

ELON PUSHES FOR MALE INVOLVEMENT IN SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION, CONSENT EDUCATION

The Gender and LGBTQIA Center partners with many clubs, organizations to further promote education, training

Ryan Kupperman
Elon News Network | @RyAndKupp

Senior Trevor Molin is one of two new healthy masculinity and relationship student assistants, dedicated to teaching and expanding upon consent, healthy masculinity and gender-based violence education at Elon University.

A joint position with the Gender and LGBTQIA Center and women's, gender and sexualities program, the roles were created for the fall 2022 semester and align with the GLC's goal of marketing training and education to more male-identifying students on campus.

"It's partially on us, but I think it's also on people that we're trying to present to, and to masculine folks and men to be open to and be curious about what we're trying to say," Molin said. "If we're not all looking at each other with respect and compassion, it can kind of fall apart at times."

Junior Oli McGowan, manager of the Coalition of Learning for Empowerment and Anti-violence Resources at Elon and who goes by he/they pronouns, emphasized the importance of

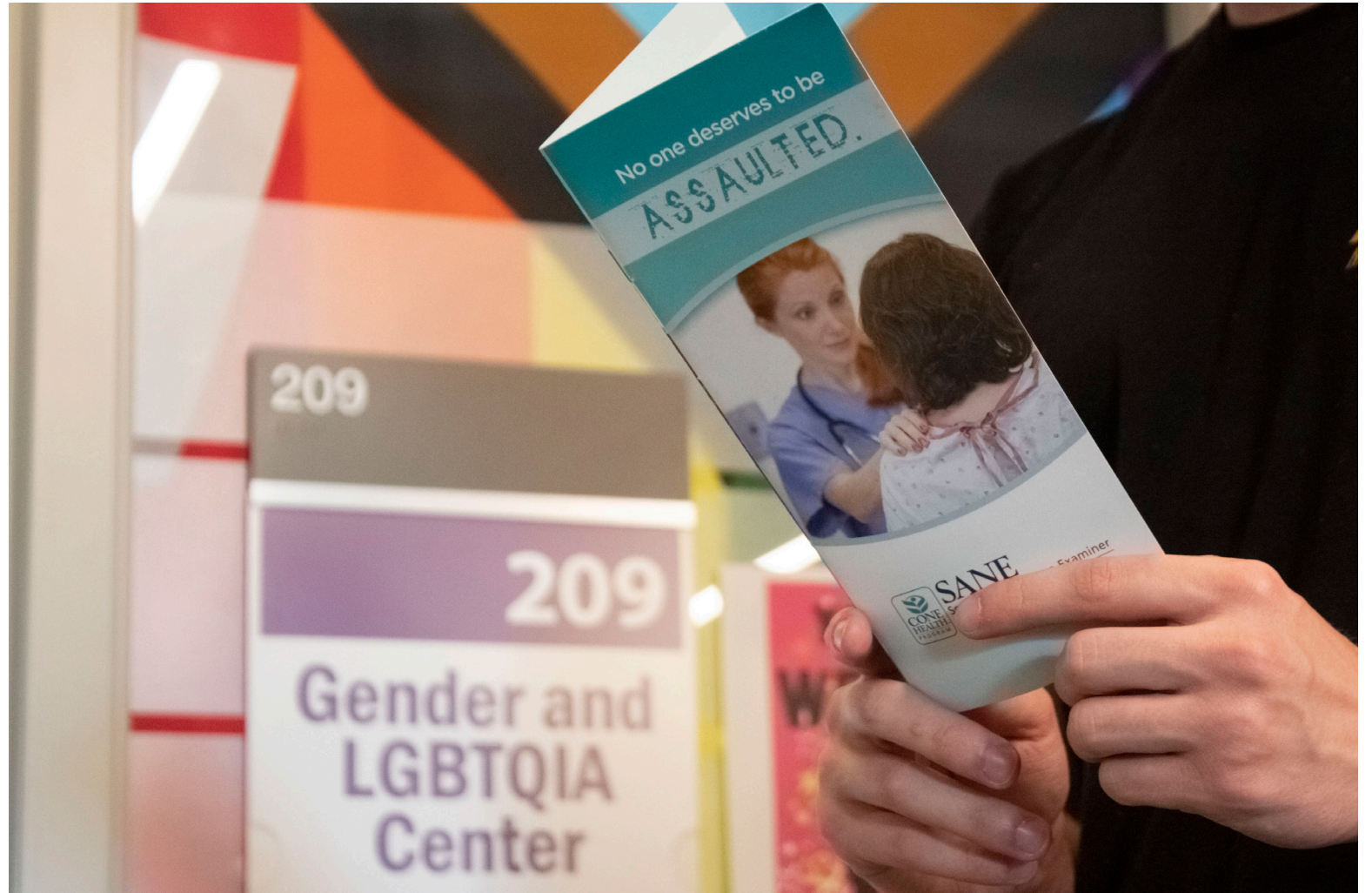


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | SOPHIE ROSENTHAL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The Gender and LGBTQIA Center is making sexual assault prevention and consent education resources more visible to the Elon community, especially for male-identifying students.

engaging everyone at their own pace as well as ensuring that communication is open and free with students and faculty on campus.

In McGowan's own experience, he said his female-identifying

friends are more enthusiastic to engage in conversations about consent because, statistically, sexual assault affects more women than men.

"From my male-identified friends, most of them are open

to the conversation but aren't super excited about it, and I do have some guy friends who are like, 'No, absolutely not,'" McGowan said. "We've also found that it is difficult to create this programming and

have meaningful engagement from fraternity groups and stuff because the term 'healthy masculinity' feels kind of scary."

See **EDUCATION** | pg. 4

Alamance County judge dismisses Confederate monument lawsuit

On Sep. 13 the lawsuit was dismissed after it was filed in the Alamance County Superior Court March 2021

Miranda Ferrante, Ryan Kupperman and Margaret Faust

A superior court judge from the Alamance County Historic Courthouse dismissed a lawsuit Sept. 13 from the North Carolina NAACP requesting the removal of the Confederate monument in downtown Graham.

The lawsuit was filed by the state and local NAACP, along with other advocacy groups in Alamance County Superior Court in March 2021. A representative from the Alamance County Courthouse said the order itself is not available to the public currently.

According to previous coverage from Elon News Network, the county released a statement arguing that they do not own the land where the monument sits. According to a 2015 law regarding the protection of monuments, memorials and works of art the "removal, relocation or altering of historical monuments" on public property is prohibited unless it's approved by the North Carolina Historical Commission.

Barrett Brown, president of Alamance County NAACP, said he is disappointed that the lawsuit was dismissed and that the

organization wants a hearing. He said he believes the monument is offensive.

"The pain and hardship that it causes in the community, that they have to exist with this totem of white supremacy, that it does harm to individuals and that it deserves a hearing," Brown said. "It does harm to people where it exists."

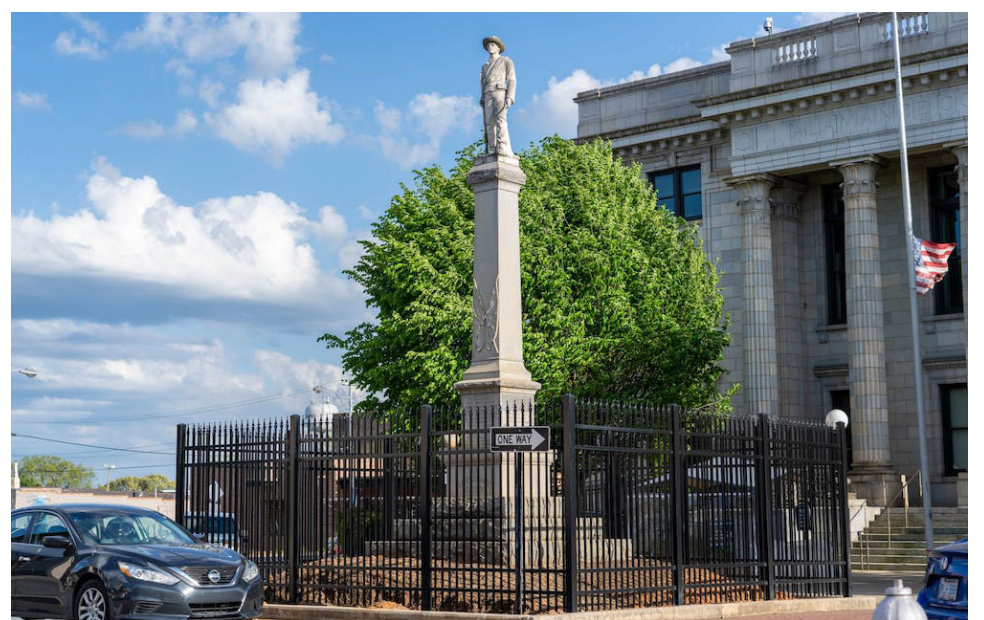
He said it should belong in a museum, cemetery, or private residence, and not in such a public space.

