

Margaret Faust

(510) 499-2404 | margaret.d.faust@gmail.com | @MargaretFaust5 | www.margaretf Faust.com

EDUCATION

Elon University - Elon, NC

May 2023

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism 3.6 GPA

Minor in International Global Studies with a World Language Focus (Arabic)

Relevant Coursework: Broadcast News Writing, Multimedia News Production, Creating Multimedia Content, Media Writing

American University in Cairo - Cairo, Egypt

Fall 2021

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

Elon News Network - Elon University

News Reporter

August 2019 - Present

- Write investigative, feature, and breaking news stories for radio, tv, print, and online
- Reported from Glasgow during COP 26 and the New York Times Climate Hub
- Pitch stories to news directors such as: discrimination in local school rezoning, local natural disasters, shortcomings in campus wide sustainability efforts
- Arrange, conduct and edit interviews with elected officials and local business owners

Anchor

January 2019- Present

- Co- anchored weekly 30-minute live broadcasts which included conducting live interviews

AUC TV – American University in Cairo

News Reporter

August 2021- December 2021

- Reported on COP26 from Glasgow where I attended protests and lectures. Interviewed youth climate activists from the MENA region about being tokenized during the conference.
- Conducted interviews with Paralympic athletes, university officials, and community leaders
- Filmed, wrote and edited news and feature packages on new university policies and the school's carbon footprint

HONORS

- Television Feature Reporting- Society of Professional Journalists Region 2 Mark of Excellence Spring 2023
- 1st place- Broadcast Feature Story Best of Show Award from the Associated Collegiate Press Fall 2022
- 2nd place- Broadcast News Story Best of Show Award from the Associated Collegiate Press Fall 2022
- Inducted into the Sigma Iota Rho, the National Honor Society for International Studies Spring 2022

SKILLS

Elementary Arabic language, AP ENPS, Edius, Adobe Creative Suite, Descript, Zoom, HTML 5 coding (basic)

WORK EXPERIENCE

News Intern, WVLT News- Knoxville, TN

Summer 2022

- First intern to have a package air on a live nightly newscast
- Pitched two stories at every morning meeting
- Filmed, wrote, and edited news packages and fronted VSOTs

Intern, Kelly Corrigan Wonders Podcast – Piedmont, CA

Summer 2021- Spring 2022

- Researched guests and edited interviews for a podcast with more than 4 million downloads
- Wrote introductions, wraparounds, and takeaways for episodes

Crew Member, Chipotle Mexican- Oakland, CA

Winter 2021

- Built burritos, bowls, salads, and quesadillas
- Answered questions from customers and corrected orders when necessary

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sisterhood Appointed Officer and Alumni Chair for Kappa Delta Sorority - Elon University

Spring 2021-Present

- Write newsletters to inform alumni of current chapter efforts
- Restructuring organization to run more effectively
- Active fundraiser for The Girl Scouts and Prevent Child Abuse America

Elon University professor, Iraqi native wants to return home

Ahmed Fadaam dreams of moving back to Iraq 20 years after U.S. invaded his home country



A car bomb exploded in Baghdad, Iraq — targeting a government official. Elon professor of communication design Ahmed Fadaam could see the smoke from his front door. He grabbed his camera and drove through his neighborhood, following the smoke. When he arrived at the scene of the explosion, he remembered seeing dead bodies everywhere. This was 20 years ago, but Fadaam remembers the details clearly.

Fadaam was a photojournalist for the news organization Agence France-Press and went to work, taking photos of the explosion. Seeing him with a camera, the Iraqi soldiers grew skeptical of Fadaam. They beat him up while another soldier held an AK- 47 to his head.

"I didn't care about the guy punching me. I didn't care about the camera. I was just worried about the guy with the AK- 47, because he may squeeze the trigger by mistake at any moment and kill me," Fadaam said.

American forces arrived at the scene and saved him. He said the attack was worth it journalistically.

"I went back to my office with two brown eyes and with a bunch of pictures that were on the front page the next day," Fadaam said.

