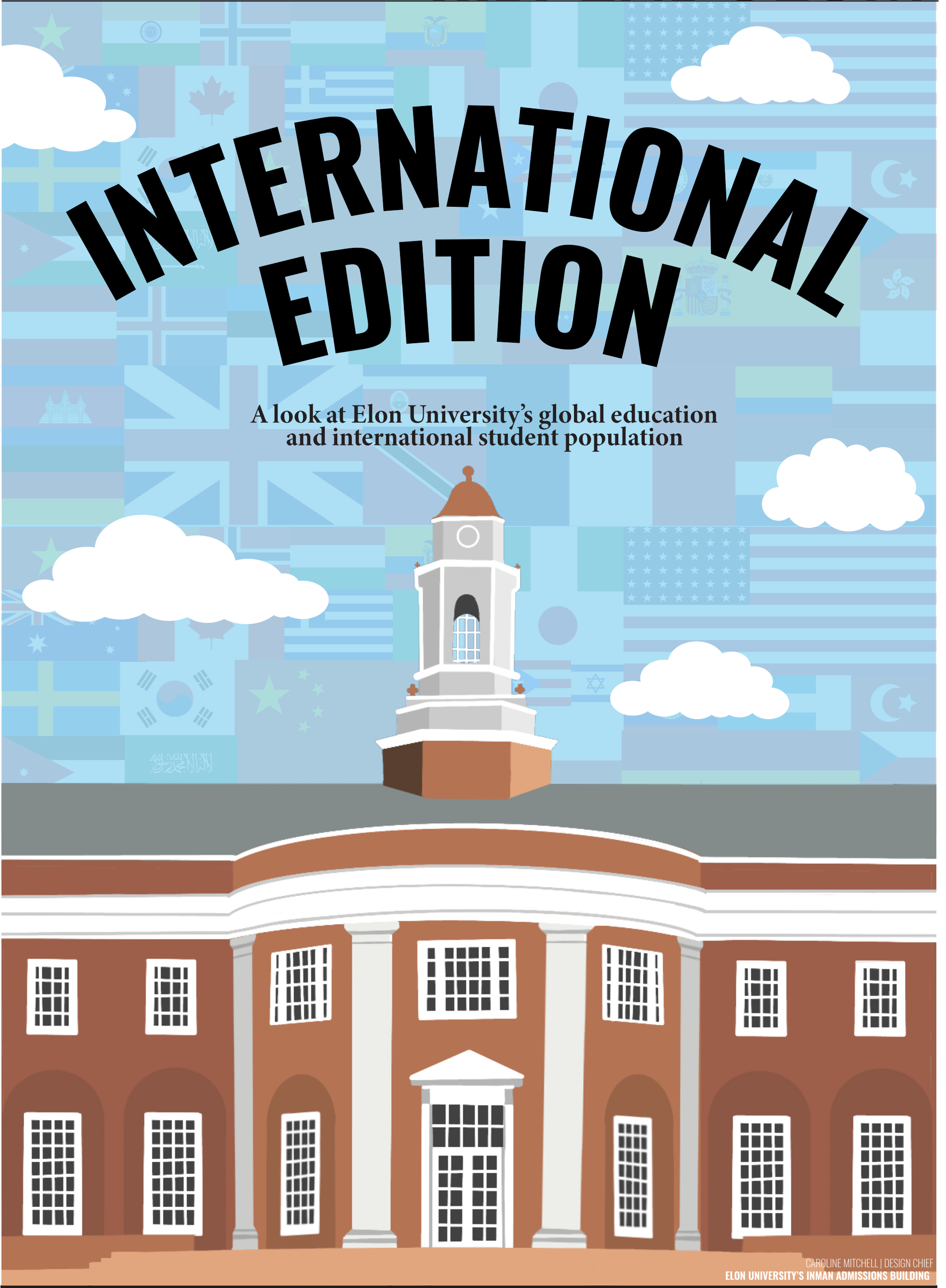


WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA
VOLUME 51, EDITION 27

THE PENDULUM

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

A look at Elon University's global education and international student population



CAROLINE MITCHELL | DESIGN CHIEF
ELON UNIVERSITY'S INMAN ADMISSIONS BUILDING

GLOBAL EDUCATION DEI • PAGE 2A

The Global Education Center is below the halfway mark in its diversity, equity and inclusion strategic plan



INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADORS • PAGE 3A

Students serving as ambassadors for the Global Education Center support international community at Elon



LOCAL FRIENDS • PAGE 6A

The Local Friends program connects Elon's international students with the community

GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER REACHES LESS THAN HALF OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

13.5%

The plan was created in 2020, but the GEC is only 13% of the way of reaching its goals by 2025

Nyah Phengsitthy
Managing Editor | @nyahphengsitthy

Only seven out of 52 goals have been accomplished in the Elon University Global Education Center's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan. Created in 2019, the master plan was set to be achieved between 2020 and 2025, with goals curated by members across the GEC to serve Elon students and their global studies from a DEI standpoint.

In its second year, the strategic plan is only 13.5% of the way in, but the lack of progress isn't necessarily due to the long list of items, but rather the global pandemic that came into play during its inception, according to associate director for Global Diversity and Inclusion Allegra Laing.

"It was daunting to launch a strategic plan in light of a global pandemic, not knowing what campus would be like, and to be completely honest, people's attitudes toward global engagement," Laing said. "I'm OK with it taking longer than five years, as long as we get it right. I think we have to, realistically at this juncture, say it might take longer than five years in light of the changes that the campus has experienced."

Despite the large number of goals created by staff members of the GEC at the time, Laing said when the team first came together to create the strategic plan, there were originally 88 goals, but they narrowed it down to 52. Each item on the plan was created to serve minority populations engaging in global education such as the African-American/Black, Latino/Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, Alaskan Native, and Multiracial communities, first generation, high financial need, LGBTQIA, diverse religious backgrounds and students with disabilities.

When it began in the 2020-21 school year the GEC started 16 goals — seven were completed and nine carried forward into the 2021-22 school year.

The goals in 2020 focused on professional staff development to enhance their knowledge of diversity, equity and inclusion through group readings and DEI terminology presentations. The GEC also reached other goals such as developing a timeline to audit identity-based resources on their website, re-examine the proposal process for new programs and embed identity based resources into the appointment scheduling process.

Dean of the Global Education Center Nick Gozik wrote in an email to Elon News Network that the staff's professional development in diversity, equity and inclusion will also help students appreciate, understand and navigate differences at the university.

"I do not think that we can continue to operate without embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of our work," Gozik wrote. "Some may see a separation between global and diversity, equity, and inclusion, though it is difficult not to see how these areas are two sides of the same coin."

Though Gozik wasn't part of the members of the strategic plan working group because he joined Elon in 2021, he still works closely with achieving the current goals today.

Each item that has been completed or started so far is stated on the GEC's DEI strategic plan website. Laing, who works with each staff member to check in with the

goals they created, said it is good for the Elon community to be aware of the plans the GEC has, but also to hold the center accountable for its progress.

"One of the reasons why all the goals appear on the website is to hold us accountable," Laing said. "If people know what we projected to do, it's harder for us to backtrack on those things."

New, carried goals this year

For the 2021-22 school year, there are 17 goals in progress — nine carried forward from the previous year and eight new ones started. This year, the goals in progress include generating annual reports that will look at financial need by programs and terms, racial and ethnic breakdown by programs and terms and revise identity based resources on the GEC website.

According to Laing, one goal that has been partially achieved is goal 14: "Identify identity-based student organizations on campus and create a plan to initiate contact by Spring 2021." The GEC has partially reached this through the recent creation of the ALANAM student advisory board, a group created in spring 2022 to function as a way for students' voices to be heard and directly

BY THE NUMBERS

17

goals for the 2021-22 academic year are in progress, with nine carried forward from 2020 and eight new ones started.

impact the Global Education Center's future decisions.

Communications Manager of Global Education Shanna Van Beek worked with Laing and the other faculty members back in 2019 to build the plan. Since then, she said she has watched Laing lead work that she defines as "fairly exceptional at this level in our field."

"Not many global education centers or study abroad offices have a 52-point diversity, equity and inclusion strategic plan that's been fully developed and executed by its staff, from top of the department to entry-level professionals," Van Beek wrote in an email to Elon News Network. "It's slow work, and it can be painful work as we look directly at

shortcomings in order to assess and improve. But it is important and necessary work, and I'm grateful for Allegra's leading us through it."

One goal that Van Beek created but has not been started by the GEC yet is goal nine: "Create an intentional process for highlighting the stories of students from underserved communities on the GEC website and social media platforms." Van Beek helped set a number of goals that focus on communications, or use communications as a means to achieve a goal, and although they have yet to be started or met, they are still important items to recognize.

"This goal will require substantial work on building the infrastructure, but frankly, with the volume of students that study away at Elon, and the reputation Elon has built on global education, there is a need and opportunity for better amplifying stories of underrepresented students," Van Beek wrote.



ONE OF THE REASONS WHY ALL THE GOALS APPEAR ON THE WEBSITE IS TO HOLD US ACCOUNTABLE. IF PEOPLE KNOW WHAT WE PROJECTED TO DO, IT'S HARDER FOR US TO BACKTRACK ON THOSE THINGS.

ALLEGRA LAING
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR GLOBAL DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Gozik also said Elon's work on the strategic plan will take time, as each staff member is responsible for some of the goals.

"One of the things that Elon excels at is planning. We make slow, steady strides, with a clear vision in mind," Gozik wrote. "The GEC's DEI Strategic plan is no different. It is ambitious, with 52 points and a timeline of five years, yet it is also well thought out and feasible. Each year, we tackle a new set of goals, with each staff member taking responsibility for one of them. It is exciting to see the progress continue."

As the GEC continues to achieve more items on the list, the center also plans to reflect the themes within Elon's institutional strategic plan for 2030, Boldy Elon. The center plans to assess its progress toward the goals, and possibly develop a plan for 2025 to 2030 if needed.

Although the plan is only 13% complete, Laing said there was always the question back in 2020 of whether it should go through as a strategic plan because of the ambiguity of global engagement due to the pandemic. But as the team continued to think about it more, it was always a "resounding yes."

Though it's likely the plan will need to be extended beyond five years because of the changes in global education because of the pandemic, it's about doing it right, especially when it comes to diversity, equity and inclusion.

"The issues don't change, the issues will persist even when the pandemic is over. The time to start change is always now, the time to start change is always today," Laing said. "I think we've recognized that it might take longer due to the pandemic ... and to do it well, it might take longer. But I'm excited that we're on this journey together, and I look forward to the journey next year."

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION GOALS MET AND STARTED

2020-21 ACADEMIC YEAR

Develop a timeline to audit identity-based resources on the GEC website

GEC will hold a review of terminologies, vocabulary, resources and emerging topics in relation to different diverse populations...

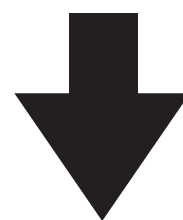
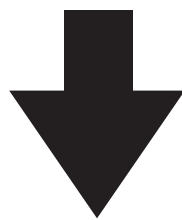
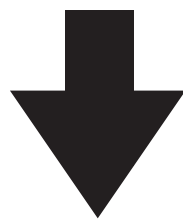
GEC will provide opportunities for its staff members to deepen their knowledge of historically minoritized communities and models...

Assess the categorization of different types of withdrawals within TDS and ensure that the GEC has a standard process

Create proactive, written protocols for identity-based incidents and concerns, which includes a step-by-step process

Re-examine the proposal process for new programs and the review process for existing courses for better inclusive practice and pedagogy

Embed identity-based resources into appointment scheduling process



2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR

Investigate if the GEC can obtain data on specific communities

On an annual basis, generate a report that outlines the participation of students with financial need by program type and term

On an annual basis, generate a report that outlines the racial/ethnic breakdown of students by program type and term

Collect data on the demographic diversity of faculty/staff teaching on faculty-led programs

Revise identity-based resources on the GEC website

Identify identity-based student organizations on campus and create a plan to initiate contact by Spring 2021

Each global engagement advisor implements one outreach event (at minimum) to an underserved student community...

Complete the IDI as a staff and participate in the group debrief twice within a five-year period

Supervisors are expected to engage with the diversity and inclusion element of the annual performance appraisal...