"It's a symbol of sedition and a symbol of white supremacy and it has no place in a place where we have to go to seek justice," Brown said.

Jamie Paulen — an attorney, civil practitioner and former magistrate — actively represents protesters and demonstrators within Alamance County and has been following the NAACP's lawsuit as well as other disputes around the Graham monument.

"I'm super disappointed," Paulen said. "It feels like Alamance is just stuck in the past ... It still feels like the rest of the world is progressing and Alamance County is literally stuck in the Jim Crow era."

According to Paulen, she — along with many Graham residents — felt the movements and efforts presented in 2020 would result in the removal of the statue. While their efforts weren't successful at the time, Paulen said the NAACP's lawsuit brought some hope to



MIRANDA FERRANTE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
In early April 2021, a \$32,100 eight foot fence was built around the Confederate monument in Graham.

those involved in the movement.

"I think there was at least a hope that if we couldn't get the local government to take action, that the courts would be willing to take action," Paulen said.

There have been multiple civil rights protests regarding the statue. Elon University students and faculty, along with Graham residents, protested for the removal of the statue July 2020.

Johnson did not respond to Elon News Network's immediate request for comment regarding the dismissal of the lawsuit but told ENN he was available to discuss the topic on Wednesday. Johnson and Alamance county law enforcement have previously clashed regarding protests that have occurred around Graham's confederate statute.

Avery Sloan and Kyra O'Connor contributed to the reporting of this story.

THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF
ELON NEWS
NETWORK

Established 1974
Volume 51, Edition 5

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.

KYRA O'CONNOR
Executive Director of Elon News Network

SOPHIE ROSENTHAL
Managing Editor of The Pendulum

MIRANDA FERRANTE
Managing Editor of elonnewsnetwork.com

ELLIS CHANDLER
Executive Producer of Elon Local News

CHLOE FRANKLIN
Associate Producer of Elon Local News

ERIN MARTIN
Executive Producer of ENN On Air

MADALYN HOWARD
Chief Copy Editor

CAROLINE MITCHELL
Design Chief

AVERY SLOAN
Politics Director

MASON WILLET
Sports Director

ABBY SHAMBLIN
Analytics Director

ANNA TOPFL
Social Media Coordinator

Anne Thyfault contributed to the design of this edition. Gram Brownlee, Abigail Hobbs and Ryan Kupperman contributed to the copy editing of this edition.

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.

ENN On Air
broadcasts Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.

elonnewsnetwork.com
publishes daily

CORRECTIONS

In the Sept. 7 edition of The Pendulum, the article "Elon faculty express concerns over new note taker program" incorrectly said that voluntary note takers would be eliminated. Voluntary note takers will only be unnecessary in classrooms that utilize Glean, but voluntary peer note takers will still be employed in other classrooms and when necessary. Elon News Network regrets this error.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH EVENTS

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH KICK-OFF

Sept. 15 | Medallion Plaza | 5 – 7 p.m.

Kick off Hispanic Heritage Month by celebrating the independence of Mexico and the Central American countries.

HMM TRIVIA

Sept. 15 | Upstairs Lakeside | 10:30 p.m. – midnight

Join the Student Union Board for a special Hispanic Heritage Month-themed trivia. For more info, contact @elonsub on Instagram.

DIAPER COLLECTION

Sept. 15 – Oct. 5 | Bins located in Kernodle Center, El Centro, CREDE and the Francis Center

Diapers will be collected for the Dream Center, which is a hub of activity for the Latinx/Hispanic community in Alamance County.

HMM-THEMED COLLEGE COFFEE

Sept. 20 | Phi Beta Kappa Commons | 9:40 – 10:30 a.m.

Enjoy a special Hispanic Heritage Month Themed College Coffee with some popular Hispanic breakfast items.

PERSPECTIVAS SERIES: FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING

Sept. 21 and Sept. 22 | Lakeside 212 | 6 – 8 p.m.

Join a two-day series of presentations on current issues in the Latinx/Hispanic Community. This year's theme will focus on community health and wellness.

LA HABANA NIGHT

Sept. 23 | Taphouse | 10 p.m. – 2 a.m.

Wear your dancing shoes and enjoy Latin music, food, drinks and dances. Everyone is welcome, and entrance is free. Bring your Elon ID.

TARDE LATINA WITH ELON'S WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

Sept. 25 | Rudd Field | 1 p.m.

Join an afternoon of fun, music and soccer to cheer the women's soccer team playing against Monmouth University.

HMM BOOK DISPLAY

Sept. 26 – Oct. 15 | Belk Library

Stop by the library to check out books written by Latinx/Hispanic authors and/or related to Latinx/Hispanic culture and history.

LATINO OPEN MIC: DÉJAME CONTARTE!

Sept. 29 | The Oak House | 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Come watch different performances by Latinx and Hispanic students at the annual open mic night. Performances will range from musical pieces to spoken word.

CAFÉ CON LECHE WITH FRIENDS: PAINTING OUR IDENTITIES

Oct. 4 | Carlton 114 | 6 – 7 p.m.

A paint night will be hosted for those who want to learn more about the Latinx/Hispanic students on campus, create relationships and find support systems at Elon through the magic of art.

"SUSTAINABLY LOVING OURSELVES THROUGH INTERSECTIONAL ENVIRONMENTALISM" WITH ISAIAS HERNANDEZ

Oct. 5 | Upstairs Lakeside | 7 – 8 p.m.

Intersectional environmentalism is an inclusive approach to environmentalism that looks into advocating for the people and the planet simultaneously. Isaias Hernandez will share their journey as a young, LGBTQIA+ and brown environmentalist in pursuit of pushing forward climate literacy and building sustainable love.

DIAPER DISTRIBUTION AT DREAM CENTER

Oct. 6 | The Dream Center | 3:30 – 7:30 p.m.

For students looking for an easy way to try out service at Elon this fall, the Kernodle Center offers a program called Get on the Bus. One opportunity for students will be to assist with the local City Gate Dream Center's diaper distribution in surrounding communities.

LATINX/HISPANIC IDENTITY PANEL: WHO ARE WE?

Oct. 11 | Lakeside 214 | 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Learn about the complexity and intersectionalities of Latinx/Hispanic identities. There will be a panel formed by Elon students, faculty and staff that identify as Latinx/Hispanic.



Jesse Knepp and Brian Mariani, both firefighters with the Carrboro, North Carolina Fire-Rescue Department, round the corner of South Main Street and West Pine Street in Graham. Both firefighters participated in the second annual 9/11 Commemorative 5K Event on Sept. 10.



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



ALLISON RIKARD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Camryn Harris (left) senior Giselle Watts (right) wait in line for ice cream at the Tri Council Welcome Back event on Sept. 7. Members of Panhellenic Association, Interfraternity Council and National Pan-Hellenic Council organizations gathered to kick off the year.



COOPER LYON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Otis, one of Lake Mary Nell's many ducks, was seen visiting his own memorial site after being presumed dead by students. Otis was spotted upside down in the lake last week, leading many to fear for his life. However, all ducks are accounted for, and Otis has been spotted multiple times around campus since.



ELLA PITONYAK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Left to right: Sophomore Lily Barker, freshman Clara LaRue and junior Presly Austin celebrate on Elon's sideline after the team won a point against Duke University in its home opener at Schar Center Sept. 6. Elon lost in four sets.



SARAH MOORE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Colorful bins of posters featured prints of popular art and student submissions at the poster sale in Alumni Gym on Sept. 8. The sale went from Sept. 6 to 9.

GLC UTILIZES PEER EDUCATORS TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY EDUCATION RESOURCES, TRAINING

EDUCATION | from cover

Becca Bishopric Patterson, associate director of the GLC, said she believes that utilizing peer educators is the best way to initiate much-needed progressive conversations. According to Bishopric Patterson, the GLC has already had some presentation requests from Elon's Panhellenic Association and varsity athletic program.

Although a slow and sometimes frustrating process, Bishopric Patterson and McGowan stress the need to gradually build relationships with the community in order to open the door to communication and understanding.

