



ADAM MICHAEL SZUSCIK | UNSPLASH

The U.S. Supreme Court voted 6-3 to end affirmative action in higher education in June. This decision ended a four-decade precedent that allowed colleges and universities to broadly consider applicants' race in their admissions processes. Colleges and universities like Elon have had to adjust applications because of the decision.

## ADMISSIONS IMPLEMENTS NEW APPLICATION QUESTIONS, INITIATIVES AFTER SUPREME COURT OVERTURNS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Elon remains confident in intentional recruitment despite nationwide decrease

**Abigail Hobbs**  
Managing Editor of The Pendulum

After the Supreme Court overturned the consideration of race in the college admissions process in June, Elon University will focus on new initiatives and recruitment, according to Vice President of Enrollment Greg Zaiser.

Zaiser wrote in a statement to Elon News Network that these initiatives will include participation in a "Common App Student Context Pilot" that will provide distinctions between sub-groups of applicants — particularly first-generation and low income students. The university will also partner with College Greenlight, a national college search platform for community-based organizations to strengthen pathways for underrepresented students, streamline the financial aid application process and modify communication to advance Elon's commitment to diversity early in potential students' introduction to the university.

Zaiser wrote this also includes replacing two of the "Think Fast" short answer questions on the Common Application, instead asking "What cultural traditions, experiences or celebrations are important to you? How have they influenced your understanding of self?" and "Who are you? Describe yourself."

Another initiative to maintain and increase diversity on campus is recruitment, according to Elon University President Connie Book.

"We will continue our practice in that our commitment to being enriched through a diverse class stays the same. We will follow the law, but we will use new tools to ensure that we're successful," Book said in an interview with Elon News Network. "We are honed in on asking students and questions on their application about how their lived experience has shaped them."

In her President's Address on Aug. 14, Book said the university has placed

new recruiters in multiple states to increase diversity, including Colorado, Illinois and Long Island.

"We also are working nationally with services that can place us in diverse environments for recruiting so that we're going to high schools that have a diverse student body and sharing news about Elon and Elon's strength and recruiting students from this location," Book told Elon News Network. "We've added an additional admissions counselor focused on diversifying the student body."



WE'RE GOING TO HIGH SCHOOLS THAT HAVE A DIVERSE STUDENT BODY AND SHARING NEWS ABOUT ELON AND ELON'S STRENGTH AND RECRUITING STUDENTS FROM THIS LOCATION.

**CONNIE BOOK**  
ELON UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Yet, according to Zaiser, recruitment is something the university will continue to look into since it is separate from considering race in admission.

"It's important to note that use of race in evaluation of admission candidates is not legal. That is clear. Financial Aid/Scholarships and recruitment activities are not under the court's 'strict scrutiny' so we anticipate continuing to recognize students in our processes the same way we have historically done separate from admission," Zaiser wrote. "The more we know about applicants the better. Decisions are contextual so we will continue to seek to get to know students in new and different ways."

Zaiser wrote that Common App will still ask students for their race, but the answer will be hidden as it is uploaded to Slate — the platform Elon uses that manages admissions, enrollment and

advancement in higher education.

While this form of admissions is new to most of the country due to the ruling, Zaiser acknowledged that the public university systems of California and Michigan have practiced race-neutral admission since 1996 and 2006, respectively.

"This is not unprecedented. Michigan, California and other states have had to practice race neutral admission for years. They have worked hard to prioritize diversity in admission but it's been challenging," Zaiser wrote. "That we admit 67% of applicants means we'll continue to be able to work toward our goals. The SCOTUS decision does not change our mission, values or priorities. It just means we have to go about them in new and creative ways."

However, representatives from both the University of Michigan and the University of California wrote briefs to the Supreme Court reporting that race-neutral admissions have led to a drop in diversity on campus.

"Yet, despite persistent, vigorous, and varied efforts to increase student-body racial and ethnic diversity by race-neutral means, admission and enrollment of underrepresented minority students have fallen precipitously in many of U-M's schools and colleges since Proposal 2 was adopted," the brief from the University of Michigan stated. "U-M's experience thus represents a natural experiment in race-neutral admissions that this Court should consider in determining whether efficacious race-neutral alternatives are in fact available to Harvard, UNC, or other institutions of higher education."

The University of California system has spent over half a billion dollars in the last nine years to try to increase diversity in its students, but it still faces a deficit, according to the brief.

"Many students from underrepresented minority groups, particularly those at the U.C.'s most selective campuses, will often find themselves the sole student of their race in a class," according to the brief from the University of California.

## Mill Point residents frustrated by raised parking permit prices

The cost of parking increased from included to \$160 for Station at Mill Point residents

**Sophie Rosenthal & Naomi Washington**  
Elon News Network

For the first time, students living in the Station at Mill Point have to pay for a parking permit.

Students who live in Mill Point have previously never had to pay at all for parking, but they were only allowed to park in the Mill Point lot. This year, Mill Point parking permits cost \$160, and students will be allowed to park in Colonnades, Innovation Quad and Schar Center Hunt B lots in addition to their own.