This year marks 20 years since the U.S. invaded Iraq. Fadaam is an Iraqi citizen and lived in Baghdad as an art professor. When his university shut down, his career pivoted. Translating conversations, taking photographs and reporting on the war kept him busy until he immigrated to the U.S. in 2012. Eleven years later, Fadaam said he wants to return home.

"I spent all of my life living there, and I'm still attached to these roots," Fadaam said. "I can't just cut them."

Fadaam said he thinks about his life back home every day and remembers teaching sculpture at the University of Baghdad when he lived with two of his brothers and their families.

But, he said not all the memories were bright. Fadammm was making \$1 per month as an art professor and he said electricity, food and medicine were hard to come by — even before the war started. He worked extra jobs to support his wife and two young children.

"Life was rough in Iraq. We were locked inside a big prison," Fadaam said.

If Iraq were a prison, Fadaam saw President of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, as the warden. Fadaam did not support the U.S. invading Iraq, but he was not against it either. Fadaam thought the U.S. invasion would take Hussein out of power. That, to him, was worth the invasion.

"The thing that I'm dreaming of is to see Saddam Hussein in a cage, answering for his crimes, and to think about a better, healthy future for my kids," Fadaam said.

Becoming a journalist

But that is not what the immediate future looked like. Airstrikes, car bombs, fires and soldiers fighting in his neighborhood became his daily life. He was frustrated and scared, but Fadaam said he wanted to funnel that energy into something he thought would be productive. That is why he became a journalist.

"I thought that I was doing my job, trying to help my people to bring the truth out to inform the rest of the world and hopefully help ending this violence and this craziness happening to my country," Fadaam said. "But I had to pay a heavy price for this,"

One price was his reputation, as many Iraqi people didn't like that he worked for international media.

"We were all looked at as traitors, as blood merchants," Fadaam said.

The other price was a physical one. According to Fadamm, he lost count of how many times he was shot at by both Iraqi and American soldiers.

Fadaam's contributions to international news coverage did not go

unrecognized, especially by WBUR radio foreign correspondent Dick Gordon. Gordon connected with Fadaam in April 2003 when he needed someone to help him understand the conflict and translate interviews. When they first met each other, Gordon was immediately impressed.

"His English was wonderful. His sense of Baghdad and the conflict was all encompassing. He was happy to help," Gordon said. "I had no idea at that moment that I would end up forming a friendship with Ahmed that would last for the next 20 years."

The men relied on each other. Gordon for information and Fadaam for a job. Gordon left Iraq two weeks later, but he stayed in touch with Fadaam by exchanging messages online. When Gordon moved to WUNC, he saw an opportunity for Fadaam to tell a story like no other foreign correspondent could.

Gordon asked Fadaam if he would write stories about his daily life for his new show. Fadaam said he was bewildered by this request.

"Dick, I have never written anything in Arabic, so how do you expect me to write something in English?" Faddam said.

But Fadaam gave it a try, and it was a big success. Gordon said the show's listeners were always asking to hear more. That is how "Ahmed's Diaries" started — a series of broadcast episodes that Fadaam wrote and read aloud himself, detailing what it was like to live in a war zone.

Episodes of "Ahmed's Diaries" are no longer available online due to technical difficulties. WUNC told Elon News Network that it is working on putting the episodes into the National Archive of Broadcasting, which could take months.

DC Comics also followed along with his series and asked him to turn his stories into a graphic novel and use his artistic skills to draw the pictures himself. Fadaam agreed and began his work, but when the Great Recession hit in 2008, DC Comics canceled the project.

"The cancellation of the project was a big blow. So I put it on hold, just threw it on the shelf somewhere," Fadaam said. "Hoping that I would finish it one day."

All the while Fadaam kept up with his journalism duties, running the video desk for Agence France-Press. The bigger the responsibilities, the bigger the danger. He received two separate death threats: One was an email and the second was a phone call that rattled him.

"They gave me my children's names, even the license plates of my cars, what schools my kids go to, what's the name of my wife, what's my house address. Everything," Fadaam said.

