics to the ground, and I think as more people realize that and more of my progressive peers realize that, they’re entering the Bernie campaign specifically for that reason, and they’re really passionate about it.”

Maeve Ashbrook, Liam Collins, Ashlyn DeLoughy, Jack Norcross, Maria Ramirez, Jon Sarver and Ian Weiss contributed to this report.

This article is produced by Elon University students traveling throughout Iowa to cover the 2020 caucuses.

LIFESTYLE



GIRLS GOT GAME

WOLVES | from cover

To enhance the “girl power” concept, the play features an all-female cast in scenes situated before the team’s soccer games. The show depicts themes and a storyline of the experiences of these young women in modern.

“The show is exciting for a lot of reasons. It was written in 2016 by Sarah DeLappe, a young playwright, in her twenties. The show is just four years old and has had a very successful run off-Broadway and is being performed all over the country,” Shively said.

“It is rewarding to get to work with my creative partner and with the students, some who I have known for four years,” Shively said. “Being my fourth year at Elon, there’s something really satisfying about it. It’s a really unique and collaborative experience to have a modern female director and female dramaturge, with an all-female cast.”

Dedication and hardwork are not unfamiliar to Elon’s actors. The drive and passion they exhibit has aided a rapid production process, which will be ready for the stage shortly.

Junior, Haley Bronzino, who’s character goes only by her uniform number, 13, said, “during callbacks, there were basic soccer drills and exercises which we had to do with the ball in order to make it believable to the audience that we are passionate about soccer, even if we did not play in real life.”

Bronzino explained that the actors have been exposed to plant-based diets followed by professional athletes, which has aided in the understanding of what goes into the process of putting a show together.

“It’s so inspiring to be surrounded by smart, intelligent, creative women to tell the story,” Bronzino said.

“Number 13 is a character who is your wacky, out of context friend, the class clown who is always looking for a joke and brings a lot of energy to the scene,” Bronzino said.

“The want to always be funny causes Number 13 to be less aware of those around her. Her flaw lies in the fact that she does not take the big issues around the world seriously. They don’t seem real to her,” Bronzino said.

Bronzino said being a part of the show has shown her “how much of the outside



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ALL THE GIRLS HAVE FLAWS, YET ALL HAVE MOMENTS OF SERIOUS POWER AND STRENGTH AS WELL. THE SHOW IS YOUNG GIRLS COMING TO TERMS WITH THEIR SEXUALITY, FAMILIAL, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL AND WORLD ISSUES. THE SHOW IS SO BEAUTIFULLY DONE AND AN HONOR TO BE A PART OF.

ALEXANDRA STAFFORD
SENIOR

world drifts into the lives of the girls.”

A modern play like “The Wolves” has taught the actors and hopes to show the audience how issues can influence the way individuals treat each other in their daily lives.

In acknowledging age differences from 16-year-old teenagers to 45-year-old adults, Bronzino said, “the number makes us feel like we are so different, yet, in reality we are experiencing the same thing.”

Senior Alexandra Stafford describes “The Wolves” as a coming-of-age story in a media-heavy time, where the characters have so much thrown at them which they must deal with as well.

“I play Number 8, who I call the ‘middle child,’ who holds an ‘I see you, do you see me?’ outlook,” Stafford said. “She is young, naive and really wants to make connections. #8 is bubbly and wants to remain an adolescent for as long as she can.”

The girls in the show say they are confined to the bubble of their soccer team.

“There are so many expectations put on women to be a lot more mature,” Stafford said. “There is a lot of pressure placed on the youth to be the best, when they are just trying to figure out who they are.”

“The show is an honest look at young girls coming up in a media age. It’s the play to see,” Stafford said.

In the changing times, “The Wolves” is not a story seen very often in theater today. It is a play written by women for women.

“It is empowering and rewarding to be in a room with females sharing a story about

Above: Members of Elon University’s production of “The Wolves” stretch to get ready for their game in the show in Roberts Studio Theater in Arts West on Tuesday Jan. 14. Photo by: Clare Grant | Staff Photographer

Left: Members of Elon University’s production of “The Wolves” practice drills in the show in Robert’s Studio Theater in Arts West on Tuesday Jan 14. Photo by: Clare Grant | Staff Photographer

IF YOU GO

Where: Roberts Studio Theatre, Scott Studios at Arts West

When: Jan. 18, 20, 21, 22 and Feb. 4–7 at 7:30 p.m.; Jan. 19 and Feb. 8 at 2 p.m.