This is also something that Molin, who goes by he/they pronouns, is focused on in his new position.

"A big part of what we're trying to do is lay groundwork and create relationships with organizations," Molin said. "Something I really would like to do in this role is be able to meet more one on one with particular people in athletics, fraternity life, acapella and other social organizations ... Being able to talk to their leadership and actually better understand what people think when they hear something like healthy masculinity."

Molin, McGowan and Bishopric Patterson all said they feel that male students and faculty should be aware of the privilege they have and use their positions to create an environment where everyone feels safe.

"White, cis, het men on campus hold a very, very large responsibility to contribute to the environment on campus," McGowan said. "With the privilege of being a man comes responsibility to ensure that you're creating an environment that is safe for everybody and not contributing to any toxicity or any aggression."

According to junior Madeleine Hollenbeck, a peer educator for the GLC, a member of the Alamance Youth Connected Project and a part of CLEAR, the GLC

is first targeting groups who it feels will respond well to training, such as the Gender and Sexuality Living Learning Community, classes within the women's, gender and sexuality studies minor and professors that are strong allies with the GLC.

Once the GLC has gained a foothold with these groups on campus, Hollenbeck said it will focus on Greek life, athletics and Elon 1010 classes.

"Educate the people who need it rather than the people that will just agree with us," Hollenbeck said. "You want to reach the people who don't share your opinions and values, so that you can give them another perspective."

As a woman, Hollenbeck said she also feels that including the men on campus in conversations and education efforts is crucial to forming an environment and culture that promotes safety and understanding. One example where Elon still has room to improve, according to Hollenbeck, is catcalling.

"It's frustrating because yelling back at them is just more antagonizing and could lead to something worse than if you just ignore them and keep walking," Hollenbeck said. "I don't know how to dismantle that kind of culture around Elon. I feel like it should be easier with such a female-dominated population that we have here. ... As women, we shouldn't be responsible for changing the culture. They need to. They need to do that work."

While there are some mandatory trainings, such as the online consent education that all incoming Elon students have to complete, Hollenbeck is hesitant to implement more mandatory education opportunities — largely because she feels most men are not actively engaged in changing the culture.

"I think it should be mandatory, but I think that if it's something that people are forced to go to, they might not absorb the information as well," Hollenbeck said. "The way that they're so passive, often

about consent education, really doesn't help the culture ... We need to involve men as often as we can because if they're often the problem, they can be the solution."

Bishopric Patterson also said she wants to be clear that most men are not perpetrating sexual violence, but she feels the passive majority need to be educated and engaged.

"That means that there are a whole lot of other men ... who aren't perpetrating violence and can actually create a lot of good by holding other men accountable and promoting messages that are talking about consent, talking about supporting survivors, talking about equality and respect and how to use your privilege for good," Bishopric Patterson said. "I think that's really what we want to focus on."

While there is always room for improvement, Bishopric Patterson, Hollenbeck and McGowan feel that Elon has numerous quality resources in the realm of consent education and sexual violence. For the 2022-23 academic year, their main focus is making these resources more visible to the rest of campus.

"There's always things to improve on, but I think that there are the right people making the right efforts in attempts to ensure that students have resources and education," McGowan said.

Through contacting the GLC or submitting a request form on Phoenix Connect, people and organizations in the Elon community can request training presentations, given by trained students, on topics such as consent education or gender-based violence.

Students and faculty can walk into the GLC, located in upstairs Moseley room 209, at any time between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. during the week or email at GLC@elon.edu, as well as follow its social media pages @ [elonglc](https://www.instagram.com/elonglc) on Instagram and @ElonGLC on Facebook.

Bishopric Patterson and associate director of the GLC for violence response AK Krauss also serve as confidential reporters, where

they are not mandated to report anything to the university if students wanted to talk privately or ask for guidance about sexual violence experiences. Bishopric Patterson is located in the GLC, while Krauss is located on the second floor of the Koury Athletic Center in room 213.

Students can also call the SafeLine number on the back of their Phoenix Cards, which is a confidential violence response resource.

"The goal is to make sure students feel like they are safe and they have resources that they can go to, should something happen," McGowan said. "I think that education across the board is getting better. There's always work to do."

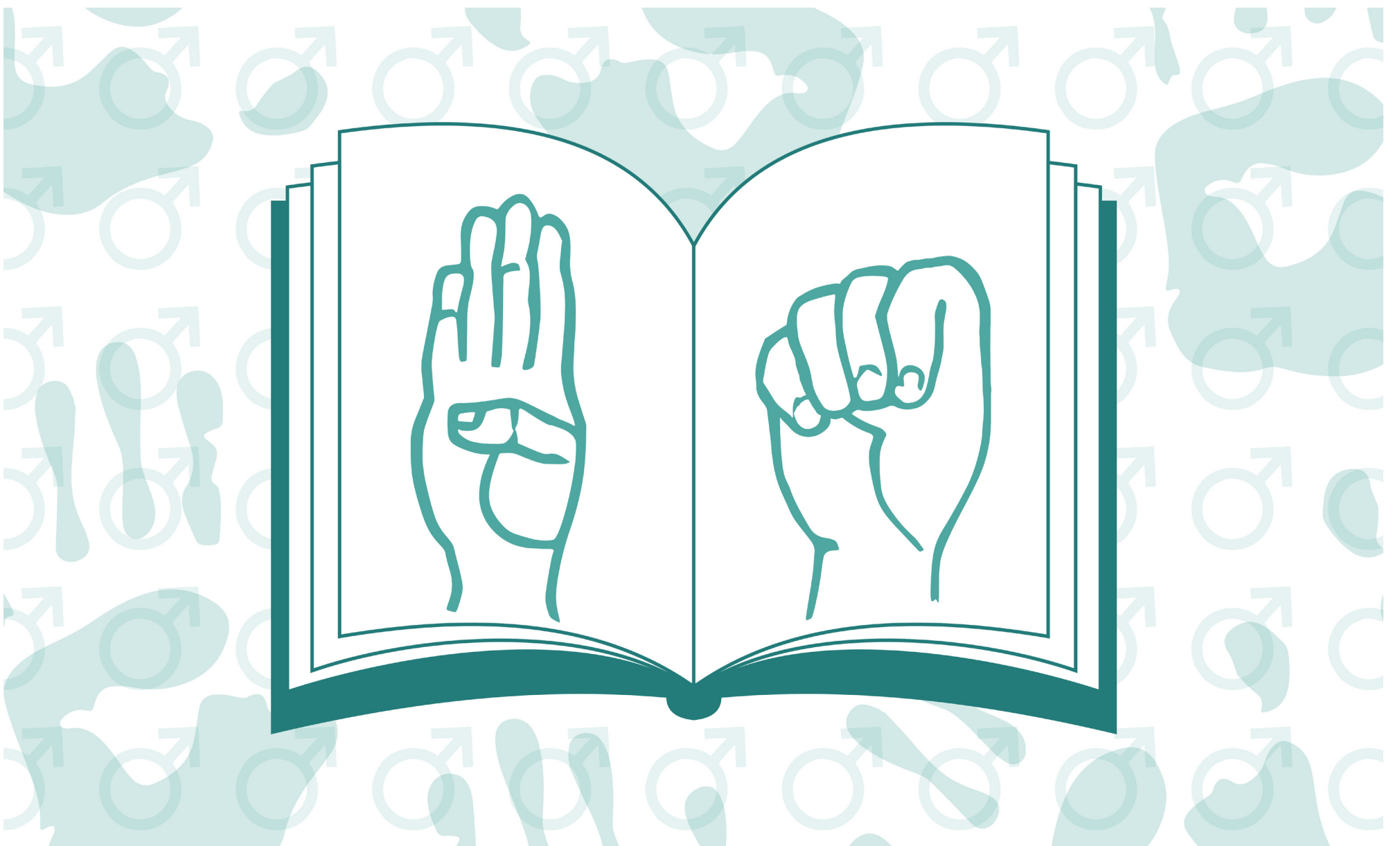
RESOURCES

Check out Elon's various clubs and organizations on campus and on Phoenix Connect, including the Gender and LGBTQIA Center, the Coalition of Learning for Empowerment and Anti-violence Resources at Elon and SPARKS Peer Health Education.

Contact the GLC at GLC@elon.edu and follow them on social media @ [elonglc](https://www.instagram.com/elonglc) on Instagram and @ElonGLC on Facebook.