According to Campus Police Chief Joe LeMire, the new Mill Point parking permit comes after he received multiple complaints from students living in Mill Point who were unable to park anywhere on campus without being ticketed.

"I started talking to some people that lived in Mill Point who were athletes, some had internships and jobs," LeMire said. "They were saying that, 'The Mill Point is free, but I'm only allowed to park at Mill Point. So if I have to come back and park at Mill Point, but I still have to get over to Sankey Hall because I'm a business major. I can't make it. Either I have to tell my boss, I have to leave my job, or I have to tell my professor that I'm late.'"



ENN FILE PHOTO

Aerial shot of the Station at Mill Point and its connecting parking lot. Parking permits for this lot were free up until the 2023-24 school year.

According to campus safety and police, as of Aug. 21, 219 Mill Point parking permits were purchased, and 35 still need to be picked up. This compares to 264 permits picked up last year. During the 2022-2023 academic year, 318 students were living in the Station at Mill Point.

There are 344 unreserved spots in the Mill Point lot available for parking, as of Aug. 21.

LeMire said the new permit costs the same as all other neighborhood parking permits, except for the Global neighborhood.

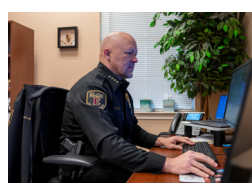
Senior Matt Boyle is going into his second year of living in Mill Point and said while he understands other students' frustration with limited parking, the additional parking isn't worth the price.

"It just feels like a needless cash grab, when in reality the parking permits was working fine from Mill Point up until this year," Boyle said.

Some students are more frustrated that the university didn't notify them ahead of returning to campus. Senior Maddie Johnson has also lived in Mill Point for two years and said she specifically chose the neighborhood to save money on parking.

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Police chief talks new safety measures this year

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A Rip\_Chord alumnus' professional music journey

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Soccer duo embraces friendship on and off field

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## THE PENDULUM

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#### EDITORIAL POLICY:

ENN seeks to inspire, entertain and inform the Elon community by providing a voice for students and faculty, as well as serve as a forum for the meaningful exchange of ideas.

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## CHEAT SHEET

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

# Navigating student safety & citations with police chief

### Chief of campus police reviews how students can stay safe this year regarding substances, car theft

**Sophie Rosenthal**

Elon News Network

Elon University Police Chief Joe LeMire sat down with Elon News Network to discuss safety in the upcoming year, including the use of substances, car theft and helping others.

*This interview was edited for clarity.*



**Joe LeMire**

**If a student gets a citation, what should they know?**

If it's on campus and we write the citation, it's totally our investigation. But it does go to the court for Alamance County, so when [students] pay the citation or challenge a citation,

it's going to go through that court system. We also take that information and share it with conduct on campus, so they are likely going to be contacted by the dean of students and conduct office to discuss the incident that occurred.

And the same thing happens off campus because the town police will share the information with the dean of students and conduct that off-campus behavior can be addressed through those avenues also. It can be scary to get if it's your first citation that you've ever gotten outside of, say, a traffic citation. There's always people here that if you have questions that we can help someone navigate what you're going to have to do, where you're going to have to go, how you take care of something like that.

The citation we would write would be the exact same citation the town would write. It's coming to the same court system, same type of thing, same forums and everything.

**Can you explain what the Good Samaritan law is and what students should know about that?**

It's the idea of if you're with somebody

and they clearly need medical attention, if you call the police, you stay on scene, you're cooperative, you help out. We do not write you up. We do not send you to court for that.

We appreciate that you care for that person's medical health, and we're going to get them that help. But you're also the person that stayed and helped out, so you're not going to be in danger of having to go to court either. So we have proven time and time again that that's true. It's covered by state law, it's covered by our own personal protocols and policies here.

Campus follows that same thing, even from a conduct standpoint. Most important is make sure people are safe and you can rely that that's what's going to happen. You can get help to somebody if they need it.

**For students who are coming from states where different drugs are legal than it is here, what should those students know about?**

If you're from a state where it's legal but you're bringing it here, you don't fall under your previous state laws, you fall under North Carolina law. So you can't have the marijuana gummies and everything that goes with it, so don't bring it from home, don't have somebody send it to you in the mail.

Don't use the federal mail service to transport narcotics because on a federal level to marijuana is not legal. So states are making individual decisions, but some states like North Carolina, it's still illegal. And at the federal level, it's still illegal.

**Generally, what does campus safety want students to know going into the new year?**

A few things that we want students to know going into the new year is definitely for emergency alerts and letting us reach as many people as possible. We always put out the reminder make sure your cell phone is on the cell phone block of your OnTrack account. If something major happens, we need to be able to reach everybody.

The other thing is for safety, a couple of things that happened last year were theft of vehicles. So from a safety standpoint, people are getting in the habit of putting their FOB in their vehicle and not locking it.

And what's happening is people are coming by and they'll hop in the vehicle, press the brake, turn the vehicle on. And if the FOB's in the car, the car will run and that's how the car

gets taken. And that was mostly off campus than on campus, although we had a little bit of impact on campus. And I think that's the biggest issues that were happening last year.