Admission: \$15 or Elon ID

Disclaimer: Adult language and themes. Not recommended for audiences under 13

women, it’s not a story you see everyday,” Stafford said.

“All the girls have flaws, yet all have moments of serious power and strength as well. The show is young girls coming to terms with their sexuality, familial, social, educational and world issues. The show is so beautifully done and an honor to be a part of,” Stafford said.

Confined to an air dome, the audience will watch as the girls mature, learning about each other and themselves in the 21st century.

“There is so much change for each character from the beginning to the end,” Stafford said.

“The Wolves” is unique and unlike many other productions. The only characters on stage are female.

“The male-identified characters may be acknowledged, but they are never seen on stage,” Stafford said.

“Because the characters do not have names and are identified by their numbers, they can be played by anyone, of any demographic,” Stafford said.

“The Wolves” is a contemporary story and a positive portrayal of women empowerment.

A milestone for women entertainment, “The Wolves” wrestles with massive issues rarely discussed in theater.

“It has been so much fun getting into the mentality of a teen athlete and portraying this very specific purview of the world,” Stafford said.

OPINIONS



AUDREY RAPHAELS | DESIGNER

Privilege and belonging at Elon, diversity promotion



Alicia Powell
Elon News Network
@elonnewsnetwork

Our commitment to higher education should also coincide with our values as human beings. I want to believe that we still hold true the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s claim that the content of one's character should matter more than the color of one's skin. He had a dream of a society that cultivates love for one another, with the guarantee of basic rights and freedoms, like education, that had been stripped away from blacks because of their skin color. But do we really live this way? Is education really accessible for all? Do we all bELONG?

Elon preaches about diversity and inclusivity. However, when we are composed of 18% students of color and 5% black students, how accessible is our university? Or when we have repeated incidents of racial slurs spewed at black students from truck drivers aimlessly driving around campus? Or when we bring former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley to our campus when she, in turn, supports a man who ultimately does

not support people of color and thus does not support our minority student population?

Black culture has been upheld in spite of slavery, genocide, mass incarceration and other evils that have been committed in an effort to eliminate and dehumanize us. These tribulations have denied our right to a proper education one way or another — and yet we still prevail. This has fueled our community to value the power of education, despite the systematic and institutionalized oppression we continue to experience.

Since King's time, America has come a long way. However, the black community still faces challenges. The cost of an education is outrageously high, and the lack of resources in minority communities is seen within our educational systems. The means to obtain a higher education, which include socioeconomic barriers, makes education an unattainable dream for millions across the nation.

As an Odyssey scholar, I know I would

not have been able to afford to come to Elon if it weren't for my scholarship here. A lot of college-bound minority students that I know tend to base their college selections on whichever university will provide them with the most financial support. Without scholarships, many students succumb to debt for the rest of their lives to pay back student loans.

At Elon, a predominantly white institution, we all strive to be academically strong and involved. However, we sometimes forget that we must allow space for others to bELONG as well. There is a high level of privilege, wealth and esteem on this campus. Even T-Pain commented on Elon's wealth.

I am not shaming anyone who identifies as such — I am urging you to evaluate your privilege. I am not asking you to be ashamed of your privilege, but instead to provide space for others to receive the opportunities and representation that you do.

I challenge you to attend more events that allow you to understand the minority experience and race relations, instead of being scared of giving in to white fragility. These small practices can allow you to be an ally to minority students. Further, attending these events should not be an academic obligation. You should have a desire to help for change needed in divided America today.

Elon, a liberal arts university that aims to have its students challenge the mind, find passion, make bold paths and engage the world, does just that — or, rather, gives students free reign to do so for themselves. We must all strive to make college more accessible for students of color, and truly practice what we preach in terms of diversity and inclusivity. We must lead and come together to build a world that transforms the mind, body and spirit to encourage freedom of thought and liberty of conscience for all.



Elon University football assistant and cornerbacks coach Chris Bland talks with his team during the Phoenix's Week 4 game at Wake Forest University. Bland graduated from Elon in 2008 and returned to the team under head coach Tony Trisciani.