Call the confidential violence response SafeLine number, located on the back of every Phoenix Card, at (336) 278-5555.

Visit Becca Bishopric Patterson, associate director of the GLC, in the GLC located in upstairs Moseley room 209 or AK Krauss, associate director of the GLC for violence response, located upstairs in the Koury Athletic Center room 213. Both Bishopric Patterson and Krauss are confidential reporters, meaning they are not mandated to report anything to the university or authorities, and can be contacted at (336) 278-7285 or bbishopric@elon.edu and (336) 278-5009 or akrauss3@elon.edu respectively.



The "Signal for Help" hand signs are a way to communicate that someone is feeling trapped in a violent situation at home or experiencing sexual violence.

NAVIGATING STUDENT-PROFESSOR ENGAGEMENT ACROSS DISCIPLINES

After ranking No. 1 for undergraduate teaching, faculty reflect on student connections

Abigail Hobbs

Elon News Network | @AbigailHobbs

At the start of every semester, Elon University professor of performing arts Kim Shively invites each of her classes to create a community agreement, setting the expectation for how the group works together.

“Those community agreements are actionable that the ensemble agrees to in order to have a positive working experience,” Shively said.

The university was ranked No. 1 in excellence in undergraduate teaching by the 2022-23 U.S. News and World Report rankings for the second straight year. But to achieve excellence, professors across all of Elon’s departments and disciplines must effectively navigate their relationships with students, both personally and professionally.

“I think that because one of the things that attracts me to Elon specifically, is that Elon is a teaching institution, meaning that faculty are encouraged and measured really by the effectiveness of their teaching and mentoring,” Shively said.

According to Shively, professor-student collaboration within the performing arts department is creative in nature, which can be both empowering and vulnerable. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the professor to establish clear boundaries with students to foster the creative process.

“In order to earn promotion, tenure, we have to prove that we are strong teachers,” Shively said. “Not everyone is going to have a strong mentoring relationship with their students that is as engaged as we are privileged to have [in] performing arts because we are making something together often, we’re engaging in a creative process.”

One of Shively’s students, senior Jack Morrill, agreed that compared to other disciplines, performing arts requires more emotion.

“My math, my science courses, it’s much less vulnerable in those



Professor of biology Yuko Miyamoto participates in icebreakers with her Elon 1010 class Sept. 9.

ABIGAIL HOBBS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

classes,” Morrill said. “There’s a certain level of vulnerability that is required from both the teacher and the students in a performing arts class because you’re telling stories, you’re learning how to tell the stories of others, and that takes a certain amount of empathy.”

Professional mentorship

Professor-student engagement extends beyond the Department of Performing Arts, but in more traditional fields of study, such as finance and nursing, strong connections are often formed through mentorship.

As faculty mentor to the business fellows, Raj Gupta, professor of finance, feels a particular connection to them because they often spend a lot of time together working on competitions. He said many of his students simply call him Raj, and gives his phone number to those students he works with on

competitions.

“I think I think that’s what Elon does best, honestly,” Gupta said. “I think that’s what faculty at Elon do great at.”

Senior business fellow Ava Rosen said she is comfortable talking to her professors about all sorts of things, professional and personal.

“I feel like I have a very comfortable relationship with my professors. I would say it’s a good mix between professionalism but also they know how I work personally. They know a little personal information about me,” Rosen said. “I think our communication style is very open. It’s very transparent. I feel comfortable going to my professors for any questions, projects, internship advice, professional advice.”

Rosen said she is closer to certain professors, specifically female ones, and has gone for coffee with her adviser, professor



I FEEL COMFORTABLE GOING TO MY PROFESSORS FOR ANY QUESTIONS, PROJECTS, INTERNSHIP ADVICE, PROFESSIONAL ADVICE.

AVA ROSEN
SENIOR

of finance Kate Upton. She said these close relationships are due to Elon’s community-oriented style of teaching.

“I think it all just kind of correlates to Elon’s close knit community and wanting to have that close relationship with your professors, keeping classroom size smaller so that professors understand their students on more than just an academic level,” Rosen said.

This is true in Elon’s new nursing school as well. Michaela Fraini, a student in the School of Health Sciences accelerated Bachelor of Science in nursing program, completed her undergraduate degree at Dean College. Working with her adviser, Stacey Thomas, professor of nursing, she said she can see a difference in how fast relationships grow.

“I think there’s a difference between my undergrad and Elon in the sense that the relationship is established a lot sooner,” Fraini said. “And that’s because this is a 16 month program, as opposed to like four years, but the way that they have presented themselves and the professors and the faculty ... they all seem to be in our corner rooting us on and that is very apparent.”

Thomas has an open door

policy for her students to talk about anything they need to and gives out her phone number on the first day of class for emergencies or urgent questions.

“They can come and talk to me about problems they’re having with classes. They can talk to me about personal issues,” Thomas said. “They know that they can come and talk to me if they have any kind of problems.”

Personal Boundaries

But all professors agreed that effective relationships with students require some boundaries. Thomas said the biggest boundary she sets with students is that they cannot call her by her first name — a principle Shively agreed with.

“I found that using the name Professor Shively really helped me have that boundary and reminded me that I’m there to mentor. I’m there to help develop my students, and I care deeply about my students professional and personal lives, but having that boundary was really important,” Shively said.

Professor of biology Yuko Miyamoto said that students are welcome to talk to her about anything, but she would not discuss her personal life with them.

“If they just need to talk about class things I’ll definitely make myself available. ... Usually, if I have home things, then I believe those would be conflicts,” Miyamoto said.

According to Miyamoto, one of the most rewarding things about developing a relationship with students is helping them after they graduate. This includes applying to medical school but extends beyond their academic careers.

“Students, I don’t know if they’ve always appreciated that faculty are willing to help even after they’ve moved on,” Miyamoto said. “And I’ve had students within our department who were looking for jobs to find out like do you know anyone who does X? Generally, we’re pretty supportive of that.”



ABIGAIL HOBBS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Professor of biology Yuko Miyamoto said a rewarding aspect of having good relationships with students is helping them after graduation.

TAKING FLIGHT: Veterans' fundraiser colors Alamance

ALCOVETS hosted first Hot Air Balloon Festival in 20 years

Miranda Ferrante

Managing Editor of elonnewsnetwork.com | @ferrantemiranda

Hot air balloons filled the Carolina blue sky this weekend during the Hot Air Balloon Festival hosted by ALCOVETS. After 20 years of empty skies, the festival returned to Alamance County with more than 21 hot air balloons, vendors, music and kid-friendly activities from Sept. 9 to 11.

The Graham-based organization and local nonprofit ALCOVETS, Alamance County Veterans, provides outreach and hosts events to educate the public on the needs of veterans in and around Alamance County.

The balloon festival is just one of several events sponsored by ALCOVETS to gain support for veterans and raise funds. Volunteer Mary Cardinale, whose husband is a veteran, said this festival was one of the largest she has helped with, as thousands attended throughout the weekend.

"I got introduced to ALCOVETS, and my husband is a member, but due to his work schedule is limited on

volunteer time," Cardinale said. "So I'm committing myself to volunteer. I have a family history of veterans, as well as my husband."

Pete Colwell, who has accumulated more than 1,400 flight hours, was the pilot for the RE/MAX hot air balloon this weekend. First taking flight in 1978, RE/MAX Hot Air Balloon has become one of the most notable symbols in real estate. Now, the fleet has more than 110 balloons — making it one of the largest in the world.

Before Colwell can take any passengers into the air, he must prepare the balloon.