To view the full goals, visit the GEC website. When it began in the 2020-21 school year the GEC started 16 goals — seven were completed and nine carried forward into the 2021-22 school year. For the 2021-22 school year, there are 17 goals in progress — nine carried forward from the previous year and eight new ones started. This year, the goals in progress include generating annual reports that will look at financial need by programs and terms, racial and ethnic breakdown by programs and terms and revise identity based resources on the GEC website.

NYAH PHENGSTITTHY | DESIGNER

Ukrainians in the Carolinas group emphasizes education

North Carolina resident collects donations and educates the U.S. on the war

Erin Martin

Elon News Network | @erinmartin35

Every day, Walter Ostrowka checks the news for the latest updates from Ukraine. The Ukrainian North Carolina resident has watched his family's country be attacked by Russia for over two months.

But while Ostrowka is concerned about those facing daily attacks, shellings and deaths in Ukraine, he is also concerned about how Americans view the war and other international issues.

"As Americans, we're so landlocked to the Americas from the Pacific to Atlantic that we forget about what's happening in China, what's happening in India and Pakistan, parts of Africa," Ostrowka said. "We're just naive about it. ... I want to recommend to college students, they need to be versed in all foreign things happening around the world because the world is a lot smaller now."

Though the war began in February, Ostrowka said people need to recognize how long the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has been going on. Issues such as the Maidan Revolution, a series of deadly protests in Ukraine that led to the removal of the country's pro-Russian president in 2014, and

the annexing of Crimea were only part of the conflict.

"This has been a conflict for a long, long time, hundreds of years, especially if you take the last 100 years from the Communist takeover of Russia and also Ukraine at that time," Ostrowka said. "At that time, Russians put pressure on the Ukrainian people, they would prosecute them and execute them. There are hundreds of thousands of lives lost already, even before 1957."

One way Ostrowka tries to localize international issues is through Ukrainians in the Carolinas, a Ukrainian support network operating since the last

time Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014. The organization hosts cultural events and raises awareness about conflicts in Ukraine.

Ukrainians in the Carolinas has always collected donations for the country, but when Russia began its invasion this year, the group started collecting more and shipping them directly overseas to Ukraine and its surrounding European countries for aid.

Economics professor Vitaliy Strohush, who is from Ukraine, is affiliated with the organization and highlighted its collaboration with Burlington Honda's supply drive to collect more donations

such as clothes, strollers, diapers and flashlights.

"There are situations when you have a city completely surrounded, and there is no given money to buy basic medicine to help elderly people," Strohush said. "So we would send that money to targeted volunteers, and they would just use it to buy day-to-day survival items."

Strohush said another benefit of Ukrainians in the Carolinas is the opportunity to relate to other Ukrainians about the war, even when he feels he is unable to help from the U.S.

"It's always easier to talk to somebody ... your grief, your

tragedy — somebody else has gone through the same thing," Strohush said. "Yet, I always have this feeling like, 'What can I do?'"

In order to understand current international issues, Ostrowka encourages people to find ways to contribute to organizations that help Ukrainians. But most importantly, he encourages education about the war.

"When Will Smith slapped Chris Rock, that became the news of the day. The war in Ukraine took a back page," Ostrowka said. "I'm afraid social media does that for every person who gets slapped. It's more important than people dying. We got to research what's happening around the world and put it on front page news."



CAROLINE MITCHELL | DESIGN CHIEF

SCAN TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT UKRAINIANS IN THE
CAROLINAS

OR VISIT

UKRAINIANSINTHE
CAROLINAS.ORG



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

Ambassadors provide support for international students

International students can go to international student ambassadors for help with their transition to Elon

Caleigh Lawlor

Elon News Network | @caleighlawlor

On senior Ellie Thomas's first day at Elon University, an international student ambassador made her feel welcome by coming up to her, giving her their number and telling her to reach out if she needed anything.

"She just wanted to make sure that everyone had someone to talk to," Thomas said. "She was very good at introducing people to others so we felt more comfortable."

The next year, Thomas applied to become an ambassador as well. As part of the Global Education Center, international student ambassadors work to help other international students — with everything from settling in at Elon to filling out U.S. tax forms.

One of the main tasks ambassadors have is planning events for the international student community. According to Thomas, in addition to planning international coffee hours every other week and monthly Local Friends events, ambassadors also set up outings for international students to get together and get off campus.

International student orientation, where Thomas first met an ambassador, is one of the many events the group helps plan. For many international students, arriving at Elon entails more than just unpacking. Thomas said that

having gone through the process themselves, the ambassadors can help with some of the more technical parts of the transition process.

"Any of that logistics stuff of actually moving to the U.S., we help with," Thomas said. "We're just there for any problem that they have."

The international ambassador group also makes it clear that students who are interested in applying don't have to be international. Sophomore Alycia Morgan grew up in Raleigh but decided to apply to be an ambassador because of her experience helping international friends in high school.

"I'm really big on global education and the fact of getting to know people from other cultures and backgrounds," Morgan said. "Finding this was a great opportunity, because I also myself, have international friends from high school, and getting to see them, talk to them learn about their experiences was just a great experience then and so being able to do it as a job, I thought it would be great."

Morgan is currently the only American ambassador and said she's been able to help international students learn about the U.S.

"I've been able to kind of guide them through getting accustomed to some American traditions and ways that they might not be used to," Morgan said. "Those types of questions have been very heartwarming, because I feel like I'm able to help someone understand further and kind of lighten the load of learning a whole, entirely new country."



NYAH PHENGSIITHY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Ellie Thomas stands in the Global Education Center where she works as an international student ambassador. Thomas grew up in London, England, and became an ambassador her sophomore year after meeting one her first day at Elon.



I'M ABLE TO HELP SOMEONE UNDERSTAND FURTHER AND KIND OF LIGHTEN THE LOAD OF LEARNING A WHOLE, ENTIRELY NEW COUNTRY.

ALYCIA MORGAN
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
AMBASSADOR

An especially popular thing Thomas said she helped with this year was helping international students get a U.S. driver's license.

"I just got mine in November," Thomas said. "We've had a lot of international students come up to us and ask us what the process is and what documents they need, because it's different."

For Morgan, the best part of the job is getting to know and watch international students grow.

"Getting to know the students themselves and where they come from has been my favorite part, especially because we play games and just really became like a family," Morgan said. "Seeing them acclimate to their surroundings and get to know other people outside of the

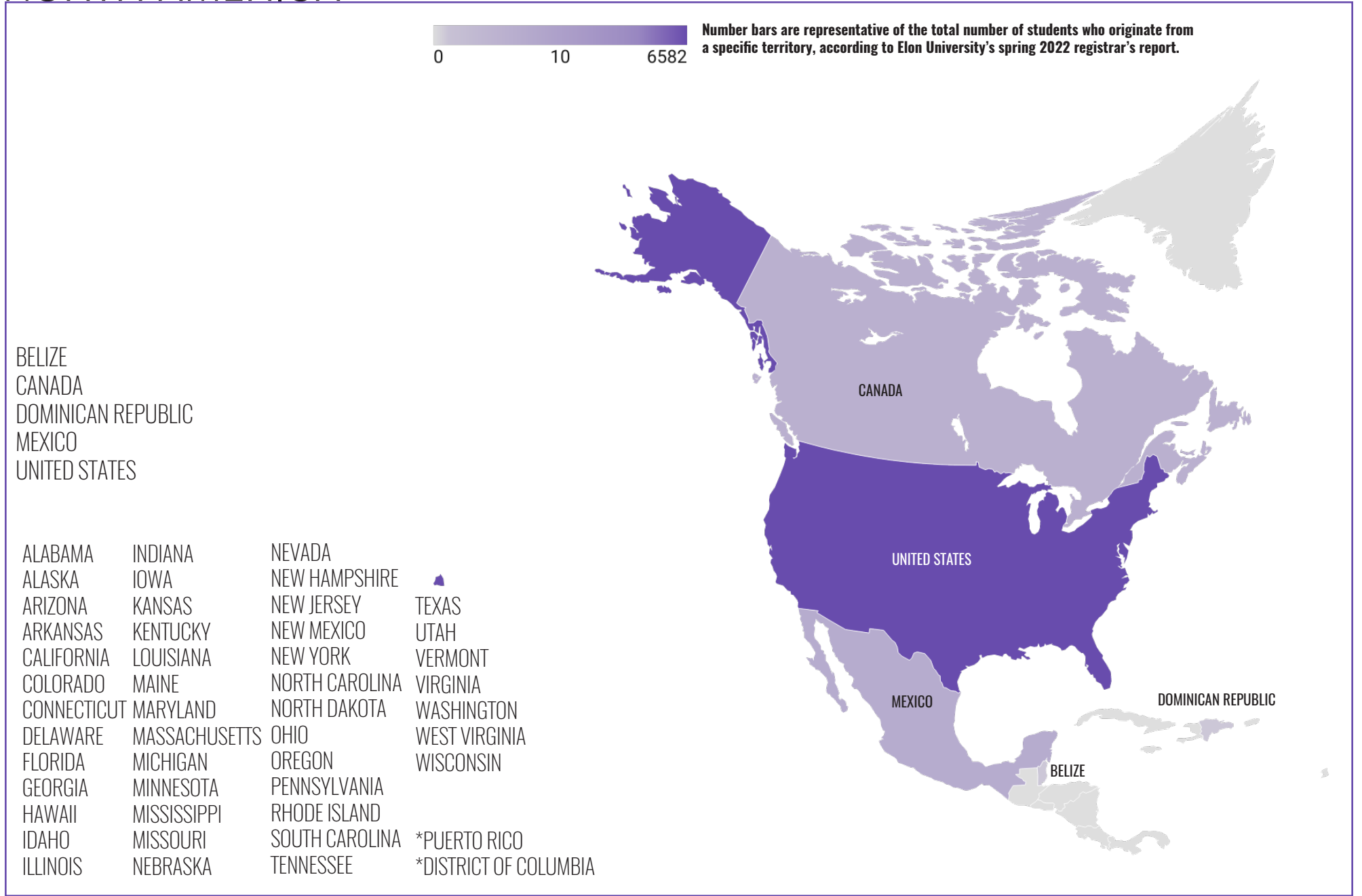
international community, as well as building friendships within the international community, with people from other countries as well, that they have something in common with because they both came to Elon as international students."

Thomas said that her favorite part has been the experiences she has gained from being an ambassador.

"It's definitely taught me a lot about the world and a lot about my experiences and how there are very different challenges," Thomas said. "Just in general, getting to meet so many interesting people with so many really, really cool stories that I wouldn't have been able to get if I wasn't in this position."