CONTRIBUTED BY ELON ATHLETICS

FORMER PHOENIX FINDS HIS WAY HOME

Chris Bland transitions from leader on the field to leader on the sidelines

Colby Cook | Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

THE PATH BACK HOME was an interesting one for Phoenix cornerback coach Chris Bland, but he has immediately established his presence on the gridiron for the Elon football program.

Bland played for the Phoenix from 2004-2008 and was a three-year starter. On the field, he was a star for the Phoenix. Even though one of Bland's flagship sayings was "trust the process," he didn't quite know what his process would be after college. That is, until he found a bit of luck at a local high school.

"I had a best friend that was coaching at the local high school," Bland said. "He kind of helped me out a little bit, got me into West Brunswick High School as a TA, and just wanted to help out with the football team."

Back home and on familiar turf, Bland said he continued to learn from his mentors to become a leader for the young men passing through the high school ranks.

From West Brunswick High School, Bland moved to Eastern Carolina University, where he said he grew exponentially as a coach. Bland said he utilized his position and friendly demeanor to teach his kids about football and how to succeed in life.

"Though I got into coaching and you're trying to win games, you can use football as a life lesson," Bland said. "It was something that, actually, I wanted to instill in young men and using football as a way to do that; to use that platform to help out young men to be successful in life after football."

After his time at ECU, Bland spent some time at Brevard College, then landed at Football Championship Subdivision up-and-comer Kennesaw State University to coach the Owls' defensive backs in 2014. Bland experienced success at a high level at Kennesaw State, and became quite the name in coaching circles.

Life for Bland changed forever when his former coach called. Tony Trisciani was on the coaching staff at Elon in 2006 when Bland played and had recently been

promoted to the head coaching position at Elon. Trisciani needed a defensive backs coach and called his former player to fill the position. Coupled with the intrigue of coaching at his alma mater and moving closer to home, Bland accepted the offer.

"My grandma got sick. She got very, very sick and I wanted to get back closer just so I can see her more," Bland said. "So when coach Trisciani got the job here, and he called me up about coming back, it was a no-brainer at that time."

Bland is part of a culture change for the Phoenix, as Trisciani took over the reigns prior to the 2019 season. The Phoenix looked to continue developing quality football players both on and off the field. Back at Rhodes Stadium, Bland said he is happy to play in the highly competitive Colonial Athletic Association.

"When you think about football and you want to get into the best conference, the CAA is the conference," Bland says.

Elon has not been known for developing NFL prospects until recently, when the culture began to evolve for the Elon football program. Offensive tackle Oluisaemeka Udoh was selected by the Minnesota Vikings in the 6th round of the 2019 NFL draft. Bland said he wants to see more players make the transition to the pros.

"We play great football here, and we have talented athletes here," Bland said. "We have guys that are eager to get on the field and to develop their skills and try to win. So I think they do a really, really good job here of just, you know, developing young men into NFL prospects."

Aside from excelling on the field, Elon has established itself as one of the nation's most prestigious schools for the education of the student athlete. Bland is exactly the kind of mentor that drives Elon players need to succeed in the classroom.

"We're an education institution. So you are a student first," Bland said. "You're a student-athlete, not an athlete-student. First and foremost is that you got to get it done in the classroom, you know, and I

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THOUGH I GOT INTO COACHING AND YOU'RE TRYING TO WIN GAMES, YOU CAN USE FOOTBALL AS A LIFE LESSON. IT WAS SOMETHING THAT, ACTUALLY, I WANTED TO INSTILL IN YOUNG MEN AND USING FOOTBALL AS A WAY TO DO THAT; TO USE THAT PLATFORM TO HELP OUT YOUNG MEN TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE AFTER FOOTBALL.

CHRIS BLAND
CORNERBACKS COACH

always tell my guys every day with every day that we leave the field, 'Hey, make sure you take care of your business off this field.'"

Bland said he knows receiving an education lasts a lifetime, and instills that value in his players. "Academics is why you're here," Bland said. "Football is a privilege to play, you know. You're here to get an education."

Bland is a mentor on the field and in the academic sphere, but he is an even better mentor in the social growth of his guys. He is one of the many inspiring people who push Elon students to perform to their highest potential, while being the best person that they can be.

If Bland's advice could be summed up in three words, it would be "trust the process." Bland has advice for students: "Believe in yourself, believe in what you have," Bland said. "Believe in why you are here, you know and what you do. Trust the process."