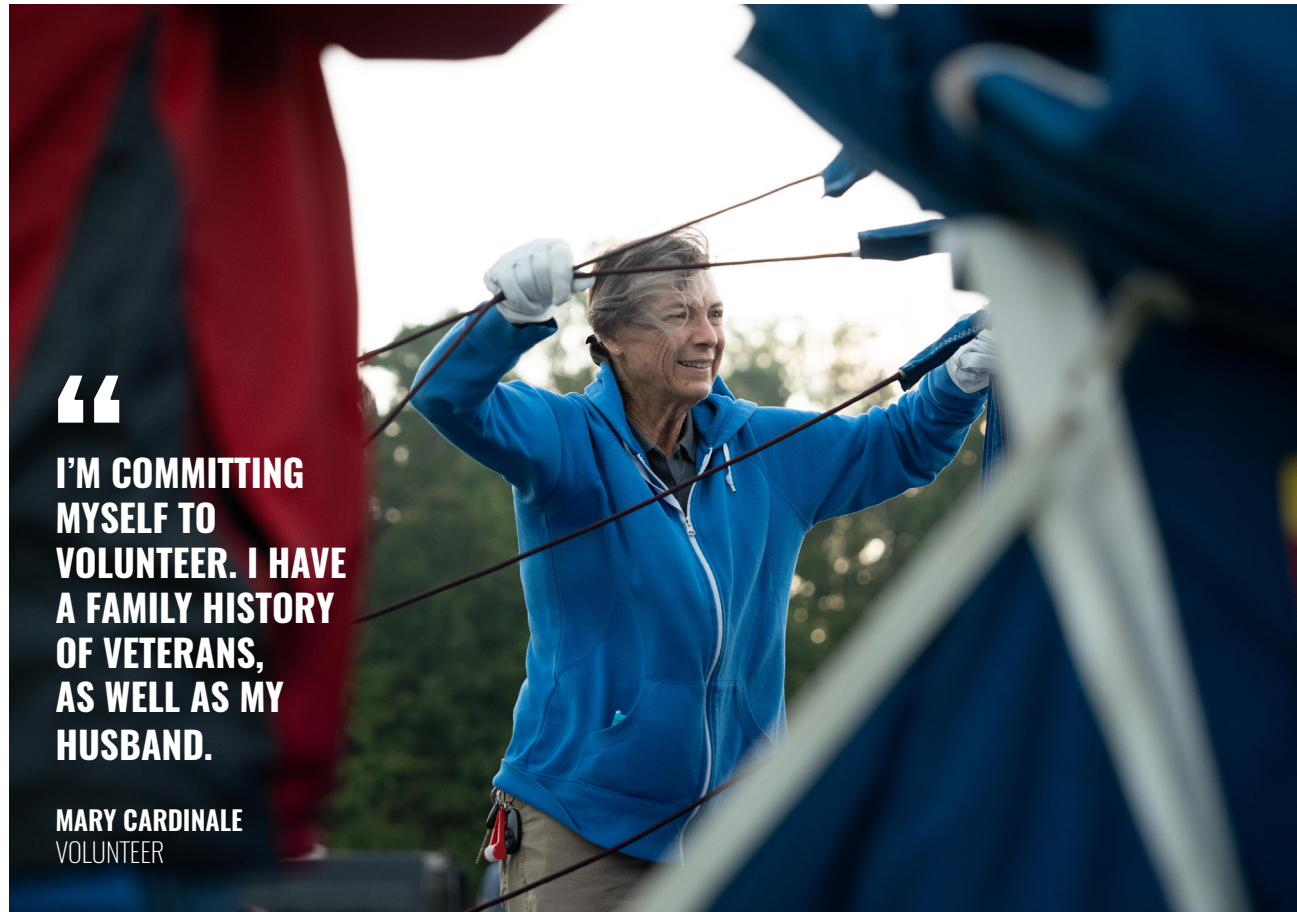
To inflate the balloon with hot air, Colwell must blow it up by fan as two crew members hold the balloon ends open for air to get in. Colwell and Crew Chief Bob Manzak then attach the burner to the basket.

Colwell said one of the leading factors in his job as pilot is to consider the weather. Friday morning, the balloons were unable to take flight because the fog would have caused the pilots to be unable to see the ground, but they flew Friday evening.

"You become somewhat of a meteorologist," Colwell said. "A lot of ballooning is knowing when to fly and when not to fly."



Pilot Pete Colwell (left) and Crew Chief Bob Manzak (right) attach the burner to the hot air balloon. Colwell has been flying balloons since 1986 and has over 1,400 hours of flight time.



“

I'M COMMITTING MYSELF TO VOLUNTEER. I HAVE A FAMILY HISTORY OF VETERANS, AS WELL AS MY HUSBAND.

MARY CARDINALE
VOLUNTEER

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Crew member Dave Waser and pilot Pete Colwell take flight Sept. 9 in Burlington during the ALCOVETS Balloon Festival.



Pilot Mark Meyer inflates his hot air balloon with a burner that converts propane to propane an hour.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Crew Chief Bob Manzak holds the tether to the balloon as it takes off for a mini flight. The balloon couldn't go higher due to bad weather conditions.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

the basket. In the truck, everything is separated to help with storage. Colwell



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Left to right: On the Fly, HoppyDaze and the Re/Max balloons prepare for flight during the ALCOVETS Balloon Festival Sept. 9. ALCOVETS flew over 20 balloons between Sept. 9 to 11, but due to weather concerns, no flights took place the morning of Sept. 9.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

or into flames. On average, a hot air balloon will go through 15 gallons of



“
YOU BECOME
SOMEWHAT OF A
METEOROLOGIST.
A LOT OF
BALLOONING IS
KNOWING WHEN TO
FLY AND WHEN NOT
TO FLY.

PETE COLWELL
PILOT

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The On the Fly balloon from Balloons over America is decorated with many flags representing places pilot Mark Meyer has been, as well as where his family is from. A U.S. Army pilot with 36 years of service, Meyer said he has moved around a lot.



Elon in London classes confront death of Queen Elizabeth

FIE professors assess lesson plans during national state of mourning

Miranda Ferrante
Managing Editor of elonnewsnetwork.com

Eighty-two Elon University students began classes abroad at London's Foundation for International Education Sept. 5, unaware that three days later, they would witness history with the death of British monarch Queen Elizabeth II.

Elizabeth, who died at age 96, served longer than any other British ruler and is the second longest-reigning monarch in history. Prince Philip, her husband, died at 99 in April 2021. Her son, Charles, was named king Sept. 10.

This fall, there are 104 Elon students studying in the United Kingdom including 82 at FIE, the Elon in London site, 11 at other programs in London and the rest at programs in Bath, Oxford and Glasgow, according to Dean of Global Education Nick Gozik.

In an email to FIE students Sept. 9, Chief Academic and Operations Officer Julie Ann Andreshak wrote the death of the queen "is a sad and somber time for the nation." Britain is in a state of mourning, starting from Sept. 9, which will last around 10 days.

Andreshak encouraged students to follow main media outlets for information on anticipated events to mourn the legacy of the queen and the start of the reign of King Charles III.

"This is a momentous point



Professor of British life and visual media Brenda Kelly lectures her class on the British monarchy and the monarch's role in parliament on Sept. 12 in London.

in British and world history, and you are uniquely positioned to experience it," Andreshak wrote. "Both in your classes and out, you will be discussing and observing these events. Take the opportunity to be present and engage in the moment."

Andreshak said London, the most populous city in the U.K., will become busier as a result of the

late queen's processions, lying in state, funeral and other associated events.

FIE photojournalism professor Samuel Bland said that Academic Faculty Director Heidi James-Dunbar encouraged FIE professors to carry on as usual. Bland said students may choose to use the current climate of the city as inspiration in his class.

"So maybe it's photographing one of the events," Bland said. "There'll be things going on everywhere."

While Bland said the national mourning period will not disrupt his class schedule, he is allowing students to photograph one of the events pertaining to the queen's death for his classes' self-directed final projects.

“

WE'RE ALL LIVING THROUGH A MOMENT IN HISTORY AND A MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, SO I DID WANT TO REFLECT THAT IN THE CLASS.

BRENDA KELLY
PROFESSOR OF BRITISH LIFE AND VISUAL MEDIA

"It doesn't directly impact a lot of the class-based stuff. We're still going to cover a lot of the same class-based stuff," Bland said. "It's not going to completely revolutionize because there will be opportunities to document what's going on right now."

Professor of British life and visual media Brenda Kelly said the first main lesson in her class is usually on the monarchy because she said it is important for international students to understand British history, politics and culture.

"We're all living through a moment in history and a moment in the history of the Royal Family, so I did want to reflect that in the class," Kelly said.

Michael Wolff contributed to the reporting of this story.

Elon student expresses concern over stolen belongings

Owen Bramanti worked with campus and Greensboro police to locate missing items

Chloe Franklin
Associate Producer of Elon Local News

After Elon University sophomore Owen Bramanti said his laptop and book bag were stolen from the Student Union Board office in the Moseley Center last week, he's had a heightened awareness of the potential for similar incidents on Elon's campus.

Bramanti, SUB's fan engagement chair, arrived back to the SUB office after helping friends move supplies on Sept. 7 and noticed his belongings were gone. He initially assumed someone had moved his things out of the way.

"I wasn't really thinking much of it originally," Bramanti said. "Then as time went on, I was just sitting in this office and the meeting, I was like, 'Well, what if someone did steal it? What if someone did come in and take it?' I was just so thrown off for the whole meeting."