ELON AROUND THE GLOBE: W

NORTH AMERICA



SOUTH AMERICA

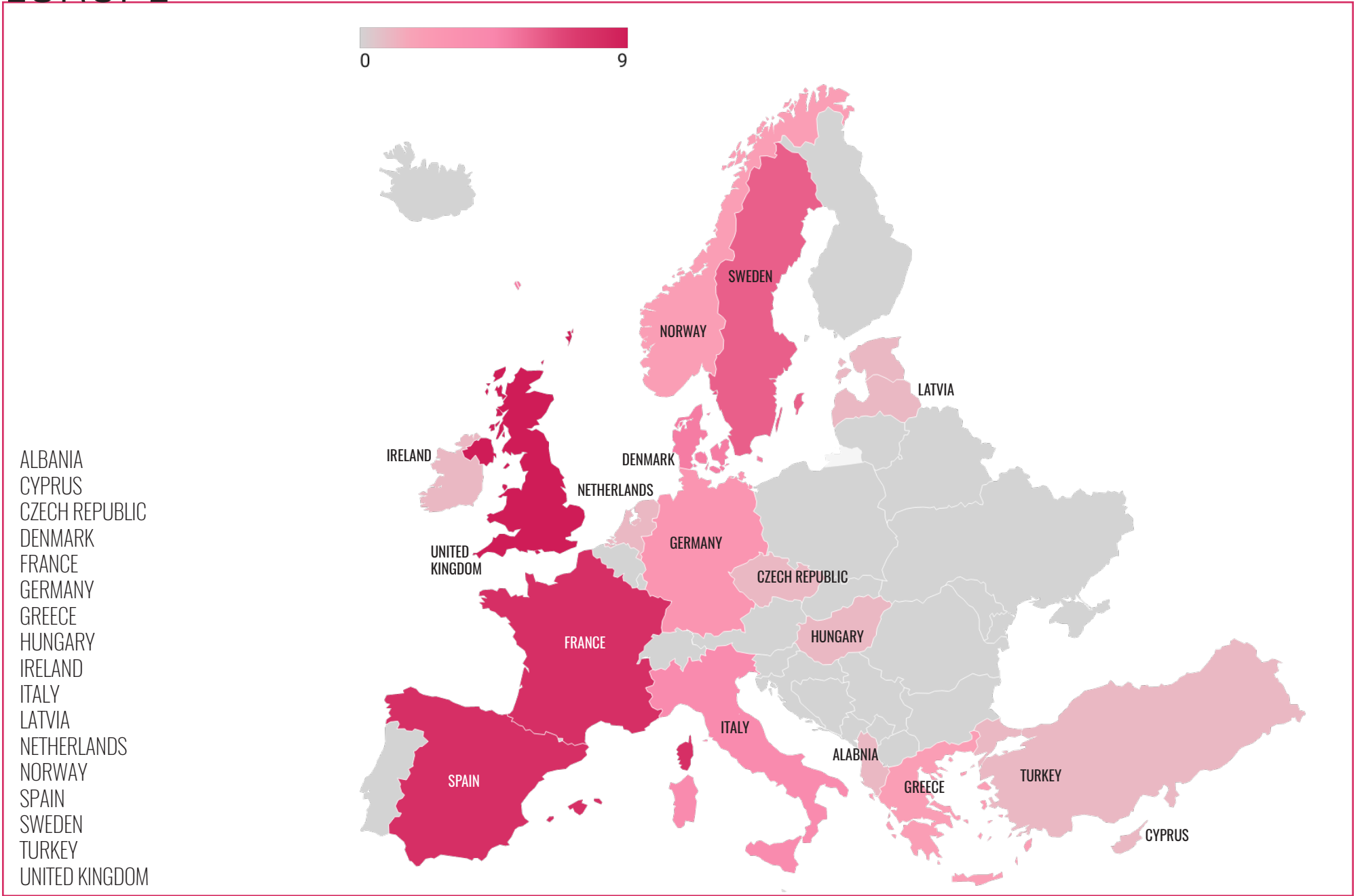


OCEANIA



WHERE IS EVERYONE FROM?

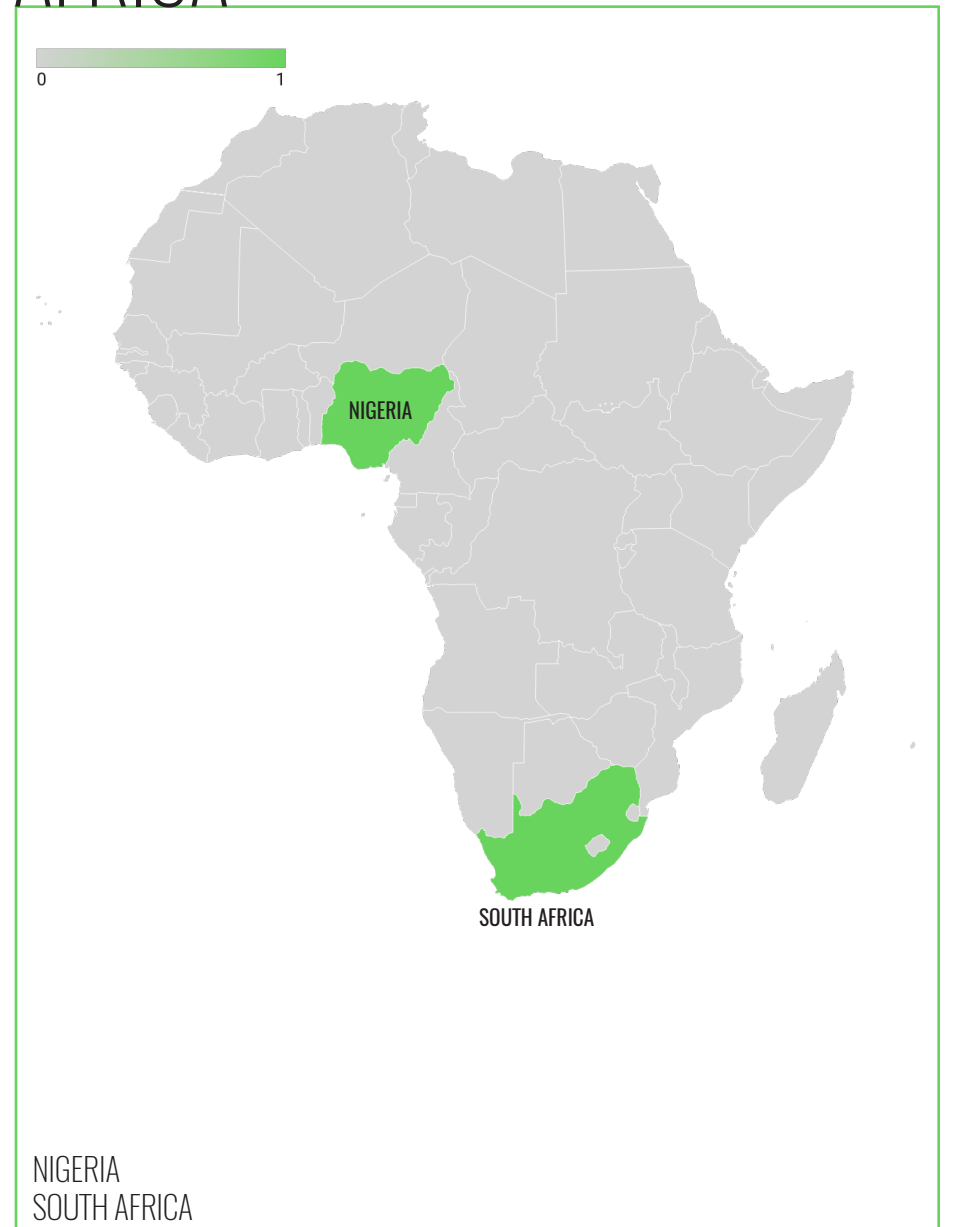
EUROPE



ASIA



AFRICA



LOCAL FRIENDS CREATES HOME AWAY FROM HOME FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



SOPHIE ROSENTHAL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From left: Ralph and Donna Harwood sit on Elon University's campus on April 14. The couple has lived in the town of Elon for over 40 years, being both residents and second parents to international students through their program Local Friends, a community-based program for international students at Elon University. The program works closely with Elon's Global Education Center.

A program led by two retired Burlington residents helps international students connect locally

Sophie Rosenthal
Chief Copy Editor | @sophrosenthal

For Donna and Ralph Harwood, the global community is a small world. Though the married couple were both raised in South Carolina and have lived in the town of Elon for over 40 years, they have friends from all over the world — including international students at Elon University.

The Harwoods lead Local Friends, a community-based program for international students at Elon. Along with the Global Education Center and international student ambassadors at Elon University, they hold monthly events to bring Elon's international community together.

"It's been enlightening for us," Ralph said. "We've done some international travel, but you don't meet people and get to know them personally like that, and hear personal stories and establish lifelong friendships."

Senior and international student ambassador Howard Chi, originally from Taiwan and raised in Chile, said conversely, the Americans he's met through the Local Friends program have taught him about American traditions and made Elon feel a little more like home.

During winter break, Chi stayed on campus while most students returned home. Chi said Donna invited him and a few other international students to have a Christmas dinner at her house. He said that dinner is his favorite memory that has come from the program.

"You can get really lonely sometimes," Chi said. "During the holiday season, you don't have any friends, you have no car — you have no mobility. So we definitely got a lot of support from them."

Chi said although people can sometimes lump all international students together,

International students 2020-21

Visa Holder

129

Dual Citizenship

267

Green Card Holder

31

Overseas American (U.S. citizen, high school outside U.S.)

38

Total International Students

465

According to the Global Education Center's 2020-21 annual report, there was a total of 465 international students at Elon University last year.

ABBY REED | DESIGNER

events hosted by Local Friends celebrate each student's unique experiences. International students at Elon range from Americans who were living abroad to students who had never left their home countries before coming to college.

"They're not supposed to be grouped into one group and assume they have all the same characteristics," Chi said. "I think that's the fun part, that you will always come in with an open mind to hear about what makes it really unique."

Chi said he has experienced events with Local Friends in two ways: first as an attendee and later as an event planner.

"A lot of times, we'll have tiny games, sometimes we'll have bingo, sometimes we'll pass around papers, and we write something about ourselves, and we'll exchange them with each other," Chi said. "Then we'll find things that we can comment about each other and just have conversations from there."

Ralph said since the international student ambassadors took over most of the event planning a few years ago, they've done a great job of coming up with themes and games to get students to open up at events. However, since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Local Friends has had a lower turnout at its events.

Last academic year, the program had

BY THE NUMBERS

47

foreign countries are represented in the international student population at Elon University this year, according to the spring 2022 registrars report.

“

YOU CAN GET REALLY LONELY SOMETIMES. DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS, YOU HAVE NO CAR — YOU HAVE NO MOBILITY. SO WE DEFINITELY GOT A LOT OF SUPPORT FROM THEM.

HOWARD CHI
SENIOR

to cancel events or host them virtually. Though in-person meetings returned this year, Local Friends still saw fewer attendees than in previous years. But Donna said they continue to put on events for those who are committed to the program.

"We were a little discouraged because there were so few people, so few students coming in this year," Donna said. "But they said, 'Please don't stop, please never stop.' So it was good to know that it was really — and we've always felt like it was — been appreciated."

Though the group was initially founded through connections within a church community, Ralph said the program is strictly secular, and they make sure all local volunteers know that.

"We don't want anyone to come in that has ulterior motives," Ralph said. "When we recruit someone, normally we send something, and welcome them and say to the volunteers, 'We do not proselytize.'"

For every student, Ralph said, there are new experiences to share and learn about.

"We hope they learn about our culture. That's one reason to have them in our home and for us to meet with them," Ralph said. "We've learned so much about their culture, and it's been so interesting. We vicariously live and travel through the international students."

HEAR FROM OUR STUDENTS ABROAD

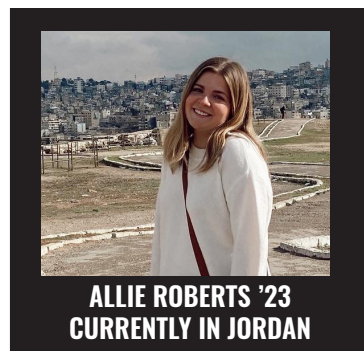
Since the start of the pandemic, study abroad numbers have changed and lowered compared to pre-pandemic years, according to the 2020-21 Global Education Center annual report. Where most colleges and universities halted global programs for the entire year, Elon kept available every program that could be offered safely and ethically. This year, many students have returned to studying abroad. We hear from some students who are away from Elon right now:



BENJAMIN PUCHYR '23
CURRENTLY IN ENGLAND



Studying abroad at the University of Sussex was a great opportunity to attend a school whose acclaimed global studies program contributed to my understanding of international and global studies while simultaneously experiencing different cultural backgrounds.



ALLIE ROBERTS '23
CURRENTLY IN JORDAN



I'm so grateful for the incredible experience I've had studying in Amman, Jordan this semester. It has been better than I could've ever imagined. I'm amazed every day by the generosity of Jordanians. Jordan is such a beautiful and diverse country. I have been lucky enough to make connections with people from Palestine, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, Pakistan, Slovakia, Armenia, Indonesia and the Philippines. I've loved exploring the deserts, seas, and mountains in Jordan on the weekends. ... My knowledge of Arabic, Jordanian politics and culture and regional dynamics has grown exponentially since arriving in Jordan. I will always consider this place a second home.



YUZU DO '23
CURRENTLY IN SINGAPORE



My abroad semester in Singapore is definitely a five-star life-enriching experience. It is so safe and tourist friendly here that I could walk outside with my girlfriends at 3 a.m. without any concern. Despite COVID restrictions, I truly had an enjoyable time connecting with many local students and learning more about Singaporean traditions and history through occasions such as Lunar New Year and Ramadan. I hope all Elon students will consider and take up this opportunity of abroad experience not only to explore, but also to recharge after the stressful semesters of classes.