Fadaam said he wasn't afraid for his life, but he was afraid for his family. In 2006, he sent his wife and children to live in Syria for two years.

Moving to America

The death threats worried Gordon too, who was still in regular communication with Fadaam. Gordon worked with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to get Fadaam to work at the university as a visiting scholar for one year.

"Ahmed had risked his life for me as a fixer in Baghdad. He had become a close friend and he was in trouble. And it was the only decent thing to do to see what we could do to help," Gordon said.

Fadaam left his family in Syria and came to the U.S. for one year in August of

2008. Gordon hosted a welcome dinner for Fadaam. The guests included people who helped fund Fadaam's year-long stay and other people Gordon thought Fadaam would enjoy meeting. Among the crowd was Elon sociology professor Thomas Arcaro.

"I remember one of the first things I said to him was, 'I apologize on behalf of the United States for invading your country,'" Arcaro said.

Arcaro thought Fadaam's story was worth spreading and brought him to Elon in 2009 to teach a Winter Term course about Iraq in between his two semesters at UNC.

In 2009, when his time was up at UNC, Fadaam moved back to Iraq. He said he was following the news and concluded that the war was winding down.

"I don't hear much about daily explosions and everything. And probably things got better. I'm away from my family so I need to get back to them," Fadaam said.

He was misled. Fadaam noticed more militias, lots of corruption and no electricity or running water.

"I decided that it's not a healthy environment for my children to grow in and maybe it's time that I should apply for asylum," Fadaam said.

Fadaam told Arcaro about his plan. At the time Elon was looking to hire more international professors and Arcaro threw Fadaam's name in the hat.

"Life is such that there's not a lot of people you feel totally comfortable with. And I felt able to be vulnerable with him and vice versa. And that's the hallmark of any good friendship," Arcaro said.

In the meantime, Fadaam worked for Al Jazeera English, and they offered

him a job in Qatar. As he was discussing this offer on the phone with his bureau chief, he got an email from Elon University offering him a full-time job.

His boss at Al Jazeera told Fadaam to ignore her offer and encouraged him to go to the U.S. instead. He listened to her advice.

"I couldn't believe how lucky I was back then that we are gonna be granted asylum in the United States, and I'm gonna have my job waiting for me," Fadaam said.

After three and a half years living surrounded by war, Fadaam arrived in the U.S. with his family on Aug. 17, 2012. He landed at the Raleigh-Durham International Airport where Gordon and a World Relief resettlement organization employee were waiting to drive him to Burlington. Arcaro was waiting at Fadaam's new house which he had stocked with pantry and refrigerator essentials before Fadaam arrived. Three days later, Fadaam started his job at Elon University.

"It was like a dream that took me a while to understand," Fadaam said.

Fadaam said it was a whirlwind at first. He got electricity and water in his house, renewed his driver's license and got a social security card. He also set up a bank account and bought a cell phone. Then he had to get used to Elon and teaching courses completely in English, his second language, on a regular basis.

"I don't even know where I am on campus. And I had to ask around and even to find where my classroom is gonna be and how to reach it," Fadaam said.

Arcaro mentored Fadaam about acclimating to the U.S. and Elon.

"I knew he would have all those questions. So I was always over his house

and, and talking to him about stuff, how to do this and how to do that, and getting to know his family a little bit," Arcaro said.

Fadaam and his family have been in the U.S. for 11 years now. Although he has lost touch with Gordon, Arcaro and him are still close friends and talk almost everyday. When a friendship is older than a decade, the friends come to know each other well and reimance about who they once were.

"I've seen over the years how frustrating it is for him to have his artistic vision and his skills kind of waning from disuse," Arcaro said. "I know that that has hurt him. I think he's at heart an artist, and at heart is somebody that likes to create."

While he is no longer an art teacher like he was in Baghdad, his artistic skills are not totally lost. Fadaam's graphic novel, titled "Art on Fire," that he has been working on since 2008 is being published in a few months. The novel tells a graphic story – one of loss, love and legacy during the Iraq war 20 years ago. Fadaam never wants people to forget about the war and its victims: his people.