He decided to check his laptop's location on his iPhone, which showed that the laptop was in Greensboro. Once he realized the computer was in Greensboro, Bramanti knew someone had stolen it, along with his backpack containing his school notes.

"I was freaking out on the inside because I can't believe this happened to me," Bramanti said. "You hear all these stories all the time this person's car got broken into — 'Oh, this happened' — but you never really think it's going to

happen to you."

After the meeting ended, Bramanti called Elon Campus Police, which came 30 minutes later for a statement. Campus police declined Elon News Networks multiple requests for comment.

Bramanti also called the Greensboro Police Department, which attempted unsuccessfully to retrieve the laptop from a house at the location Bramanti provided.

But, while the police were at the house, Bramanti received a friend request from a Greensboro

Bramanti said.

Bramanti knew he didn't drop off the laptop, but the police told him to respond. Bramanti asked for a photo of his belongings, which he received the next day during class.

"And so as soon as that happened, I left class and I called Elon PD again," he said.

Campus police told Bramanti officers would collaborate with Greensboro police to retrieve his laptop. And, during his next class, Elon police said it had secured the

laptop, but none of the other stolen items. When Bramanti went to get his laptop, he said it was dead and smelled like cigarettes.

Bramanti said he is not confident that his other stolen property will be found. Bramanti said he urges students to be careful with their possessions, lock their doors and add their computer's location to their iPhone, as Elon University is not immune to crime. He suggested sharing the location with friends as well.

Bramanti said he still does not know who took his property or if they attend Elon, and he plans to ask Moseley Center front desk workers to review security camera footage.

He said the situation has changed how he will care for his belongings in the future.

"I think a lot of it is now just making sure that I have eyes on everything or if I don't realize I know it's in a secure place," Bramanti said.

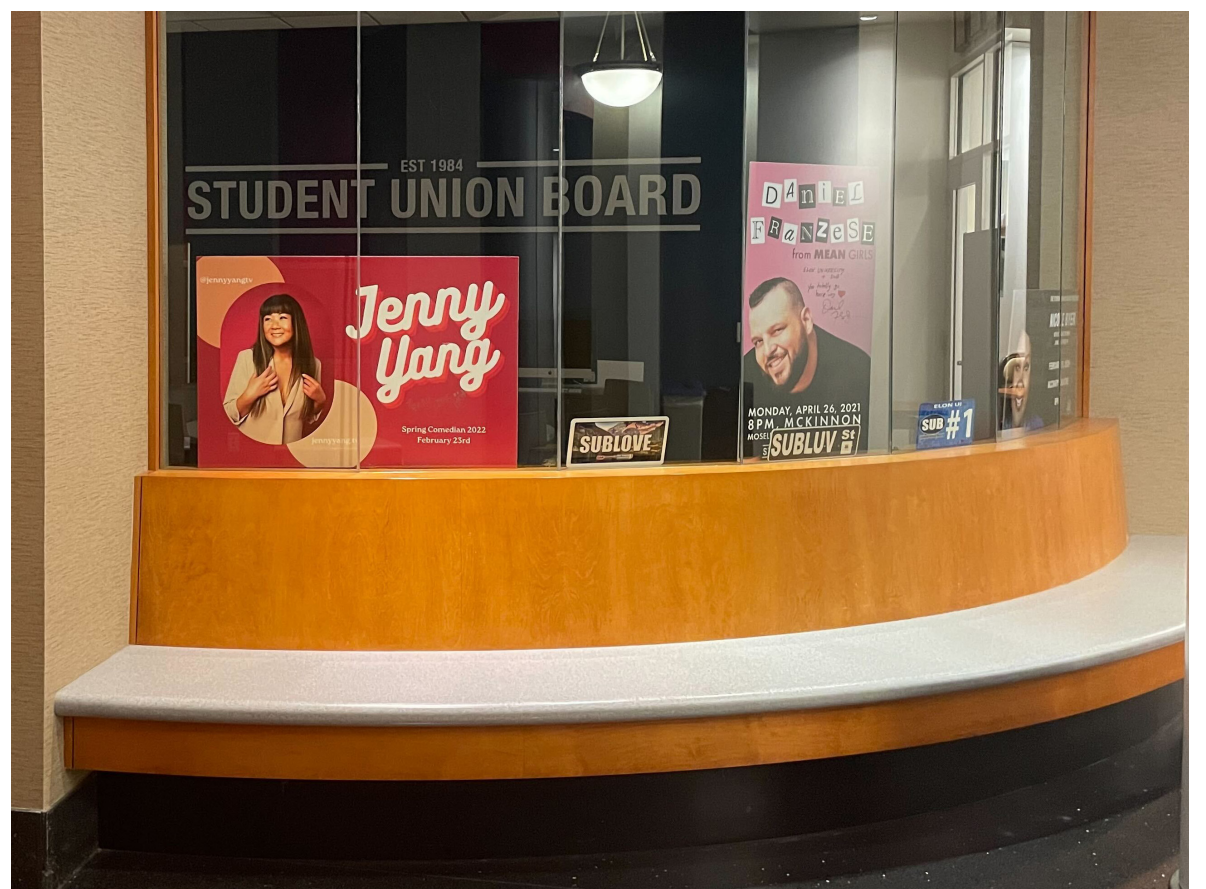
“

YOU HEAR ALL THESE STORIES ALL THE TIME THIS PERSON'S CAR GOT BROKEN INTO — 'OH, THIS HAPPENED' — BUT YOU NEVER REALLY THINK IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU.

OWEN BRAMANTI
SOPHOMORE

resident on Facebook. The police told him to accept the request, message them, and ask for a picture of his bag and laptop. But, the man messaged him first.

"He says, 'Hi, I know you don't know me, but you dropped your computer in front of my house. I have it for you. Please text me back.' And I was like, this is weird,"



The Student Union Board office is located in the Moseley Center. Sophomore Owen Bramanti's belongings were stolen from the office.

CHLOE FRANKLIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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

Environmental impacts of consumer behavior

Elon environmental studies professor Patricia Thomas-Laemont explains the negative impact of plastic bags and other consumer products on environment

Avery Sloan
Politics Director | @AveryLSloan

Both within North Carolina and across the country, grocery stores are choosing to eliminate single-use plastic bags for customers. States such as New York, California and Connecticut have already implemented plastic bag bans, and earlier this summer, grocery chains Wegmans and Walmart announced plans to remove plastic bags from their stores. Rather than single-use bags, which are made from thermoplastic materials such as polyethylene and polypropylene, stores are promoting paper or reusable alternatives.



Patricia Thomas-Laemont

Professor Patricia Thomas-Laemont, who teaches environmental studies, discussed the impact plastic bags have on the environment and other things students can do to decrease their own environmental impact.

This interview was edited for clarity

Why would some grocery stores take away the option for consumers to use plastic bags?

“There’s certainly a push for this because the bags are really bad. It’s bad for wildlife — the chemicals used to make them. They pretty much don’t get recycled. For the most part, it’s very low.

I think it’s public demand, for one, but some of it is they save a lot of money doing that. And in Europe, I know in the U.K., if

you go in without your bag, you have to pay for it.”

How do reusable bags differently impact the environment?

“The payoff is reusing them. Basically, the plastic bags are one use, if you’re lucky. If you look at the amount of water it takes to make it, you can see the polyethylene bag is one use and the greenhouse gas emissions are lower to make than [reusable] bags. But you start looking at eight uses, ... it goes way down.

You can see that you’re really paying off by using them at least eight times. That’s the benefit of reusable bags, is that, long term, reusable really does pay off as far as carbon, as far as resources. And that’s not including the recycling. If you include the power recycling takes, that’s a whole other thing — chemicals and shipping — and usually they’re burned.”

Do you know what the likelihood of a plastic bag getting recycled is?

“It’s really low. The paper does tend to get recycled a little bit more. I’ve heard places such as China are no longer taking our recycling. It might have improved, but I have heard in the past that bags even submitted for recycling just go and get incinerated in China. It’s time consuming — that’s not even counting the cradle-to-grave of the actual energy that goes into recycling the bag. It takes [over 90%] less energy to recycle one pound of plastic than one pound of paper, though.”

If single-use bags are not recycled, what is the environmental impact?

“They’re immortal. They get into the environment, and they are not disposed of properly. So it’s just one use, and then it goes into a landfill.