KIARA HUNTER '23
CURRENTLY IN SOUTH AFRICA



Studying abroad in Cape Town, South Africa has been a mind blowing experience. I am thankful for the opportunity to indulge in the natural beauty, experience the rich culture and study at one of the best universities in sub-Saharan Africa. If you are able to study in another country, please do so. You are bound to learn something new about yourself and the world around you.

Los Angeles becomes most popular study USA program for Elon

Elon in Los Angeles reached a new high for number of students hosted in its program history

Madison Powers
Elon News Network

Eight years after graduating from Elon University, J. McMerty '00 created a program on the other side of the country from Elon that would serve a number of students, especially those with a passion for arts and communications. The program that McMerty created was Elon in LA — a study USA experience that has become one of the most popular study away programs at Elon University.

According to the Global Education Center's annual report, the Elon in LA program was the most popular compared to other study away programs in summer 2021 — with 59 of 113 participating students traveling to Los Angeles.

Elon in LA hosts mainly arts and communication majors, focusing on internship and class experiences in the city. Since beginning the program in 2008, McMerty served as the director and said an increase in applications this past year was due to the desire to study away from campus in a nearby environment.

Elon in LA is a semester-long program structured around a work week of two days of classes and three days of internships, with group events on Saturdays such as biking around Santa Monica, attending concerts or seeing plays at Dolby Theater.

"It was safer for students and families to think about an experience that was domestic, because there were more knowns than unknowns," McMerty said.

McMerty said that hosting a program in LA has been challenging at times, especially without resources available on campus, but it has proved fulfilling.

"The biggest reward of the program has really been seeing the trajectory of students' careers change because of the experience that

they have out here," McMerty said.

McMerty said that most of the faculty hired for the program are adjuncts and teach one class, since they are working professionals in the entertainment industry. The alumni base in Los Angeles has also contributed to the program.

"It's really rewarding to be able to see your former students be so successful," McMerty said. "What really makes us feel good as faculty is they're really helping and mentoring our current students that are out here. That's really the kind of community that we want to build."

McMerty used to split his time between Elon and LA, but since 2012, he has lived full-time in LA. In 2008, he said there were around 50 Elon alumni living in LA; now, there are about 500. According to McMerty, many of them participated in the program during their time at Elon.



THIS IS KIND OF THE ENTERTAINMENT HUB OF ALMOST THE ENTIRE WORLD.

HANNAH SCHOEN
JUNIOR

The cinema and television arts major allows students to pursue either a bachelor's in arts or in fine arts. For the fine arts program, students are required to study in LA or Prague.

A cinema and television arts major, junior Hannah Schoen is currently participating in the spring semester program. Since joining the program, Schoen said she hopes to pursue a career in production development in LA.

"This is kind of the entertainment hub of almost the entire world," Schoen said. "A lot



Junior Hannah Schoen (left) gathers with her friends in the Eddy co-living facility in Hollywood, Los Angeles.

of people get their movies and entertainment from the U.S. and California, specifically LA. It just made the most sense to be here."

Junior Piper Nixon is also part of the spring program in LA this semester and is interning for the Downtown Los Angeles Film Festival — the largest annual film event in LA.

"I always like to say yes to any opportunity I can do," Nixon said. "There's always something to do. Even if it's in our living space, there's always something going on."

COVID-19 restrictions halted many of Elon's study abroad programs in the 2020-21 school year, with only 95 students studying away during the year, as opposed to 1362 students studying abroad in the 2019-20 school year. The Elon in LA program stopped running until summer 2021.

However, when the program did start up again, Elon in LA hosted the most students in its history — almost exceeding its program limit of 60. This influx of students included many rising seniors that were unable to participate in summer 2020.

Senior Kali Clougherty is a music theatre major who participated in the program in summer 2021. She interned at Bicoastal Management, a talent and modeling agency, and took a few classes, one of which was a

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Hollywood course taught by freelance TV director and former Elon University faculty member Rachel Raimist.

"The class talked about diversity, equity and inclusion in Hollywood, but also how we can create a pipeline for minority groups to be featured in Hollywood and in the film industry more," Clougherty said. "I really enjoyed our conversations in that class."

Junior Becca Potters plans to participate in the 2022 summer program. Potters said she chose the summer session to complete her bachelor's in fine arts because it would allow her more time to focus on an internship: the summer program has four days of interning, and one day of classes, while the semester section has three days of interning and two days of classes.

"I just thought, from an educational standpoint, I'd rather have the emphasis on the internship than to have to take three classes and balance that with an internship," Potters said.

Potters said she will be an acquisition and development intern for Highland Film Group. "I genuinely can't wait to see what the summer brings," Potters said. "It's an amazing program."

Chinese club celebrates full recognition on campus

The club has grown since it began in 2020, but its biggest milestone yet is being fully recognized on campus

Nyah Phengsitthy
Managing Editor | @nyahphengsitthy

Two rejections and two years of waiting is what the Chinese club at Elon University has been through. From the first and second club proposals rejected in 2017 and 2018, to finally getting accepted with a provisional club status in 2020, the club has been through a lot.

But after two years of waiting, the organization finally became fully recognized this spring semester.

A member since the beginning, Chinese lecturer and faculty adviser of the club Binnan Gao said she was happy to see the club reach full recognition, especially since she was there from the very beginning — Gao came to Elon in 2014 but she didn't work with students to propose the club until 2017 when it was rejected that year and the year after. Gao said the rejections had to do with an unclear club proposal, but when 2020 came along, she helped new students draft a new one.

"I always felt the student's enthusiasm in Chinese culture," Gao said. "When I learned about this from the email, we were thrilled. It's a milestone achievement for us to know we're extending it and working with other clubs and student organizations."

The club was on provisional status for two years, meaning that it could function as a student organization and advertise as a group. The club's move to full recognition deems that the Student Life Committee or SGA approves of the organization's overall membership.

Since its actual inception in 2020, the Chinese club was created to serve as a resource for students interested in Chinese language and culture. It also provides opportunities to learn more about China's study abroad program and celebrate holidays and events such as the Mid-Autumn Festival and Lunar New Year.

President and junior Hannah Chaput said this recognition is what members have been waiting for, and Elon's Student Life Committee finally confirming it shows the curiosity and excitement students at Elon have about Chinese culture.

"We're all very passionate about traveling to China, potentially, and learning more about the culture and the holidays and celebrating them," Chaput said.

Chaput was part of the club's fruition, and she said she watched the club immediately become successful when it started in 2020. Despite beginning during the pandemic with only remote events, the club now has around 40 students that meet



From left: Sophomore Jasper Myers talks with junior Hannah Chaput about their China study abroad presentation. Myers and Chaput have both been involved with Elon's Chinese club since it first began in 2020. The club recently reached full recognition status on campus this spring semester.

NYAH PHENGSTITTHY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

regularly. The membership has only grown since in-person meetings began, according to Chaput.

Though Chaput is happy with the number of committed members and the growth of the club, Chaput faced some roadblocks before getting to where it is today.

"Our biggest challenge has been having the encouragement to keep going. ... It was difficult when we made the transition from having strictly, exclusively Zoom events to finally doing things in person," Chaput said. "We had a lot to think about. That took a lot of leadership and hands-on collaboration and everything, but we've learned to work through it."

The return of in-person meetings has also allowed them to collaborate with other clubs on campus, such as the Asian Pacific Student Association and Anime club. As the vice president of Chinese club, sophomore Jasper Myers said she enjoys connecting with other groups and centers on campus.

Myers was also present when the club was getting its feet off the ground. She said she has watched the group turn into a space that not only recognizes Chinese culture, but also allows everyone to be themselves.

"Chinese club is so great because we're all in the same space for one common reason,

“

CHINESE CLUB IS SO GREAT BECAUSE WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME SPACE FOR ONE COMMON REASON, WHICH IS THAT AT SOME POINT OR ANOTHER, OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY THIS PLACE, BY THESE PEOPLE AND BY THIS CULTURE.

JASPER MYERS
VICE PRESIDENT

BY THE NUMBERS

40

students and counting are part of the Chinese club this year, according to president Hannah Chaput. Chaput said the club's membership has grown since the return of in-person meetings.

which is that, at some point or another, our lives have been touched by this place, by these people and by this culture," Myers said.

Chaput said although the Chinese population on campus is small, this club continues to spread awareness about the culture, especially now that it is considered official at Elon University.

"Seeing the growth that we've gone through the past two years is just so special and immensely important," Chaput said. "Not only because we were able to bring this idea to life, but we've also transitioned from being a fun club where you come to these fun events. It's become much more than that. It's become a DEI initiative we've taken on this campus because the population of Asian students on Elon's campus is very minuscule."



Chinese club members practice Chinese calligraphy at an event in a fall 2021 meeting.

COURTESY OF CHINESE CLUB



Members of the Chinese club craft origami during a fall 2021 meeting.

COURTESY OF CHINESE CLUB

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA
VOLUME 51, EDITION 27

THE PENDULUM



RYAN KUPPERMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A sold sign is placed in front of a home in Elon, North Carolina. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, housing values and prices have reached all-time highs and left many who are looking to buy or rent struggling to find a place to call home.

Housing market shatters historical precedents, enters uncharted territory

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, prices and interest rates leave those searching for homes at disadvantage

Ryan Kupperman
Enterprise Story Coordinator | @ryandkupp

For two months, Elon University instructor in cinema and television arts Joshua Troxler and his wife have spent several hours each day searching for affordable apartments in New York City — where Troxler, his wife and his eight-month-old son plan to move on May 31.

“I want to know that we’re all going to have a place to live,” Troxler said.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the real estate market has reached uncharted extremes. In part due to the high demand for housing and low supply of houses, as well as record-shattering value appreciation, people across the U.S. are struggling to find and pay for homes.

According to Norada Real Estate Investments, the residential housing market gained nearly \$7 trillion in value in 2021 — only to be overshadowed by a \$43.4 trillion increase as of April 21.

In tandem with the price of homes increasing, local realtor and alumnus Alex Nickodem '09 said there are 60 to 70% fewer homes for sale now in the Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill areas than before the pandemic.

“Buyers only have so many houses to pick from, and when they find one they like, they offer all that much more,” Nickodem said.

The current value for the average home in the U.S. is \$331,533, compared to \$275,000 in February 2021. In the South, the median price for homes was \$339,000 as of April 1 — a 21.1% increase from one year prior. The South also experienced the highest price appreciation when compared to other regions for the sixth month straight, according to Norada Real Estate Investments.



MONEY'S NOT A PROBLEM FOR US. BUT WHEN SOMEBODY'S OFFERING DOUBLE THE AMOUNT OF RENT JUST TO HAVE A PLACE, IT PUTS A LOT OF PEOPLE AT A DISADVANTAGE.

JOSHUA TROXLER
PROFESSOR

Nickodem said he works most often with first-time home buyers, and both the increase in prices and limited supply has caused a great deal of stress between home buyers, investors and national

corporations.

Troxler also said he experienced the competitiveness of the housing market during his search for a new apartment.

“Money’s not a problem for us,” Troxler said. “But when somebody’s offering double the amount of rent just to have a place, it puts a lot of people at a disadvantage.”

When it comes to investors and corporations purchasing real estate, Elon economics professor Casey DiRienzo said they are more likely to offer large sums of money upfront — which is very appealing to sellers.

Both Nickodem and DiRienzo said the biggest point of stress for first-time home buyers would be the competition with investors and national corporations. DiRienzo also estimated that one in every four or five homes are being purchased by investors.

“If we have a house that becomes available that is affordable housing, those new homebuyers that have saved up enough for a down payment are competing with people who are paying cash and that obviously are able to offer significantly over asking, which makes it really challenging,” DiRienzo said. “It’s not a level playing field.”

In a recent instance, Nickodem said he had a client put an offer on a house that ended up having 39 other offers and sold for 43% over its original asking price.

See **HOUSING** | pg. 4B

Students host benefit concert in honor of Ukraine

“Elon Elite” is the name of this year’s concert and talent show that will raise donations for a Ukrainian support organization

Nyah Phengsitthy
Managing Editor | @nyahphengsitthy

Over 50 Elon University students will come together on April 28 to showcase their talents, skills and other gifts for a special talent show — “Elon Elite.” From live singing and band performances to fire throwing, this talent will showcase students’ special skills. But it’s also about raising money for those in need.