"This is not only a reminder for me, but it's also my way of educating others about what really happened to my country," Fadaam said.

Dating, disclosing sexually transmitted infections on Elon University's campus

Student Health Services, SPARKS work to eliminate stigma across campus through sexual health education, including guidance on how to disclose STIs to a partner



Editor's Note: The content of this article includes mention of sexual assault.

"Whore." "Slut."

These were two words one Elon University student was called when she shared with potential sexual partners that she has a sexually transmitted infection. Martha, whose name has been changed to protect her privacy, tested positive for HSV-2 — more commonly known as genital herpes — after she was sexually assaulted as a young teenager.

"I've been told things like, 'Oh, I didn't know you were one of those,'" Martha said. "'You're definitely a college girl.' Those kinds of things, like really mean things."

After her diagnosis, when Martha wanted to have sex with other people, she more often than not was looked at with judgment. She said this caused her to internalize the guilt and shame she felt.

"What if I never get to have sex?" Martha said. "I was still in that mindset of 'Maybe I don't deserve sex.'"

Elon Medical Director of Student Health and university physician Dr. Ginette Archinal said Martha's guilt and shame are not unusual. When Archinal tells students they have tested positive for a [sexually transmitted infection](#), especially genital herpes, emotions are often high.

"Tears, crying, upset, fear. Fear about, 'What's it going to mean in the future?'" Archinal said. "Anger towards the person who may have given them the STI, anger to direct it inward for a perception of carelessness."

Martha is not alone. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [one in five Americans](#) have an STI. People ages 15 to 24, like Martha, are [more susceptible](#) to contracting STIs as opposed to older Americans.

According to Archinal, Elon Student Health diagnoses hundreds of STIs every academic year, the most common ones being chlamydia and genital herpes. The recent spike in chlamydia [mirrors national trends](#).

According to Archinal, 70% of people on Elon's campus who test positive for herpes request a follow-up, in-person visit to get advice about how to disclose the STI to sexual partners and friends.

Archinal tells students to communicate openly and honestly with their partners.

"If you are comfortable enough to be having sex with somebody, that's a very intimate relationship," Archinal said. "If you are not comfortable enough to talk to that person about your previous sexual experience and any infections involved, you probably shouldn't be having sex with them."

But she understands that can be difficult so she advises students to use their own discretion.

In the U.S., according to the CDC, regulations about disclosing STIs [depend on the state](#) and the circumstances under which the STI was contracted. In North Carolina, state law [requires](#) someone with chlamydia to notify all sexual partners from 30 days before the onset of symptoms. People infected with human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, are required to [disclose their HIV status to past and future sexual partners](#), although some exceptions apply.

Martha said she has disclosed her genital herpes to every potential sexual partner she's had. She said some people have called her names, but others have given her positive responses. She appreciates people who are direct right off the bat.

"That's the best-case scenario. If you're not comfortable just telling them right away. Ghosting, saying mean things, is never kind," Martha said. "If you're not comfortable, you're not comfortable, and just let someone know."

Elon junior Leah Short is the team lead for the sexual health focus group in [SPARKS](#) peer educators. The peer health education group leads workshops about sexual health education and hosts [events](#) across campus. Short said STI disclosure is about personal responsibility.

"Automatically disclosing that information is really important," Short said. "One, because you don't want to expose or transmit the STI to someone else. I think that honesty and having that conversation goes along with that."

Short's team hopes to normalize conversations about sex. Martha said disclosing to potential partners could be hard, especially if her news was not well received. That's why Martha found it easier to disclose and date people who also have an STI. There are a handful of websites for those living with STIs to navigate their dating world. Martha used a website called [Positive Singles](#) and found it much more relaxing.

"The fact that they already had genital herpes made me feel a lot more comfortable because even if someone did feel totally comfortable having sex with me, there's still that voice in the back of my mind that's like, 'You shouldn't do it. You don't deserve to infect this person,'" Martha said.