People say, ‘We can’t just stop putting plastic bags out or making you pay for them because it would impact disadvantaged people more,’ and that’s a valid argument. But my counterargument is that it’s pretty easy to get these bags for free at work, or have food banks give out these free bags.”



CAROLINE MITCHELL | DESIGNER

What are other things that consumers can do to lessen environmental impact?

“Really try to move towards using reusable bags, I even have these little produce bags, little thin bags. I see people with one apple in the bag, so you can buy these that you can reuse and can wash for your produce to try to cut down as much packaging as possible.”

Are there things that you’ve noticed that Elon could be doing to be more sustainable?

“They’re pretty good as far as encouraging

reusable water bottles and the bring-your-own containers. I think they do whatever they can to make people aware of things, and I have the Elon sustainability people come and talk, and they’re pretty good about everything.”

Are there things that you’ve noticed that Elon could be doing to be more sustainable?

“It’s your future. Plastic bags are made from a finite resource. For every molecule of carbon that gets thrown into a plastic bag, and disposed of ... there’s only so much carbon, and if it gets incinerated or whatever, it ends up in the atmosphere.”

Breaking down alcohol-based citations

Police, professor explain the town of Elon citation process

Annemarie Bonner
Elon News Network | @ABonnerNews

The town of Elon Police Department said it has not changed its policies after students expressed confusion over an influx of open container and underage drinking citations this month. Town of Elon Lt. Kedrick King said if a student receives an open container citation, they are required to appear in court, which falls under the town of Elon’s Code of Ordinances, available on the town’s website.

According to Section 3.2, it is illegal for any person to consume alcohol or carry any open container of alcohol on public streets. However, King said when his officers patrol the streets, his department is not looking for the container itself, but the behavior of the person with the container.

“It’s not necessarily what you can and you cannot carry because, of course, if you have an open bottle of beer, that’s obvious. If you have a bottle of liquor, that’s obvious,” he said. “What we look for is typically the overt actions that cause us to draw — that causes the suspicion to rise.



AS LONG AS THEY HAVE THAT REASONABLE SUSPICION, THEY CAN STOP, ASK QUESTIONS, AND AGAIN LIKELY ASK FOR AN IDENTIFICATION.

STEVE FRIEDLAND
PROFESSOR

So if we see a group of students walking with the red solo cups, it’s not necessarily the fact that you have the red solo cups.”

Elon University School of Law professor Steve Friedland said if you are stopped by the police, officers are allowed to ask for identification, as well as insurance if you are in a vehicle.

“The police can stop us when we’re walking or for other reasons if again they have reasonable suspicion,” he said.



Elon University Police Chief Joe LeMire in his office.

ANNEMARIE BONNER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

According to Friedland, this includes underage drinking, weapons or drugs.

“As long as they have that reasonable suspicion, they can stop, ask questions, and again likely ask for an identification,” he said.

Another component is what happens if police bust a party at a residence where underage individuals are consuming alcohol. According to Friedland, police officers do not have a

right to search a home without probable cause.

King said in his police department, the citation process is determined on a case-by-case basis. He said once a party is busted, an investigation ensues, then the officers contact the homeowners to determine if they are responsible. King said he wants people to remember that they are responsible for what happens at their home.

“Even if you’re not having

a party and you allow them to consume, encourage them to stay there. Don’t walk down the street intoxicated,” he said. “If you have a party, set your trash cans by your driveway or their path of exit so they can dispose of the cups.”

According to King, the average fine for pleading guilty to an underage drinking citation is \$208. 19 or 20 year olds can choose to pay this fine or appear in court. Those under 18 must attend their court date.

LIFESTYLE

Graham gardener fights food insecurity

Gardener shares holistic feelings, advice for students hoping to get involved

Ellis Chandler
Executive Producer of Elon Local News | @Ellis_Chandler

Ashlie Thomas is planting a seed in the Graham community.

After moving from South Carolina four years ago, Thomas said she began to realize that diverse food options were limited in Graham compared to surrounding cities like Greensboro, Chapel Hill and Durham. Now, she's using her love for nature to find her niche here in Alamance County.

Thomas grows over 80 different herbs and over 40 different fruits and vegetables in her garden. She's currently preparing for the fall growing season by planting vegetables like broccoli, collard greens and beets. Thomas grows year round in her garden and said she's always busy. Fall is her favorite growing season because it's minimal effort for a big harvest.

"We're growing all of those things, those cruciferous vegetables that are really good in soups and as side dishes or even wraps," Thomas said. "So there's a lot of versatility for the produce that will be growing in the fall and in the winter."

Thomas said there's a misconception to gardening in the fall because people assume everything dies as temperatures drop.

"You can actually get quite a few things that typically just slip under the radar," Thomas said. "We don't realize that during the fall and the winter, especially in our climate, they grow the best during that time."

As she prepares for the fall, she plans to give back and deepen her connections with organizations in the area. Thomas is a graduate student at North Carolina A&T State University studying food and nutritional sciences. Her research focuses on implementing strategies to address food insecurity.

Thomas said the issue isn't "one size fits all," and gardening addresses finding secure food on a very individual level.

"Gardening can not only provide greater access to some of these more nutrient-dense foods, but it also helps to indirectly teach us about what's out there, what can I eat, and we're more inclined to actually try these things," Thomas said. "I believe that community gardens, backyard gardens, even just the act of trying to grow your



ELLIS CHANDLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gardener Ashlie Thomas harvests vegetables from her backyard garden, including eggplant, okra and tomatoes. Thomas likes to share vegetables, herbs and eggs with garden visitors to build community.



I BELIEVE THAT COMMUNITY GARDENS, BACKYARD GARDENS, EVEN JUST THE ACT OF TRYING TO GROW YOUR OWN FOOD, OR LEARNING HOW TO GROW YOUR OWN FOOD, CAN HELP TO KIND OF PUSH THE BAR JUST A BIT TOWARDS PERHAPS CREATING A BIT MORE ACCESS FOR PEOPLE.

ASHLIE THOMAS
GARDENER

own food or learning how to grow your own food, can help to push the bar just a bit toward perhaps creating a bit more access for people."

Thomas said there's still systemic changes to make, such as in educating people or providing access to transportation, but gardening is a small step in that direction. But, there's also steps students can take too.

Thomas encourages students to get in touch with their community gardens and overcome the stigma around getting food from a food pantry or bank.

"Food is food. Food should be available for everyone, food should be accessible for everyone," Thomas said. "As a matter of fact, normalize going with your friends to get the foods that you need. Even for friends that may not have access to food as well. So tap into those resources if you can, and remember, this is completely normal."

Assistant Director of the Kernodle Center for Civic Life Abigail Wiatrek is a volunteer and said Campus Kitchen and Loy Farm are

both beginning some of their first cooking and volunteer shifts this week. She said volunteering through these organizations can help meet the needs of both the Elon and surrounding communities.

"It leads to a lot of really good engagement of understanding where food comes from and the understanding behind the instability that comes with food insecurity and helping address that problem," Wiatrek said.

For anyone interested in gardening, Thomas suggests starting small with just one plant and growing from there. She said her garden is open to anyone, and it's a sanctuary for big and small creatures alike.

Thomas said she hopes her holistic approach to wellness can bring just as much healing as giving back what comes from it.

"This is a very healing place. It's a place to ground and it's a place to come to the realization of our place in the world," Thomas said. "That's to love and be compassionate and all of those things."

ADVERTISEMENT




ELON
UNIVERSITY

LIVING WELL IN A CHANGING WORLD

Ashley Judd

Actress, Lifelong Activist,
Humanitarian

Fall Convocation with Ashley Judd

FRIDAY, SEPT. 30, 2022 | 3:30 P.M. | SCHAR CENTER

elon.edu/boxoffice



THE ELON UNIVERSITY SPEAKER SERIES

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
WUNC
NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC RADIO | 91.5

SPORTS



JACOB KISAMORE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redshirt senior quarterback Matthew McKay carries the ball into the end zone for a touchdown against Vanderbilt University in Elon's season opener at FirstBank Stadium in Nashville, Tennessee, on Sept. 3. Elon lost 42-31.

3RD TIME'S THE CHARM: MATTHEW MCKAY SETTLES IN AS QUARTERBACK

This season marks a new beginning for the redshirt senior

Mason Willett
Sports Director | @masonwillett20

The drive from his home in Raleigh to Elon University may only take one hour, but it took quarterback Matthew McKay four years to find his place playing for the Phoenix.