Co-producer and creative director of Elon Elite’s benefit concert this year, Charlie Breckenridge, said this year’s concert is about giving to the Ukraine crisis since Russia began its war over the country two months ago.

“We’re supporting Ukraine, we’re supporting people on the other side of the earth that don’t deal with what we have to deal with everyday,” Breckenridge said. “We don’t wake up worried about getting bombed. There’s people that are dealing with these things. It’s very real to them.”

Last year, Breckenridge and a group of other students held a benefit concert raising money for the chaplain’s fund, an endowment that serves to assist both Elon students and faculty in an unforeseen financial crisis. In order to put the benefit concert together last year, the production team received \$12,078 from Elon University and the Student Government Association and only raised \$500.



WE’RE SUPPORTING UKRAINE, WE’RE SUPPORTING PEOPLE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE EARTH THAT DON’T DEAL WITH WHAT WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH EVERY DAY.

CHARLIE BRECKENRIDGE
CO-PRODUCER

This year, SGA only gave the group \$5,000 for the concert setup, and Breckenridge said he’s hoping that having multiple acts, compared to last year’s singular act, will bring in a bigger audience and larger donation fund for Ukraine.

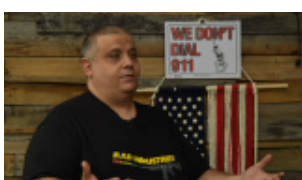
“It’s going directly to the organization,” Breckenridge said. “We’re going to try to do everything in our power to maximize donations across students, faculty, whoever might be watching online, as much as we are able to do.”

The benefit concert will send donations to Razom for Ukraine, an organization based in New York that was born out of the 2014 Maidan Revolution, a number of deadly protests that led to the removal of Ukraine’s pro-Russian president. Shortly after, Russian forces invaded Eastern Ukraine and annexed Crimea.

Since it began, Razom for Ukraine has initiated short and long-term projects that help the country, whether it’s starting donation drives, creating volunteer groups to help with aid kits or setting up information sessions about the Ukraine crisis.

When Russia’s war over the country began in February, volunteer and donations coordinator of Razom for Ukraine, Kamilia Orlova, said the organization saw an increase in projects supporting Ukraine, including the Elon Elite benefit concert. Each monetary donation goes straight to Ukraine, and right now, the group is sending humanitarian war relief such as first aid items, wounded vacuum machines and pickup trucks for paramedics.

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Locals voice concerns over new ghost laws



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Local textile mill celebrates 140th anniversary



SPORTS • PAGE 8B
Women’s tennis championship held at Elon this year

THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF
ELON NEWS
NETWORK

Established 1974
Volume 51, Edition 27

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

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EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

corrections@elonnewsnetwork.com
to report a correction or a concern.

WHEN WE PUBLISH:

The Pendulum

publishes weekly on Wednesdays

Elon Local News

broadcasts Mondays at 6 p.m.

ELN Morning

broadcasts Thursdays at 10 a.m.

ENN On Air

broadcasts Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.

CORRECTIONS

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

Student talent show to raise donations for Ukraine

CONCERT | from cover

"We don't sit on the money, we disperse it right away," Orlova said. "You get to see this beautiful side of solidarity when people come to us."

Orlova has been with Razom for Ukraine since 2016, where she has seen a variety of groups across the U.S. reach out to the organization with support. But when she learned that a small, private university in North Carolina was putting on a benefit concert, she said she admired the involvement and concern some college students have about international issues today. She said that small acts every day will show at the end of every crisis.

"We are doing something, and we're going to prevail. Very soon there's going to be a decisive victory of this war for Ukraine. It's this hope that is propelled by realization that we're doing something."

Yulia O'Connell, another volunteer at Razom for Ukraine, said she is also thankful to see different groups throughout the U.S. help with aid, especially since it's bringing people together. This aligns with the organization's name Razom, which means "together" in Ukrainian.

"This is something much bigger than you actually

think in the beginning of development," O'Connell said. "Knowing that the people are fighting, they are on the ground, and we are not in as much danger as they are. But they are doing it every single day, every single hour."

Working with talent from the dance and music production departments and in collaboration with Elon Student Television and Limelight Records, Breckenridge hopes that those tuning in will not only recognize Elon's talent, but also the importance of supporting those in need right now.

"Hopefully through us, we can give people entertainment," Breckenridge said. "But we can also incentivize them to give, and that's the main reason that we're going to do this."

IF YOU GO

Elon Elite Benefit Concert Supporting Ukraine

Where: Streaming on Elon University School of Communications Facebook Page

When: Thursday, April 28, 8 p.m.

Watch online: facebook.com/events/s/elon-elite/748201889890022/



COURTESY OF ELON ELITE

Bands raise money for music department

Cummings High School hosts fundraiser to combat lack of district funding

Annemarie Bonner

Elon News Network | @abonnernews

When Greg Milton wakes up in the morning, he goes to Cummings High School in Burlington to educate his students and fill his classroom with the sounds of music. But it hasn't always been easy and enjoyable.

"Instead of being wonderful musicians, I want them to be good people," Milton said. "I really build the band program after four ds: discipline, dedication, design and determination. Once those kids get those four things, they can do anything, not just music."

Milton's band program receives a budget of \$1,300 every academic year, which Milton said does not always cover all the things students need. Prior to the pandemic, Milton said they could share instruments and get by with not having enough for each person.

When the pandemic hit, that all changed. Milton had to turn students away because they couldn't provide them with the supplies they needed to succeed.

So when the band found itself in need of new uniforms, which will cost around \$60,000, the marching band decided to fundraise. It hosted a Battle of the Bands concert on April 9, inviting four local schools and universities to fill the gym with the sounds of drums.

With new school funding, Milton's band now has enough instruments for each person, but the challenges have not gone away.

"There's been countless times when I went in my pocket and paid for kids' shoes and parents just did not have. And I think that's one of the realities of our current situation," he said. "We claim to be the richest country in the world, but we still have kids going without."

In the Alamance-Burlington School System, funding for music education programs is funded about 120% percent

less than athletics. This year's budget indicated that athletics received \$358,450 in funding, whereas music education received \$88,595. Senior and member of the Cummings marching band Jasiah Thomas said he feels the weight of these numbers when he goes to school every day.

"I tell everybody this. You can tell it's not basketball or football. And I don't know if all schools do this, or majority schools do this, but you have a lot of schools that put their funding toward sports. They won't even look at the band," Thomas said.

ABSS Vice Chair Patsy Simpson responded with, "Wow," when she heard the budget Milton receives for the music

program.

Simpson said the school board looked at making a school designated for the arts, with the goal of making sure every student had a chance to be involved in programs like music. The proposal was denied.

"Because of the push from the community, that did not happen," Simpson said. "They were told that they will still have band programs throughout the district, which tells me that there is still going to be that funding gap."

Despite these challenges, Milton continues to advocate for his program, one beat at a time. His marching band's next performance will take place May 21.



ANNEMARIE BONNER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cummings High School band director Greg Milton conducts students at Battle of the Bands on April 9.



ANNEMARIE BONNER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cummings High School Marching Band performs at their Battle of the Bands event on April 9.



Students create tie-dye shirts during the Spirit and Pride event on April 22 at Medallion Plaza.

ABBY REED | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Belle Liang, a professor of counseling psychology at Boston College, speaks about navigating life decisions inside Whitley Auditorium on April 20 as part of Elon University's speaker series.

JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR



Senior Chung-Han Tsai hits a backhand volley during his doubles match with sophomore Daniel Martin in Elon's CAA Men's Tennis Tournament championship match on April 24. Tsai and Martin lost 6-3, and Elon lost 4-2.

ERIN MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Senior attacker Cate Mackel rolls around the crease late in the fourth quarter of Elon's Senior Day game against Drexel University on April 23. Elon lost 14-13.

KATHERINE MARTIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

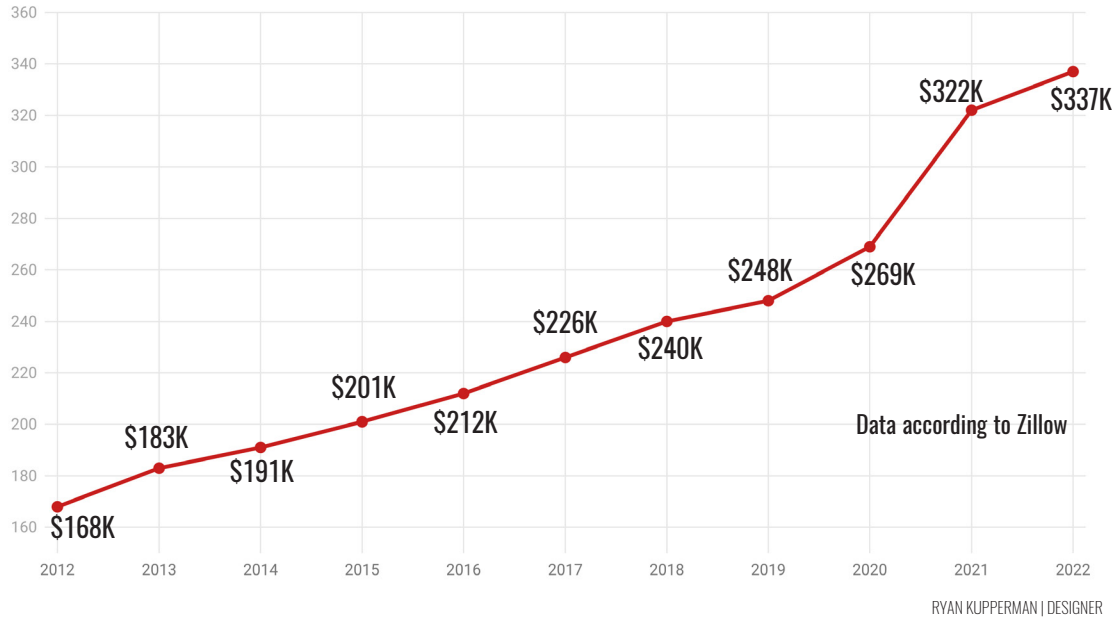


Elon senior Lily Harkes presents her project on "Democratic Backsliding in Hungary and the United States: The Role of Political Elite Strategic Narratives" inside upstairs Lakeside on April 26 as part of Elon University's SURF Day activities.

JOSEPH NAVIN | PHOTO EDITOR

Home buyers at mercy of market, forced to adjust

Average price of typical U.S. home over the last 10 years



The average price of U.S. homes, in the thousands, over the last 10 years taken from December of each year — except 2022 where the data is taken from March — according to Zillow. Post COVID-19 pandemic, increases in price, value and interest rates, as well as a decrease in the number of homes for sale, has left home buyers and renters scrambling to find places to live.

HOUSING | from cover

“The folks I’m working with, they just don’t have that type of money,” Nickodem said. “So we have to get creative. ... It’s tough. Certainly money helps, but what helps even more is being realistic, being flexible and being proactive.”

In his experience with renting, Troxler said most places in New York City want renters to make at least 40 times the amount of annual rent in income. For example, Troxler said he and his wife put down a bid for a \$2,600 apartment, and not two hours later, someone else put down a bid of \$3,200.

“We can’t do that. We just can’t. That’s impossible for us,” Troxler said. “We lost the apartment.”

As of April 24, Troxler said he and his family got approved for an apartment, but he is skeptical because he has been inquiring on the next steps to seal the deal and has not heard anything back.

Nickodem, now 35, bought his first townhome with his wife when he was 30 years old back in 2017. After selling the townhome and moving into a house just a couple months before the pandemic began, Nickodem said he doesn’t think that he’d be able to afford the same housing if he had tried to buy in today’s market.

“I don’t think there’s any way we would have gotten either that townhome or this house,” Nickodem said. “Back then, it was almost no money, but now you might have to put down 20, or 30, or 40 or \$50,000 on a popular home to be able to get your foot in the door.”

One of the most challenging parts of the apartment search for Troxler has been getting his foot in the door and proving to a landlord that he would be a reliable tenant.

“What happens in the thick of an apartment search is you’re trying to gather every little ounce of proof that you are a person who has a steady income,” Troxler said. “You’re also having to account for the fact that the pandemic, everyone was hurting. ... Landlords don’t care about that. They don’t care

if you had a hard time during the pandemic, they still want to know that you’re gonna make 40 times the annual rent.”