Eventually, Martha decided to give Tinder a try — that's where she met her current boyfriend. He doesn't have genital herpes and she hasn't had an outbreak since they have been together. An outbreak is when genital sores resurface after the initial symptoms.

Martha also had to work through telling her friends. She remembers the support she got from one of the first people she told.

"I was still worthy of love and a relationship and that there's nothing wrong with me for having a STI," Martha said. "Just receiving that affirmation was really great."

Beyond initial disclosure, the STI has the potential to be brought up again among friends. Archinal is adamant that laughing, poking fun or making jokes about someone's STI is not acceptable.

"I do not know why anybody would find that amusing. Honestly, if somebody confides in somebody something about any health issue and that person they're confiding in thinks is a joke, walk away from that person because they are not your friend," Archinal said.

Martha said making jokes about STIs is a "social jumping hoop." She, "airs on the side of no joke" but it, "depends on how close you are to that person."

She said she often mirrors the body language and tone of the other person.

"I would say that depends on how close you are to that person and when they disclosed. If they've just told you and they're pretty upset, look pretty shaken, maybe not a joke, maybe not appropriate," Martha said.

Archinal said getting tested for STIs followed by open and honest communication with sexual partners is the best way to prevent STIs. She encourages students to share negative test results before having sex, agree to be monogamous and avoid alcohol or any other recreational drugs in sexual situations. She advocates for using barrier methods including condoms during any type of sex since STIs can be spread through kissing and oral sex, along with penis ejaculation into a vagina or anus. Students can access safer sex supplies using SPARKS's Protect Direct service. Students can [request](#) free safer sex supplies to their campus box.

Testing is another way to prevent the spread of STIs. Students can make an appointment at [student health services](#). STI tests at student health services are an out-of-pocket expense that range from \$8 to \$44. But student health can provide a receipt so that anyone who wants to file with insurance can be reimbursed. Archinal said health providers at student health services are careful to use language that does not cast shame or judgment when talking to students about test results to eliminate shame or stigma.

"The last thing people need is for somebody to say, 'Well, of course, if you'd use condoms every time like I told you to...!' Nobody needs to hear that," Archinal said.

STI testing is also available at urgent care clinics and private medical offices. There are also home test kits that are available at pharmacies. Tests at the [Alamance County Health Department](#) are free.

If students test positive for a STI, Archinal said students may be prescribed medicine to treat the symptoms. These prescriptions are covered by insurance. Archinal said if students cannot afford treatment then the [STI clinic](#) at the health department is the best resource to help.

When it comes to emotional support, Archinal said the provider who diagnoses the student can answer questions and offer support. Beyond that, she said confiding in parents can be helpful.

According to its website, staff at university [counseling services](#) are prepared to help students with a host of concerns, including romantic partners and interpersonal issues.

"If you have a bad experience when you're disclosing, don't bottle it up," Archinal said. "Talk to somebody that you trust is going to keep it private."

Women's contribution to history acknowledged at every grade level in Alamance Burlington School System

ABSS students, district leaders emphasize female trailblazers during Women's History Month



At 11 years old, Dasia Roberson dreams of becoming a neurosurgeon. She wants to graduate from Princeton, Yale and New York University. She said she has to plan ahead to make that dream come true.

"I'm making sure that I'm an all 'A' student. I drive my mom crazy with talking

about it," Roberson said.

Roberson describes herself as outgoing, kind and well-spoken — all things she uses to lead Hillcrest Elementary School as the student body president.

"You have more responsibility, more leadership and more of being a role model for the younger kids," Roberson said.

Earlier in February, her presidential duties brought her to lead Board of Education Chair Sandy Ellington-Graves on a tour through her school. Roberson immediately made an impression on Ellington-Graves.

"Dasia was the leader that I would love to see in all of our students. And I'm thinking at fifth grade, this girl's gonna do big things," Ellington-Graves said.

As Women's History Month begins, Ellington-Graves finds herself reflecting on how her gender affects her role on the board of education, especially as a working mother of three children.