McKay began his career at North Carolina State, where he played for two seasons. He then transferred to Montana State University, where he played for one season before finally coming to Elon. McKay, a redshirt senior, said he faced challenges throughout his career and decided Elon would be a great fit for him.

"Definitely in my past years facing some adversity, I felt like I had to move around, just being in the transfer portal," McKay said. "But a couple of months ago, talking to Coach Trisciani and Coach Folmar while I was in the portal, I just felt like Elon would be a great place for me. Close to home so I have that support here, and it's a great opportunity to be a part of this team."

Drew Folmar, offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, said McKay has been on his radar for a while, and he specifically caught his eye during recruitment last spring. Following former quarterback Davis Cheek's graduation, Elon's coaching staff decided the best choice for the team was to find a quarterback in the transfer portal, according

to Folmar.

"I knew of Matt, I mean he's not from too far away. So I knew a little bit about his journey," Folmar said. "It's been a joy and a pleasure to have him here so far. We're



DEFINITELY IN MY PAST YEARS FACING SOME ADVERSITY, I FELT LIKE I HAD TO MOVE AROUND, JUST BEING IN THE TRANSFER PORTAL.

MATTHEW MCKAY
QUARTERBACK

excited."

During his two seasons at NC State, McKay faced tough competition against strong players from the Atlantic Coast Conference. McKay said the experience was valuable, but no matter the school, every football season presents opportunities to learn and work hard.

"A good opportunity — learned a lot being around a lot of great players," McKay said.

"Just being at that level, just understanding that it's football every level. We all bleed, we all sweat. So just go out there and execute."

Folmar said he sees McKay as a leader to the team, as he is vocal in the locker room with his teammates.

"He's a smart player. He picks things up very fast, and he's competitive. And those are all very, very strong qualities that you need as a quarterback," Folmar said. "He's really developing into a leader."

Despite being new to the team, McKay said he has been given a lot of freedom by Folmar and head coach Tony Trisciani with running offense. He said they have already established trust between each other and have a shared goal of wanting to win.

"Definitely a great relationship. I can trust them, and they trust me, and I can go to them with anything," McKay said.

Having played on three collegiate football teams, McKay is used to having to adjust to new systems of offense, and Folmar said he is not concerned about McKay's transition to Elon.

"A lot of things he's doing here, he's done in his career. It's just a matter of translating terminology, so he's continuing to get more and more comfortable every day," Folmar said.

McKay said Elon's 42-31 loss to Vanderbilt Sept. 3 was a poor reflection on the Phoenix, but the team has watched the film and identified the mistakes players made in the first half. McKay said that improving the team's third-down conversion rate will be crucial for offense, and as quarterback, he is in a position to help.

"I would say definitely coming out from last week, starting the game stronger," McKay said. "Definitely just third downs and converting those as an offense, and I feel like I play a big part in that."

This year, the key to Elon's success, according to McKay, is to focus on the small details. He said the Phoenix executed this well against Wofford on Sept. 10. Elon won 26-0.

"We have a good offense," McKay said. "And when we understand what we're doing and just focus on the little details — I feel like if we do that, then we win games."



MATTHEW MCKAY
QUARTERBACK

- 25 passing touchdowns, 4 interceptions
- 3,581 passing yards
- 503 rushing yards, 9 touchdowns

Student-athletes manage hectic schedules

Members of the volleyball and soccer teams discuss juggling athletics and academics

Matthew Farina
Elon News Network

When she first made the transition from her high school to Elon University, Sydney Love, a sophomore on the women's volleyball team, said navigating the logistics of a student-athlete schedule was challenging. She found herself struggling and sought help from her academic adviser.

"When I first got here, I was talking to [him] about how I was struggling and not doing as well as I wanted in this class," Love said. "So he reached out to a bunch of different people in different ways. When I was studying, it clearly wasn't working for me at the beginning. These connections eventually helped me learn different studying strategies."

In high school, Love said had a good amount of free time on the weekends, allowing her to balance athletics and academics. But as a Division 1 student athlete, she quickly had to learn better ways to manage her time.

"In high school I got to take weekends to study in my room, I'd have Friday to be a relaxed day," Love said. "Now, I had to transition into playing every weekend, we play every Friday and Saturday."

According to Love, she has encountered different levels of understanding from her professors about how crazy her schedule can get.

"Some professors are a little less understanding about your schedule and what you have to do in games or even throughout the week," she said. "But I think talking to them helps a lot. Even if it's just a one-hour extension to have some extra time."

However, Love does see some academic benefits to collegiate level athletics, such as the additional travel time.

"I take more time on the bus nowadays so I do not have to worry about doing homework when I come back on



ELLA PITONYAK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman Sydney Daniels passes the ball to a teammate during Elon's first home match of the season against Duke University on Sept. 6 at Schar Center. Elon lost in four sets.



TAKING TIME TO DO THINGS WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO WILL DO YOU BETTER IN THE LONG RUN.

SYDNEY LOVE
SOPHOMORE

Sunday," she said. "Taking time to do things when you don't want to will do you better in the long run."

Sam Durand, a junior on the men's soccer team, also has a busy schedule. Durand said the team has five practices a week — three at 8 a.m. and two at 10:30 a.m. — that he must schedule his classes around.

The men's soccer has both a physical trainer as well as a team psychologist, which Durand said he is very grateful for. She is available over Zoom or in person to help the players if they need anything, even if they're stressed or disappointed in their performance on the field.

"Luckily for men's soccer, we've had that... Having someone to talk to has been great," Durand said. "Whenever we need anything on the mental or physical side, we have always had that."

Both Love and Durand said they are grateful for the support Elon has offered them through their transition to college. Love encouraged other student-athletes struggling with their schedules to also dedicate time to their mental and physical well being.

"Take time for yourself," Love said. "You need time to do what you want to do."

Elon Esports takes 6th place in Super Smash Bros. Tournament

NC State hosted the tournament to fundraise for MS research

Joshua Galaski
Elon News Network

It was open season for Elon Esports on Sept. 10, as six members of the Elon Club Esports team traveled to Raleigh to

participate in the North Carolina State University Super Smash Bros. tournament, which was being held as a charity event to support research to end multiple sclerosis.

MS is a long-term disease characterized by the deterioration of the insulating covers of nerve cells in the central nervous system — a process that can cause sensory, visual, motor and immune issues. Tournament organizer and NC

State student Logan Hale said the MS Society reached out to NC State's Smash Bros. team and requested a collaboration event.

Several schools participated in this event, including Elon, NC State, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Duke University, with 78 total contestants vying for the top slot. The final amount raised for the charity by the Super Smash Bros.

Tournament was \$1,070.

At the end of the day, NC State claimed victory over the tournament. However, Elon was able to humble UNC Chapel Hill by defeating its team and claiming a spot in the top five for crew battles.

Super Smash Bros. is a "beat 'em up" style fighting game where players choose characters from across various games and franchises and go head-to-head in a 2D arena. Each player has three lives or "stocks." When depleted, the player is effectively knocked out. This happens when players are flung from the arena into the void below.

The tournament style included two events — crew battles and singles. Crew battles involve one player from each team fighting another player in one-on-one style duels. When one player's stocks are depleted, another member of their team steps up to take their place. For the singles event, a March Madness-style bracket system is drawn up and followed as individual players face off against each other.

As for Elon's team, six contestants from a recent qualifier tournament held on Sept. 3 in Global Commons were sent to compete. Among their ranks was freshman stand-out Cody Ngwanza who placed sixth after an unforeseen upset, taking the

I'M GOING TO TRY AND COME IN AS HARD AS POSSIBLE AND JUST BE OPTIMISTIC.

CODY NGWANZA
FRESHMAN

final slot in the qualifier.

As a freshman and a newcomer to Elon's esports team, Ngwanza was cautiously optimistic about both his own abilities and his team's.

"I'm going to try and come in as hard as possible and just be optimistic," Ngwanza said.

The future of the Elon Esports team is bright, said sophomore Ben Schlansky, a contestant in the tournament and avid Super Smash Bros. player. Schlansky said that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of members in the esports club skyrocketed, as there wasn't much else to do while cooped up inside during the lockdowns. But even as life returns to normal, the number of members in the club continues to rise.

Elon's next esports tournament will be held on campus at Global Commons the weekend of Sept. 17.



JOSHUA GALASKI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon Club Esports team plays at North Carolina State University's Super Smash Bros. tournament on Saturday, Sept. 10. The tournament was held as a charity event to support multiple sclerosis research. Elon placed in the top five for crew battles.