After various rejections, Troxler said it was very easy to feel frustrated.

“It’s a tough sell,” Troxler said. “It feels personal. It feels like when you get a rejection, it’s like it’s because you are not making enough money for them.”

Troxler also said he feels a



IT FEELS PERSONAL.
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THEM.

JOSHUA TROXLER
PROFESSOR

lot of his troubles came from not being able to physically go to apartment tours, as he’s multiple states away from where he is looking to live. Troxler said, from his past experience, it can speed up and further secure the process to show up the day of a tour and place a down payment.

Alumnus Jack Taylor ‘21 moved out to the Upper East Side of Manhattan in March and also said being able to physically look at options made the process relatively easy and simple.

Taylor estimated that while he looked at hundreds of different options online, it took him and his roommate about 10 different apartment tours to find a suitable fit.

“It was just a lot of coordination and took some decent organization and really applying yourself in that moment — sitting down and assessing everything,” Taylor said. “A lot of realtors and a lot of landlords were spiking up prices, a lot of them were changing how they were running things, or really adjusting, so we had to learn

as well. It was a learning curve. Stressful for sure, but looking back I think we did the best we could.”

Although Taylor would always appreciate lower rent, he said he wasn’t shocked by the current prices because he began his apartment search after the prices had already gone up — he was not exposed to anything cheaper.

Troxler, however, is very conscious of rising prices and said that if he were to re-lease his current apartment in August, he would be paying about \$200 more each month compared to his current rent price.

DiRienzo and Nickodem both said they think the current housing market trends are here to stay for the foreseeable future, especially for first-time home buyers and young adults graduating college.

“Not only is it more expensive, are interest rates rising and the mortgage costs and the rental — all that’s being pushed up,” DiRienzo said. “With the costs to get gas, the cost to go to the grocery store, all that is putting this further squeezing ... that young group that’s trying to get into the housing market for the first time and is presenting some real challenges, and I don’t see it changing for some time.”

With both Charlotte and Raleigh in the top five hottest housing markets for 2022, according to Norada Real Estate Investment, DiRienzo and Nickodem recommend that young adults thinking about buying or renting homes in the near future begin to save now and prepare themselves to be flexible with location and product when navigating the housing market.

“Those folks who have a house, people are knocking on their doors and offering them money for their homes or putting letters in their mailbox — and for significantly over what they would think their home is worth,” DiRienzo said. “But what they always say, and what I hear so often is, ‘Yes, but where am I going to go? I can sell my home for a lot, but I have no place to go.’ So that I see is going to be an issue for some time because the demand has just so far outpaced supply.”

Locals voice concerns over new “ghost gun” laws

Biden announces restrictions on ghost guns, crime in Alamance county rises, two locals split on gun rights

Margaret Faust
Elon News Network

The deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history at Sandy Hook Elementary School was the catalyst for a renewed debate about gun control. New-mom Becky Ceartas was devastated by this news and it pushed her to join and become the executive director of North Carolinians Against Gun Violence.

“People who are killed are other people’s children. They are other people’s brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, people’s grandchildren. They are a part of a community,” Ceartas said.

Rudy Cartassi co-owns a gun store and shooting range called RAD Industries. Cartassi said if any of his customers used a gun to harm an innocent person, he would be heartbroken.

“None of us are monsters. We have hearts like everyone else. We have hearts too. My heart grieves for them,” Cartassi said. “Any loss of life is tragic.”

But what Ceartas and Cartassi don’t agree on is how to prevent violent gun deaths. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 5,000 more people died in 2020 from firearm-related injuries than motor vehicle crashes.

Cartassi said the answer to this violence is for people to arm themselves with guns.

“If someone sees you have a firearm on you, they are probably less likely to do anything,” Cartassi said. “They pause and say, ‘Do we really want to have something happen?’”

Ceartas said the answer to ending violent gun deaths in America is enforcing laws so that guns don’t end up in the wrong hands.

“Felons, people who have a dangerous past and people who are a threat to themselves or others — those are clear cases where people just shouldn’t have guns,” Ceartas said.

She said one way to do this is by issuing extreme risk protection orders. This is where a judge can issue an order to temporarily take away a person’s weapons, including guns, if they are reasonably suspected to soon hurt themselves or others. As of 2019, 19 states have these orders. In Indiana, after ERPOs became legal, the states’ suicide rates went down 7.5%. North Carolina has no extreme risk protection order law.

According to the CDC, firearms are the leading cause of suicides with twice as many people kill themselves using a firearm than by suffocation, and almost five times as many people kill themselves using poisoning. Ceartas thinks ERPOs would help decrease the number of suicides by firearm.

In North Carolina, data shows gun violence is on the rise. According to the Alamance County Sheriff’s office, in 2019 guns were the leading weapon used in robbery, murder, rape and aggravated assault.

President Joe Biden is also weighing in on gun violence in America. In early April, he announced restrictions on ghost guns — untraceable firearms that don’t have serial numbers. Ghost guns aren’t regulated like traditional firearms because they are sold in parts and not considered guns until they are fully assembled at home.

The president’s new rules will require ghost guns to be produced by licensed manufacturers. Plus, customers must pass a background check, the weapons will have serial numbers and stores must keep records of who buys them. The new rules will neither ban ghost guns nor increase the penalties for crimes committed with this weapon.

There is little data on ghost guns specifically because the weapons are relatively new and they are untraceable. The Alamance County Sheriff’s Office did not respond to Elon News Network’s multiple requests for comment to confirm the number of ghost guns in the county. But there have been ghost guns reported in neighboring Guilford County. The Guilford County Sheriff’s Office seized seven ghost guns in 2021 and two so far in 2022.

Ceartas said she supports Biden’s proposal and thinks ghost guns should be regulated like any other firearm. But Cartassi is worried this is the beginning of more restrictions to come.

“If they come for me, who’s next?” Cartassi said.

These new ghost gun rules are set to take effect in mid-August.



Rudy Cartassi explains a part of a gun in the shooting range, RAD Industries.

KYRA O’CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CHEAT SHEET THE CHEAT SHEET IS AN INTERVIEW WITH A RELEVANT EXPERT TO EXPLAIN COMPLEX TOPICS

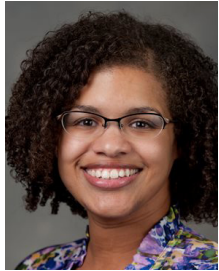
Understanding relevance of critical race theory

Ketanji Brown Jackson's confirmation illustrates how CRT plays role in government.

Oona Timmney-Tracy

Elon News Network

On April 7 Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, who was nominated by President Joe Biden, was confirmed by the Senate to serve as a member of the Supreme Court. Jackson will be the first Black woman to serve on the



Jessica Carew

Supreme Court in the 232 years since its establishment. According to the American Bar Association, critical race theory is a theoretical framework that aims to understand how race intersects with

in society.

Jessica Carew, assistant professor of political science and policy studies, discusses the intersection between race and the criminal justice system and the relevance of Jackson's confirmation to this assessment.

This interview has been edited for clarity.

Since the Supreme Court was established in 1789, and out of the 114 Supreme Court justices, 108 have been white men, could you explain how this is relevant to the critical race theory's examination of race in law?

"The thing about this is, there is such a major imbalance largely because of this tradition of exclusion or inegalitarianism that sits in concert with our ideas around egalitarianism. We believe strongly in the concept of centering equality within our system. Nevertheless, we have many laws and practices that have very purposely directly excluded individuals.

One thing I would say is that broadly and historically within our society, we have what I would call widely accepted prototype images and those are specific to groups, and positions and so forth. They are all frequently based upon the stereotypes that we have developed as a society, then we get these ideas about who it is that ought to be a Supreme Court justice or who it is that ought to be a custodian, etc.

All those various positions often conjure a particular image in our mind, and that image is connected very closely to various ideas of worth and belonging.

A lot of that comes from, as I said, those stereotypes, but it comes from these hierarchies and power differentials that already exist very directly within society.

I would take that back to a quote from historian Mia Bay: "There's a racial divide emerging that people begin to see as natural, and that's part of where the idea of race comes from. It's just a tendency for people to see existing power relationships as having some sort of natural quality to that."

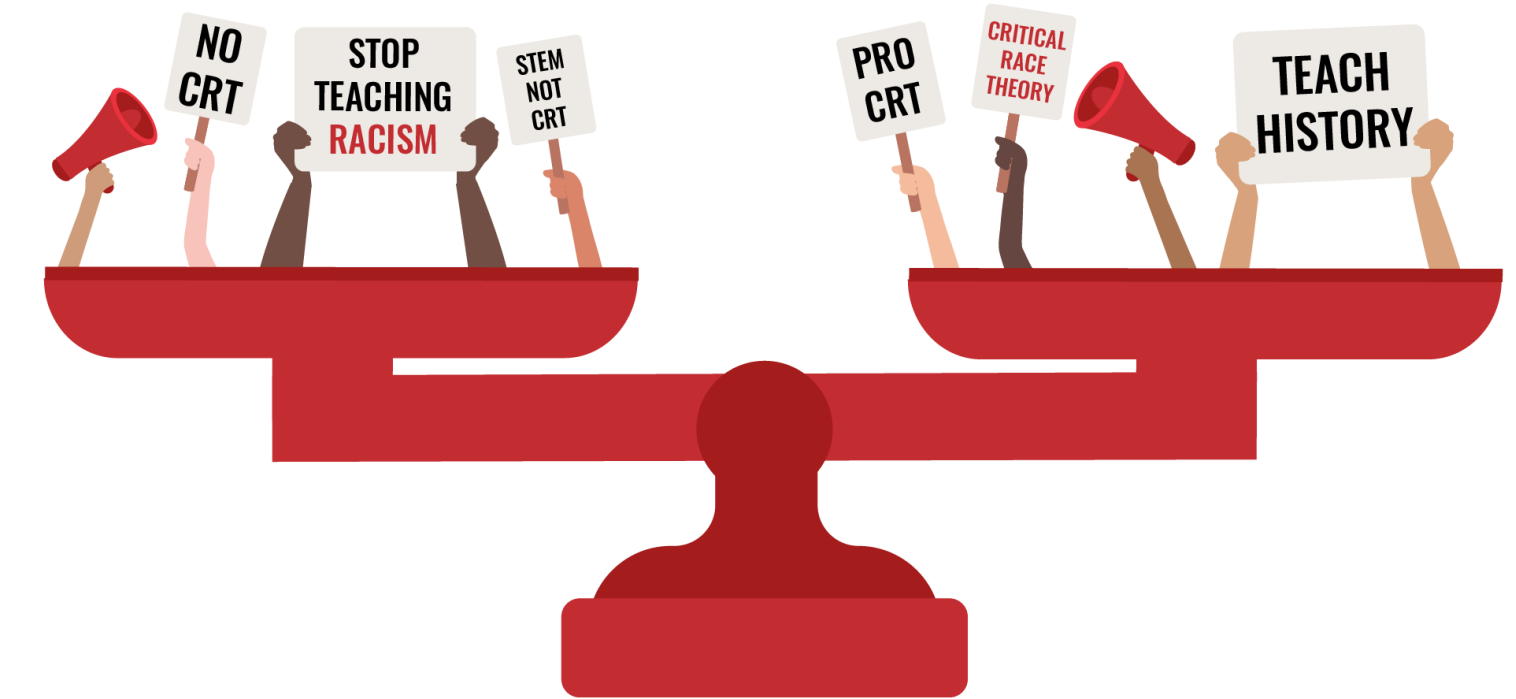
So with that, because we have seen certain groups and individuals in a position of power, in decision making positions, we then just expect that that is just the natural order of things and that is how things ought to be.

So when you combine that with a system that is set up in a way where on its surface it appears as though it is supposed to be equitable and fair and encouraging some sort of meritocracy on a whole.

Then you are going to expect what you find that naturally comes out of that system is automatically going to be what is right, fair and good.

That has led us to this point of just broadly accepting that we have this significant difference when it comes to various demographics on the court, and we just accept that is the case, and understand that, historically speaking, there were a lot of people that were excluded, so of course we are going to have this imbalance.

Without then questioning so much why



CAROLINE MITCHELL | DESIGN CHIEF

since we have begun to change some of those opportunities for access, especially around the 1960s.