"I think it's nice to give other females a voice, particularly in my case mothers," Ellington-Graves said. "In the role that I'm in, it's nice to be able to say, 'I understand. I sympathize with you.'"

Elected in 2020, Ellington-Graves has served as a member of the board of education for three years, the last two years as the board chair. The Southern Alamance High School graduate is overseeing the board as it tackles redistricting. Ellington-Graves is in charge of running civil board of education meetings. She said sometimes this means she has to restore order.

"It's hard to pick up that gavel from time to time," Ellington-Graves said.

But Ellington-Graves said she does not face gender discrimination on the

board.

"I've never really run into, 'You can't get this promotion because you're a woman,' or 'You can't do this because you're a woman,'" Ellington-Graves said.

Ellington-Graves said it's important for ABSS schools to address women's history, especially the female trailblazers. Ruby Bridges is one female trailblazer Roberson has already learned about in school. Bridges was the first African- American student to desegregate an elementary school in the south in 1960. During Black History Month, Roberson admired Bridges for her bravery at school and passion for education.

According to Chief Academic Officer Revonda Johnson, women's history is taught in all ABSS schools, not just during Women's History Month, but all year long. Johnson also said particular emphasis is placed on women who have shattered glass ceilings, such as women in carpentry and automotives.

"We know there are girls out there who do wanna be in those fields, but sometimes the stigma that may come with that, 'This is what boys do,' we try to work really hard to eliminate that," Johnson said.

How women's history is taught varies at different grade levels. Sixth and seventh graders in ABSS are required to take technology education courses which expose them to different technical careers. High school students can opt into similar courses. Here career development coordinators invite women to come to class and talk with students.

"We want to make sure that our young women understand that there are no barriers for them anymore, and that we want them to have those opportunities, if that's something they're interested in or have a passion for, that they explore those opportunities and push on," Johnson said.

North Carolina's Standard Course of Study offers expectations for what every student must learn in the classroom at each grade level. The eighth grade standards mention women twice. One [history standard](#) says teachers must, "Explain how the experiences and achievements of women, minorities, indigenous, and marginalized groups have contributed to the development of North Carolina and the nation over time."

While public schools are required to follow state curriculum, Johnson said teachers have the autonomy to introduce women's history in other lessons if they want. Ellington-Graves said she wants every student to learn from those lessons, not just women.

"I want our kids to feel like they've got the confidence, the independence to do what they wanna do, regardless if they're male or female, tall or short, Black or white, doesn't matter," Ellington-Graves said. "Find what makes you special and run with it."

Elon University veterans reflect on time served

Campus will run as normal this Veterans Day, but the holiday still prompts retired and active service members to reflect



Each Veterans Day, University Registrar Rodney Parks reflects on his days as a medic in the U.S. Navy when he was stationed in Egypt. This year, Parks said he will be thinking about that time while working on Veterans Day on Nov. 11.

Elon University does not take Veterans Day off. Classes are still held, and university offices are still open. Elon is not alone — none of Elon's 15 peer institutions take the day off either.

"Our work today is to serve the student body," Parks said. "That's our primary responsibility. Does the past matter for us? Yeah, it matters, but there's a lot of ways that veterans celebrate: the call to honor, the remembrance and the little bit of reflection from the past."

One undergraduate student and 11 graduate students at Elon currently receive veteran benefits, according to the Financial Aid Office. Neither the Registrar's Office, Financial Aid Office, Bursar's Office, President's Office or Human Resources knew how many Elon employees are veterans. Regardless, everyone is expected to be in class or work on Friday.

Building Automation System Application Engineer Chris Turner said he isn't bothered by working on Veterans Day either. He served in the Marine Corps for five years building and repairing radios. Even though he is new to Elon, having started his position in February, he isn't surprised he is expected to work on Friday. In fact, he can't remember ever having a job that took Veterans Day off.



Margaret Faust | Elon News Network

Veteran Chris Turner uses the skills he learned in the Marine Corps in his work as an engineer at Elon.