Bland truly embodies the Elon spirit, and sparks life in the people he mentors. "Sometimes you just have to, you know, do what you have to do to get by," Bland said. But trust the process, believe in yourself, and I promise everything will work out for the better."

Off the field, Bland keeps his cheerful demeanor, attending other sporting events, listening to all kinds of music and indulging in his love for comedy movies. "I love comedy," Bland said. "I love anything comedy just because I love to laugh, you know, and I can tell people all the time when you can laugh, doesn't matter what happens in your life. You're laughing, you're happy. You can't laugh and be upset."

Both on and off the field, Bland is devoted to promoting a healthy culture. His excellence at his craft and passion for teaching are clearly evident. He truly embodies the Phoenix spirit. With a new era and the help of Bland, the Phoenix football program looks to soar to new heights.



AMANDA GIBSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RISING on the RINK

The Elon University club hockey team skates during one of its many late-night practices more than a half hour away from campus.

Elon club hockey continues grow its presence on campus as the team strives to establish themselves in its league

Carter Horan
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Elon Club Hockey has grown immensely since its creation, according to senior captain Charlie Pippert. The club began after transitioning from a roller hockey team to an ice hockey team in 2011. Now, Elon is a part of the Division II Atlantic Coast Collegiate Hockey League, where the team participates in the Carolina West Division alongside Duke University, University of North Carolina Charlotte and Wake Forest University. Currently sitting at 1-5-1 for the 2019-2020 regular season, the Phoenix still has four remaining games but nonetheless, many positive moments to reflect on from this season.

“From my freshman year until now, the team has gotten better every year,” Charlie Pippert said.

Pippert is a veteran defenseman who is also president of Club Hockey. He manages meetings, forms and anything else necessary for running a club sport at a university. With freshmen making up half of this year’s team, Pippert has been a leader for the underclassman and said he tries to lead his team by example.

“I’m not really the type of guy to go scream my head off in the locker room,” Pippert said. “I go out there and try to set a tone.”

Freshman defenseman Tate Dahlgren is one of this year’s newcomers. Originally from Lake Forest, Illinois, he discussed the transition from high school hockey.

“In terms of the level of play, obviously, the guys are a lot better,” Dahlgren said. “You have other kids taking gap years and playing juniors. The kids are also a lot bigger and it’s a really physical league.”

Junior hockey is a level of competition for teens that plan on playing collegiately. And when many of these kids decide they no longer want to play in Division I sports, these players settle for their university club teams. With Elon taking on larger schools such as Duke and UNC Chapel Hill, it can put the team at a talent disadvantage in terms of drawing from the student population. Pippert recognizes the disadvantage and said he works on increasing Club Hockey’s presence on campus.

“Every once in a while, one of us is walking around in a hockey sweatshirt and we get a, ‘We have a hockey team?’” Pippert said. “We’re kind of the new kids



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY TATE DAHLGREN

Two defensemen for the Elon University club hockey team converse with their goalie during a late-night skate. The team practices more than 30 minutes away from campus at odd hours when ice time is cheaper.

“

EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, ONE OF US IS WALKING AROUND IN A HOCKEY SWEATSHIRT AND WE GET A ‘WE HAVE A HOCKEY TEAM?’ WE’RE KIND OF THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK. ELON ISN’T AS WELL-KNOWN AS SOME OF THE DUKES OR UNCS WE PLAY. SO, WE DEFINITELY WANT TO BEAT THOSE TEAMS AND GIVE ELON HOCKEY A NAME.

CHARLIE PIPPERT
SENIOR CAPTAIN

on the block. Elon isn’t as well-known as some of the Dukes or UNCS we play. So, we definitely want to beat those teams and give Elon hockey a name.”

The team has a website and has social media pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (@ElonUHockey) to increase its presence. All home games are also streamed on YouTube, where supporters can tune in to cheer on the Phoenix.

“We are trying to get people involved in the program that have connections with junior teams or with high schools,” Pippert said. He said these connections help to show younger players their potential in collegiate hockey and answer their questions.

For Dahlgren, that meant meeting with coach Paul Pechmann during his visit to Elon as a high school senior to get a better idea of the hockey program on campus. Pechmann, a former University of Connecticut hockey player, has experience coaching juniors and other high levels of hockey. He even gave Dahlgren a workout plan for the summer prior to his freshman year in preparation for the season.