Why is it that we continue to see such a significant imbalance, especially when it comes to who it is that gets to be on the court? That is where we can see the usefulness of theoretical perspectives like the critical race theory, for example, and others to help to explain these differences and inequalities that we have continued to see."

Do you think there was any event or buildup of events over the past few years that led to the confirmation of Jackson to serve on the Supreme Court?

"This is tough for me in terms of how to characterize this because one of the things we also see is in a perspective like critical race theory, for instance, is the recognition that what people may consider to be racial progress is not linear. It is something that is not always moving forward in a particular way.

When we begin to attempt to trickle away race as a specific qualification — particularly in terms of the way we see racial inferiority or superiority over time — when we begin to strip away some of that and attempt to see people for their qualifications, and characteristics and their aptitudes on their own, then we often will see some sort of push back. We are more likely to see stops and starts.

I do not know that I would say there is any one event that would push things further to have had this occur; however, I would suggest that this is that arch of progress that we have been seeing build up over time.

In some ways it is perhaps a response to some of the backlash we have also seen over time.

For example, there is certainly some of this build up around Americans seeing to a greater degree some of the systematic inequalities that we have expected to have then been removed from the system with the 1960s Civil Right Act.

Little by little, people have been getting to be shown some of the ways in which we see systems of inequalities continue to operate.

For example, you have Michelle Alexander's 'The New Jim Crow,' her book that came out, or Ava Duvernay's 'The 13th.'

You have a little more in-depth examination in the ways in which you see systems very directly make laws and policies relating to the criminal justice system allowing for racial inequality.

When people begin to see that, then they

start to question some of the other types of inequities they see in society, just like the imbalance on the Supreme Court."

With that being said, do you think Jackson's confirmation to the Supreme Court could be a promising sign that people are willing and ready to see more diverse and inclusive government representation?

"We are definitely seeing some partisan and political issues happening here.

Certainly, with the 2020 election, Joe Biden was pretty vocal and adamant about this idea that if he were to be able to be in a position of nominating to someone to the court, that he would nominate a Black woman.

That in and of itself was something that set off some alarm bells for some people. People saying why would you want to do that, shouldn't you be looking for the most qualified people?

Which is a particularly telling idea.

It implicitly suggests in that Black women are automatically not going to be the most qualified people that could have been chosen which connects to the earlier idea I was talking about that we have these prototype images for who it is that has an aptitude for something or a particular position.

The question here becomes why is it that even after we have seen an increase in positional and education-based inclusion for African Americans and for women in the mid 20th century, why is it that we have continued to see this lack of representation of people from marginalized groups?

This is important because we have to also recognize that there are plenty of stellar people who have been overlooked for these positions for many decades.

So, what we are not recognizing is that some of those people have been overlooked specifically because they are not white men.

The way that we frame talking about this in society really matters because we are not recognizing what we are not talking about.

So historically, we have not been recognizing people, so let us now actually open the pool of applicants to those that are stellar from all backgrounds.

That is really what is a part of what is missing from this conversation.

What is also important to recognize is some of the political pressures that have come about because of some of these demonstrations over the past ten to fifteen years which have then had influence on what political candidates say they will do or what political actors decide they are going to do when it comes to Supreme Court nominations."

Do you think certain Senators were trying to frame a case for Jackson engaging in judicial activism? For example, she was asked questions insinuating how she might approach a case such as Loving v. Virginia?

"I believe it was Senator Cornyn who asked her about Obergefell v. Hodges which is the court case that deals with marriage equality along with sexuality, but he was really trying to deal with a specific legal issue that has to do with the balance of power between the national government and the state.

So, the way that this ends up having a connection to Loving v. Virginia is that we know that states have set up laws that prohibited marriage across races in the same way they did same sex marriage. The idea that Cornyn was trying to get to was that we should be allowing states to make these decisions regarding the type of laws they want to make.

That is a balance of power issue, it is an issue of federalism and the balance of what the general make-up of this power should look like. What we know about that is that there are different people with different experiences and perspectives particularly about what kind of thing constitutes a state's right to have power over and what that means when it comes to marginalized populations.

One of the things that we have looked toward is to ensure that the federal government has opportunities to step in occasionally if they feel the state is not ensuring equitable treatment for their people across the board. Here, we look towards the equal protection clause in the 14th amendment.

Nevertheless, I think that some people will expect they are going to have some idea of how she ought to operate because of her demographic make-up, as well as because the fact she was nominated by a Democratic president, but that does not mean that every other Supreme Court justice sitting on the court does not have some kind of connection to these issues or some sort of set of ideas they have held over time.

Unfortunately, it is an unfair way of thinking about or perceiving her position on the court when we do not turn around and do that for every other individual that is sitting on the court as well. It presupposes that she is in some way not capable of engaging in judicial deliberation with her own personal views, experiences and ideas. However, I do think that, yes certainly, her position and her experiences positionality may have some influence when it comes to this particular type of issue but not necessarily."

A LOOK AT ELON'S 2022 LUMEN SCHOLARS

Applicants must go through application process with minimum of 3.5 GPA, winners receive a \$20,000 scholarship for research projects

Brent Chandler | Elon News Network | @chandlerbrent2

THE LUMEN PRIZE IS given to students trying to attain serious and ambitious goals during their sophomore and junior years according to the Lumen Scholars background page on Elon's webpage. Winners of the prize receive special mentoring and support

for graduate fellowships and international awards, along with a \$20,000 prize for research and scholarship assistance. According to the requirements for Lumen Scholar's on Elon's website, students applying to the Lumen Prize must be given to students with a 3.5 GPA or

higher, must be clear in pursuing two more years at Elon, and must be mentored by a staff member. Students must write a proposal and go through an interview process as a part of their application.

These are this year's Lumen Scholars:



JORDAN WELS

Project: *Simulating Gaseous Clouds in Galaxies Harboring Active Intermediate Mass Black Holes*
Mentor: Chris Richardson
"To have something like the Lumen Prize, to be a Lumen Scholar, is kind of this proof of my hard work and that people who aren't astrophysicists but listened to me for twenty minutes and thought my research was important enough to give me the grant is fulfilling."



COLE CARNEY

Project: *Assessing the Health Care Utilization of Emerging Adults with Type 1 Diabetes in the College Setting: Perspective of Students, Parents, and Providers*
Mentor: Cindy Fair
"By interviewing these populations we'll better understand the patterns that students are utilizing while on a college campus and hopefully that will inspire interventions within health care fields and for physicians specifically to address the needs of college students with Type 1 Diabetes."



LINDY FEINTUCH

Project: *Evaluating the Self-Reference Effect as an Encoding Strategy for Individuals Displaying Autistic Traits: An Eye Tracking Study*
Mentor: Amy Overman
"I didn't know how to channel what I was passionate about into a concrete project and it was my mentor who really helped me narrow that down. ... She was the one who really helped me form the skeleton of my project and from there I was able to get more specific."



ROXY GEBALLE

Project: *Can Music Help Healing? How Arthritis Patients May Benefit from Playing the Piano*
Mentor: Matthew Wittstein
"It's very central to my life. The piano side comes in ... I've definitely been involved with music most of my life so that was a personal interest. And then I also happen to have arthritis myself so that's another side of the interest. Then being able to combine them into research was a really, really cool opportunity."



KALEY KATZ

Project: *Investigating the Role of ASXL1 and ASXL2 Proteins in Leukemic Cell Lines*
Mentor: Tonya Train
"I knew I wanted to do something with leukemia. It's something I have always been really passionate about because my cousin was diagnosed with leukemia when she was eleven. And so ever since then I have been running bone marrow drives."



VIVIAN KRAUSE

Project: *Factoring our Racial Bias: Developing a Dual-Sensor System for Pulse Oximetry*
Mentor: Jonathan Su
"There have been a lot of studies done that have focused on that issue and a lot of current medical research that has proven that bias is within the medical system in general. Though acknowledging is a really important first step, like acknowledging that there are these biases and some things may be unreliable, I think it is important that we, as a medical and engineering community, we put energy and focus into creative solutions."



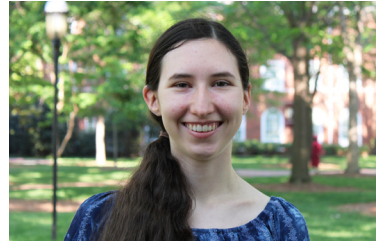
JOSIE MCWHORTER

Project: *Hell in a Helmet: Assessing the Effects of Low-Stigma Group Exercise on PTSD Symptoms in Veterans*
Mentor: Eric Hall
"I first had the idea from one of my English professors. We had a project that was very heavily research based and I kind of went all into it. I would meet with her frequently and she was like, 'Josie calm down. You don't need to go that hard'. But she recommended it. She said if you really like research you should go to the Lumen Scholars."



SOPHIE MILLER

Project: *Telling Stories and Taking Pictures: How Children and Teachers Co-Facilitate Inquiry and Reflection Outdoors*
Mentor: Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler
"I hope my research can show what children are capable of learning. One of my research questions looks at how inquiry and reflections are built in early childhood and formulated in early childhood. I think learning about that and what tools we can give them will help us with furthering their education."



SARAH MIRROW

Project: *Clinic Closures and High School Dropouts: How Abortion Access Impacts Female Educational Attainment in Texas*
Mentor: Steven Bednar
"One of the things about this project is that Texas, the state that I am using for my study, is undergoing active abortion legislative changes right now and adding to this body of work at this moment is particularly important."



CAILEY ROGERS

Project: *The Dark Side of Domesticity: Tracking the Evolution of the Female Gothic in Victorian Literature*
Mentor: Janet Myers
"I think it seems like it doesn't have as much of an impact because it is literature and it's not like me creating some scientific feat. But I do believe that it will never stop being important or relevant to talk about literature and talk about feminism because they are evolving topics."



DANIEL SALTGAVER

Project: *The Age of Uncertainty: Reconsidering Friedrich Nietzsche's Place Within Modern European Intellectual History*
Mentor: Michael Carignan
"It was almost like they had a faith in science like it was a religion and Nietzsche really shattered that, so he has this big important place in intellectual history. But there were other people before him and around the same time that had similar ideas, and they're never really given the same attention."



ALANIS CAMACHO-NARVAEZ

Project: *A Mal Tiempo, Buena Cara: Colonial Mentality, Political Beliefs, and Ethnic Identity among Island Puerto Ricans*
Mentor: David Buck
"I was really passionate about researching, solving issues and creating plans to help Puerto Rico. I always had that passion, but it was when I came to Elon that I realized I could combine those two. That I could help Puerto Ricans while being a psychologist."



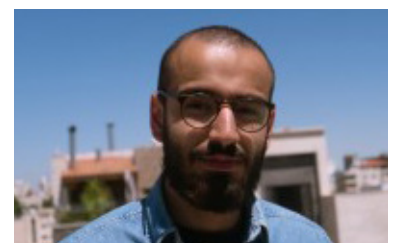
NAZ SHOKRI

Project: *Data Justice: MENA Women, Preterm Birth, and Discrimination*
Mentor: Yanica Faustin
"There was a huge gap of literature for Middle Eastern North African women because of the politics surrounding the census and how MENA is technically considered a race. Oftentimes data for MENA gets mixed up in the African American category or ending up in the white category."



BRUCE VAGT

Project: *Development of Tools and Methods for Assessing Cancer Using Optical Coherence Tomography*
Mentor: Richard Blackmon
"You go to the doctor, run some tests and you give them their blood. They run that off to the lab, and it takes two weeks to get those results back. One of the goals will be scanning the cell with real time information and ideally interpreting the cell. Being able to have information about your body immediately is much more valuable to your health than waiting two or three weeks."



AYESH AWAD

Project: *Analysis of Mechanical Performance of PLA and PLC Polymer Biodegradable Stents Under Accelerated Conditions*
Mentor: Jonathan Su
"It's slow, and not as fast as people make it sound. My paper is a very important step in solving this problem. That's what I'm trying to be. This paper won't save lives right now, I'm a little bit more realistic with that. But I know for a fact that if I do this well and the results come out where I want them to be, it will be a really good first step towards saving lives."

LIFESTYLE

Local textile mill celebrates 140th anniversary

Textile Heritage Museum commemorates Glencoe Mills anniversary

Abigail Hobbs
Elon News Network | @abigailhobbs

On April 30, Glencoe Cotton Mill, a closed textile plant only five miles from Elon University, will celebrate its 140-year anniversary with a festival at the Textile Heritage Museum.

