

# ELON'S BLACK HISTORY



**1963 - FIRST BLACK FULLTIME STUDENT**

Glenda Phillips became the first Black student to attend Elon College full-time. According to an interview conducted by L'Tanya Richmond, author of "Elon's Black History: A Story to be Told," illness prevented Phillips from graduating as planned. Phillips also became the first Black person to perform with the Elon College marching band.



**1966 - ONE OF THE FIRST BLACK STUDENT ATHLETES**

Emery Moore, a standout running back, had forged the path when he arrived in 1966 to play football.



**1970 - FIRST BLACK FEMALE GRADUATE**

One year later, Gail Fonville became the first Black female to graduate from the college.

**1977 - GOSPEL CHOIR CREATED**

A gospel choir was established to bring Black students at Elon together. According to the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education, the Elon University Gospel Choir is today the largest minority organization on campus.



**1978 - FIRST BLACK EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Bryant Colson became the first Black Editor-in-Chief of The Pendulum.

**1984 - FIRST NPHC FRATERNITY**

The Sigma Mu chapter of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity became the first historically Black Greek fraternity chartered on campus. The same year, the Black Cultural Society hosted their first annual gospel festival.

**1991 - FIRST BLACK SUB PRESIDENT**

William Walker became the first Black president of the Student Union Board and the Sigma Delta chapter of the historically Black fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha was chartered.



**1992 - RESOURCE ROOM**

The African-American Resource Room, which would later become the CREDE, was created.

**1998 - FIRST BLACK FEMALE SUB PRESIDENT**

Sherrika Stanley became the first Black female President of the Student Union Board.



**2000 - FIRST BLACK FEMALE SGA EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT**

Akilah Weaver became the first Black female elected Executive President of SGA.

**2014 - FIRST BLACK SOLIDARITY DAY**

In 2014, Black students at Elon University implemented their own Black Solidarity Day as a form of protest, an act of solidarity among Black students, and a call to action for the university campus.

1960



**1969 - FIRST BLACK GRADUATE**

Eugene Perry became the first Black student to graduate from Elon.

**1969 - CALL FOR BLACK STUDIES PROGRAM**

The Third Front of the Organization of Afro-American Unity of Elon College wrote an open letter to Durward Strokes, chairman of the department of social sciences. Their letter requested that a Black Studies course be created and taught by 1970. The organization also asked that at least one Black professor with at least a Master's degree in Black History be hired by 1971. By this point, according to Richmond, more than a dozen Black students were enrolled at Elon.

1970



**1974 - BLACK CULTURAL SOCIETY CREATED**

Under the co-chairmanship of Rodney Evans and Donald McLaughlin, the Black Cultural Society was created.

1980

**1981 - FIRST NPHC SORORITY**

The Omicron Lota chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority became the first historically Black Greek organization chartered on campus.



1990

**1993 - FIRST BLACK HOMECOMING KING**

David Bynes became the first Black student to be crowned Homecoming King, Tonya Taylor became the first Black female Editor-in-Chief of The Pendulum and the Office of Minority Affairs was created with Richmond appointed as its director.

**1994 - AAASE MINOR**

Black studies at Elon continued to grow over the years, as the African and African-American Studies at Elon program was formalized. African and African-American studies was also recognized as an independent minor.

2000

**2003 - FIRST BLACK IFC PRESIDENT**

Darris Means became the first Black president of the Inter-Fraternity Council.



2010

**2023 - STUDENT RESEARCHES BLACK HISTORY AT ELON**

Jasper Myers, archive assistant works to present more information to community.