For ice, club hockey travels to the Orange County Sportsplex in Raleigh, a half-hour commute every day just for practice. Compared to a soccer field or basketball

court, ice time doesn’t come easy, forcing late nights and long weekends for the players. But the team takes pride in its high level of commitment. Long car rides and late nights on the ice have made the Phoenix club hockey a tight-knit team.

According to Pippert, part of the battle for leading his team is working to get everyone to buy into the same message, and that was one of the goals Pippert said he wants to achieve this year as captain.

“The guys last year are trying to reform and change the mindset that, while it is club, hockey is still competitive. It still requires a big commitment, and you still have to buy into it,” Pippert said.

Dahlgren believes Elon hockey has changed how he views his teammates. In college, there’s not a junior varsity team, and everyone is seen as equal. Pippert and other seniors have paved the way for Elon hockey and emphasized that it’s much more than just a group of hockey players.

“I remember freshman year when I played hockey in high school it was seen as, ‘Oh, you’re a freshman? You’re not really seen as part of the team,’” Dahlgren said. “Here, everyone’s integrated and treated the same way.”

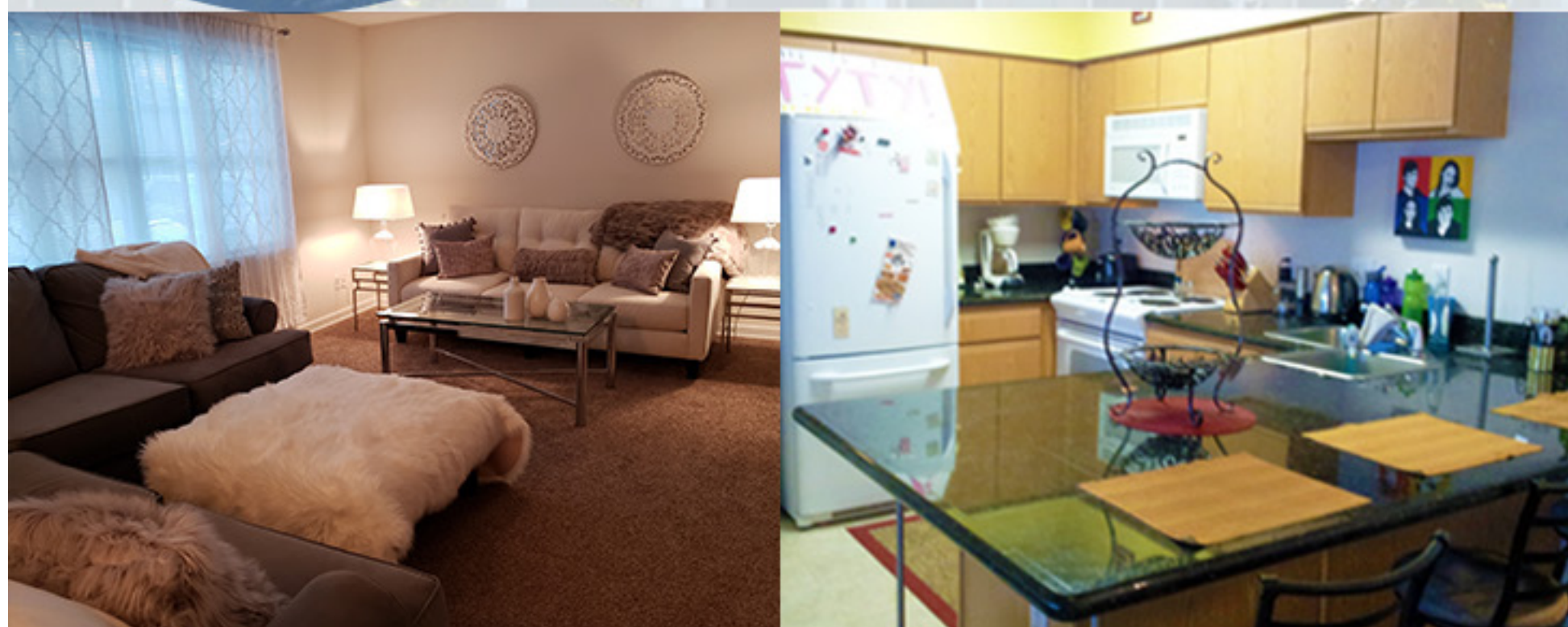


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