"It's no different than any other day," Turner said.

Turner said if he was given the day off, he'd appreciate it.

"Any reason to get a little more time off, spend it with family," Turner said. "It definitely would help to reflect on what the day might mean or even maybe to reach out to buddies."

Mary Kay Hannah, assistant professor of physical therapy education, served as a police officer in the military and a physical therapist in Afghanistan. She said she has mixed feelings about working on Veterans Day.

"If you're off for every single potential holiday, nobody's ever in school. So I sort of get that," Hannah said.

One of Hannah's students, Britt Dixon, is a current service member in the National Guard. She has been deployed to Afghanistan, Kuwait, the U.S.-Mexico border and multiple states to help with hurricane relief.

Dixon said Veterans Day isn't particularly special to her.

"I don't go out and celebrate my military status or anything like that," Dixon said, "but it does make you pause and sometimes think about things that you don't always actively spend time thinking about."

For example, she said she thinks about the places she's been, the people she's met and the comrades she's lost. She said on the federal holiday, she usually hears from people she's lost touch with. The support from people in her past is coupled with support from people in her present, as Dixon said she feels supported by her professors and classmates.

"I don't think it actively bothers me as long as I know that the university itself is going to respect the fact that a service member is, at times, going to have difficult obligations," Dixon said.

She hasn't been called to active duty since starting at Elon, so she hasn't had to ask the university for specific accommodations, and as such she said she hasn't had the chance to properly gauge the university's support of veterans.

Parks, Turner and Hannah are all planning to work that day, and Dixon will go to class. But they will each celebrate the holiday in their own way.

Parks has gone to Elon University's annual Veterans Day Observance ceremony before and is looking forward to going again this year. He said it is

a time for veterans on campus to reflect but also catch up and crack jokes.

"It's always a kind reminder of the years that we put in and the fellowship and brotherhood that connected us all," Parks said. "And it continues to connect us here."

Although the event has been publicized, Hannah thinks it can get lost in the shuffle.

"Elon clearly doesn't think it's different," Hannah said. "It's just another one of the millions of opportunities that we all have to attend stuff here."

To Hannah, Veterans Day is about honoring a specific type of service. She acknowledges people who serve in other ways, such as volunteering, but she said serving in the Army is different.

"[It's the] ultimate measure of devotion that you wouldn't come home, that defines the difference," Hannah said.

She said she thinks that Elon cares about diversity, but one diverse group can be left behind — veterans.

Hannah said she doesn't think Elon actively excludes veterans, but more could be done to make them feel welcome. One idea she has to achieve this goal is to establish a veteran's office on campus. She thinks an office would build a sense of community and recruit more ROTC students.

"We'll have coffee on Fridays at three. And tell war stories and help people who need help and make friends with people who might feel different because they're older than regular students," Hannah said.

Parks said President Connie Book absolutely recognizes and appreciates veterans. He usually hears from her via email on Veterans Day and said Elon

is working on getting more veterans to work at and attend Elon, as well as get an ROTC office on campus.

Without an office, Parks shares his story with individual students. He thinks students who listen walk away with a better understanding of what it means to be a veteran.

"Some students that meet with me with coffee," Parks said, "They get it. They understand."

Parks explained that most of the students who ask to hear his story are usually the ones considering service themselves. And he wishes students who weren't necessarily considering it would take an interest too.

"If you can create a restless spirit amongst the people that are learners, that restless spirit will carry them forward and create the energy and create the intrigue that allows them to really develop an appreciation for people outside of the United States," Parks said.

Having also served abroad, Hannah also wants students to know the right way to greet a veteran.

"I think one of the most irritating and shallow things that anybody can say is, Thank you for your service," Hannah said.

When people tell her that, she said she doesn't know how to respond. She prefers when people say, "I honor your service" or ask a question to learn more about their service.

Hannah said Veterans Day is not just another holiday. It has important implications.

"I hope that students, staff and faculty take a moment to reflect on the fact

that those who serve in the military have provided a valuable service and now have important experience that they're respected for that," Hannah said.