Alamance County had 30 textile mills running by the end of the 20th century, according to the Textile Heritage Museum. Elon history professor Mary Jo Festle said textile mills played a big part in forming the values of Alamance County that can still be seen today.

“There’s also the social relations in the mills ... and that’s because the people who worked in the mill, like the mill village in Glencoe, really follow one another that way,” Festle said. “They were not individualistic, they were very communal.”

Festle said the history of Alamance County is important to experience a culture different from their own.

“Sometimes outsiders look and say, ‘Oh, those are just poor people’ and look down on people and not see them the way they see themselves, which is really hard working, really caring for one another, really persistent in hard times, because the mills went through lots of hard times,” Festle said. “We do a lot of community engagement at Elon and I think a lot of students who ... say they want to learn about culture that is different from their own, ... that’s valuable for them.”

Director of the Textile Heritage Museum John W. Guss said the museum is not only important to Alamance County, but an important piece of American history.

“Our ancestors who worked and sacrificed in the early years of textile mills is the foundation for much of the success the United

States enjoys today,” Guss wrote in an email to Elon News Network. “The Textile Heritage Museum in Historic Glencoe is just one of a very small handful of true American textile museums across the United States.”

Glencoe Cotton Mill opened in April 1882 and closed 74 years later. The mill and the surrounding village were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in February 1979.

In 2002, the museum was created by local volunteers when they restored and preserved the mill and the village. In September 2018, it partnered with Alamance Parks Department to maintain its nonprofit status.

Now, the museum is a non-profit organization and includes the original building, management offices and company store. It contains equipment like spinning wheels and weaving looms, photos, personal accounts from the mill and vintage fabric samples from 50 textile mills across North Carolina.

The celebration will include meeting with textile mill veterans, costumed historians, authors, artisans and quilters. There will also be a food truck from Danny’s Cafe and live music with local band Neville’s Quarter.

The Preservation Burlington Salvage Store will open shop at the festival for visitors to buy vintage fixtures. The Alamance Partnership for Children will provide entertainment for kids. Socksquatch, mascot of the Burlington sock puppets, will also be in attendance.

Guss said that while textile mills have an extensive past, they also have potential for the future as well.

“With the world ever changing and the majority of textile development and manufacturing professions now being located in many other countries outside the United States, it will be the challenge and responsibility of our current students and more recent professionals entering the job market to determine how they will survive and succeed in our ‘modern’ world with less textile manufacturing in the United States,” Guss wrote. “We learn from our origins of our heritage. Some of it begins here in Glencoe, North Carolina.”



John W. Guss stands in front of one of the displays at the Textile Heritage Museum in Glencoe. Guss, who serves as the director of the Textile Heritage Museum, said the museum aims to tell the expansive textile story in Glencoe Mill.



The Textile Heritage Museum in Glencoe Mill celebrates 140 years this Saturday, April 30.

ELON LISTENS

ELON LISTENS IS A COLUMN THAT REVIEWS DIFFERENT TYPES OF MUSIC THROUGH STORYTELLING

Aldous Harding’s new journey in sound



Grey Gaul
Freshman

Since her self-titled 2016 debut, Aldous Harding has made a name as a powerful yet soft-spoken singer/songwriter who has garnered the attention of the indie music world.

She’s simultaneously expanding both the range of music genres which she can conquer and the versatility of her own singing in her recent album. As an accomplished folk and chamber pop singer whose nuanced delivery could both soothe the listener and put the fear of God in them, she’s now entering new territory: the playful qualities of what her voice can do.

In Harding’s fourth studio album, “Warm Chris,” one can hear her shifting vocal registers to portray different characters and settings. Whether she’s crooning or delivering a euphonious message, Harding manages to do something different with her voice

on every track.

“I use my voice like language or clothing,” Harding said in an interview with the Guardian. “I use whatever sounds I need to fill the gaps in my musical universe. I make songs that I want to hear, how I get there really does feel handed to me.”

In terms of instrumentation, the piano is in the forefront in “Warm Chris” more than on her previous albums. An instrument she committed to learning during the early stages of the pandemic, her simple yet infectious riffs are plentiful. In “She’ll Be Coming Round the Mountain” a soft, minor-keyed piano arpeggio opens up the song, followed by a country-tinged lament singing, “When I started out, I had much more than I have now.” But this mournfulness is overshadowed by sheer curiosity and reflection, cast over a flugelhorn during the chorus.

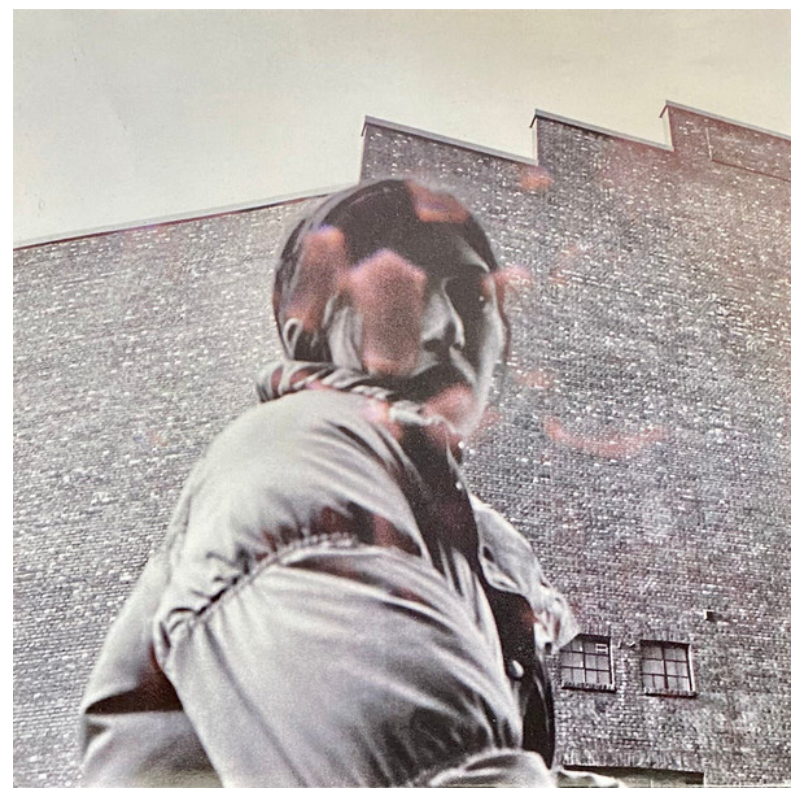
On each song, Harding is joined by frequent collaborators John Parish and H. Hawkline, who both add to each composition the necessary amount of involvement — or lack thereof — and both on numerous instruments. While some songs involve complex layers, at other times a tight rhythm section and steady beat, which they provide in tandem

with drummer Seb Rochford, serves the song sufficiently.

In the song “Fever,” the second of two singles from the album, the band plays a succinct, upbeat progression. Harding commands the verses, beginning each with a singular “Fever!” or “Lover!” This efficient progression never breaks code, pausing only after each brief chorus. “All my favorite places are bars,” sings Harding, followed by the melancholic refrain of horn player Gavin Fitzjohn.

A wry sense of humor permeates Harding’s wordplay throughout the album. This results in classic lines like, “Of all the ways to eat a cake, this one surely takes the knife,” in “Passion Babe.”

While “Warm Chris” is chiefly focused on exploration in sound, it’s certainly her most accessible album to date. Portions of the album are sonically similar to 20th century psychedelia, and this familiarity is key to its appeal. In the song “Leathery Whip,” the understated beat of a tambourine and drum kit create the base for an organ drone, easing listeners along like a lazy river. The austere, confident Harding sings the lyrics, “Here come life with his leathery whip,” and is eventually met with an overdub of a nasally, childlike Harding singing the same words. The song itself sounds a great deal



Aldous Harding’s album art for “Warm Chris.”

like a modern interpretation of a traditional tune, with elements reminiscent of 60s folk-revival music.

The inclusion of fuzz-guitar on the song “Lawn” similarly informs its psychedelic folk sound, featuring her signature youthful,

guileless singing style and pairing nicely with John Parish’s monotone yet charming backing vocals.

“Warm Chris” is an eccentric yet typically restrained album — a playground for Harding’s sonic and, to a lesser extent, lyrical adventures.



JACOB KISAMORE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Lizette Reding tosses the ball into the air prior to hitting a serve in Elon's match against Norfolk State University on March 25. Reding won her singles match 6-4, 6-0 and Elon won the overall match 6-1.

WOMEN'S TENNIS EXCITED FOR HOME COURT ADVANTAGE

Elon will host the CAA Women's Tennis Tournament April 29 to May 1

Jacob Kisamore
Sports Director | @jacobkisamore

When sophomore Lizette Reding steps on the court at this weekend's Colonial Athletic Association Women's Tennis Tournament, she expects to feel several emotions upon seeing the home crowd.

"I'll be excited. I'll be afraid a little bit," Reding said. "A little bit of pressure, nerves, but it's nothing that I can't handle."

For the first time since 2019, Elon will host the CAA Women's Tennis Tournament from April 29 to May 1. Eight of the conference's nine women's tennis teams will compete at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center in a single elimination bracket to decide the champion of the conference (James Madison University is banned from all CAA championships this season due to its impending move to the Sun Belt Conference). The winner will earn an automatic berth in May's NCAA Tournament.

Elon finished the regular season with a 15-8 record, including a 13-1 mark in home matches. For junior Sibel Tanik, having the tournament at Elon's home tennis courts is a big advantage.

"We really just love the energy of Elon and want to be able to defend Elon and play for our

school and our name," Tanik said. "When you play at home, you always have that feeling of just wanting to perform to the best of your ability especially when your friends or family are around."



IT'S GOOD TO HAVE NERVES BECAUSE WE CARE ABOUT IT, BUT AS SOON AS WE GO ONTO THE COURT, WE'RE GOING TO LEAVE ALL THOSE NERVES AND WORRIES BEHIND US.

LIZETTE REDING
SOPHOMORE

The team finished the season strong, winning six of its final eight matches. However, the two losses came against James Madison and William & Mary, both of which are conference opponents.

Tanik said the conference is very balanced this season from top to bottom in terms of teams competing, and that there will be no easy matches for Elon during the weekend.

"Everyone is at or near a good level," Tanik said. "We are thinking about one match at a time and going into Friday and getting through that match the

best we can and not thinking about who we'd play next or who is winning where."

Last Sunday, players on the women's team attended the men's tennis championship match at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center. Although Elon's men's team lost 4-2 to the University of North Carolina Wilmington, Reding said watching them make a run to the championship match inspired players on the women's team to go far in their tournament.

"They played amazing, they had great intensity and the crowd was amazing," Reding said. "I feel very excited to play this weekend and we will be trying to copy them."

This will be Reding's second CAA Tournament, as she went 2-1 in her matches in last year's event in Williamsburg, Virginia. For her, there is more pressure in the lead-up to this tournament compared to a regular season match.

"It's good to have nerves because we care about it but as soon as we go onto the court, we're going to leave all those nerves and worries behind us," Reding said.

According to Tanik, Elon will have a light week of practice to preserve energy for the tournament, with players focusing on staying hydrated, getting lots of sleep and stretching throughout the week to be ready for the physical demands of the event.

"The match is won before you're even on the court," Tanik said. "You can control how much



JACOB KISAMORE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Sibel Tanik hits a forehand during her singles match against Norfolk State University on March 25. Tanik won 6-0 and 6-4, and Elon won the overall match 6-1.

water you drink, how much sleep you get and how much stretching you do the week before."

While physical preparation is important, Reding said the team will also spend a lot of time on mental preparation this week to be ready for the loud crowds and pressure situations. The team also plans to enjoy the magnitude of the tournament.

"We want to remind ourselves how special we are and how much we deserve to be here in this moment," Reding said. "Let's make this weekend amazing. Whatever the result is, we are going to be happy at the end because we know that we are going to leave everything on the court and we will have nothing left."

IF YOU GO

Colonial Athletic Association Women's Tennis Tournament

Where: Jimmy Powell Tennis Center

When:
Quarterfinal match: Friday, April 29, 11 a.m.
Semifinal matches: Saturday, April 30, time TBD
Championship match: Sunday, May 1, 1 p.m.