The other thing from a safety standpoint is the off campus partying and things of that nature. So I would encourage any student that partakes in drinking — and obviously you should be of age but anybody that decides to — I wouldn't drink out of a bucket, I wouldn't drink out of anything somebody gave me if I didn't know them, I wouldn't do anything like that.



BE CAREFUL, KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DRINKING. SAFEGUARD YOUR CAR AND YOUR APARTMENT OR YOUR RESIDENCE HALL ROOM BY LOCKING DOORS AND THINGS OF THAT NATURE.

**JOE LEMIRE**  
ELON UNIVERSITY  
POLICE CHIEF

Where we see a lot of the safety issues and people getting themselves in trouble, as you have no idea what's in the drink, you have no idea how much alcohol is in the drink. And that has caused some problems. ... Be careful, know what you're drinking. Safeguard your car and your apartment or your residence hall room by locking doors and things of that nature.

I think the biggest piece and the last one is pedestrian safety. So we've got a plaza being built across by Pandora's and Williamson. There's a gate up there right now. We ask of people, please, whose crosswalks to get across the street and then come back to get around the gate and not walk in front of it and stay in that lane just so everyone's safe. The cars can see you and no one gets hit by a car in that area."



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

People cross Williamson Avenue on Aug. 22, as the Town of Elon's plaza construction project has rerouted pedestrian traffic in the area. Joe LeMire encourages people to cross at the crosswalks and walk along the gate to avoid pedestrian accidents.

## Corrections

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



The class of 2027 pick up their acorns as they depart the 2023 New Student Convocation ceremony Under the Oaks on Aug. 19.

JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Freshman Isabella Espinoza touches the Old Main Bell on her way to the 2023 New Student Convocation on Aug. 19.

RYAN KUPPERMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The Fire of the Carolinas greet the class of 2027 in the morning of Aug. 18 as they check into Schar Center.

ABIGAIL HOBBS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Elon freshman says goodbye to parent at the Family Send-Off Picnic on Aug. 19.

SOPHIE ROSENTHAL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Elon freshman Ava Iacobellis (right) signs the Elon University honor code the morning of Aug. 21 in front of Alumni Gym following the Call to Honor ceremony.

JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# University aims to intentionally recruit for diversity efforts

SCOTUS | from cover

Other than Michigan and California, affirmative action was banned in seven other states before the ruling — including Oklahoma, who said race-neutral admissions did not affect the level of diversity.

In a separate brief petitioning for the removal of affirmative action written to the Supreme Court, the University of Oklahoma stated they remain “just as diverse today (if not more so) than it was when Oklahoma banned affirmative action in 2012.”

Naeemah Clark, Elon’s associate provost for academic inclusive excellence, said she has high hopes for race-neutral admissions.

“I do think that if we’re really good at being intentional about recruiting students from a variety of backgrounds, I think that



I DO THINK THAT IF WE’RE REALLY GOOD AT BEING INTENTIONAL ABOUT RECRUITING STUDENTS FROM A VARIETY OF BACKGROUNDS, I THINK THAT IT ACTUALLY WILL INCREASE OUR NUMBER OF STUDENTS OF COLOR,

**NAEEMAH CLARK**  
ELON’S ASSOCIATE  
PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC  
INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

it actually will increase our number of students of color,” Clark said. “I think that we are going to have to be a little bit more creative about how we recruit students, students of color to the campus and how we make sure that we’re offering a great curriculum and co-curricular experiences that are exciting for students of color.”

Clark, Zaiser and Book all said Elon’s admissions process is very holistic and intentional.

“We know it’s critical for the learning environment,” Book said in an interview with Elon News Network. “We benefit from the community from the richness of different perspectives and creates the kind of learning that we value, so we’ve created a holistic effort around admissions and we’ll continue to make those investments.”

# Mill Point parking pass price increased to \$160

PERMIT | from cover

She learned about the new cost from an email reminding her to pay for the pass. Now, Johnson said she is asking campus police for a payment plan to ease the unexpected cost of the permit.

“I’ve been working all summer and I’ve been trying to save that money,” Johnson said. “I know a lot of other students have too. It’s just something that wasn’t expected, something that I didn’t plan on.”

Like Johnson, Boyle said he wishes he could have been notified in advance so he could have budgeted for the additional expense.

Both Boyle and Johnson said for them, the additional parking lots are not close to their classes. Johnson said she’s frustrated that she had no choice but to pay \$160, even though she won’t benefit the way students with classes on that side of campus will.

When Johnson heard about the change, she reached out to Vice President of Student Life Jon Dooley to ask why the change was necessary. Johnson said Dooley directed her to public transportation options, such as Link Transit and Elon Express, as an alternative to bringing her car to campus. To Johnson’s dismay, neither service stops at Mill Point.

“My new battle is adding a bus stop to Mill Point, just because every other residence on



DESIGN | ERIN MARTIN

Illustration of a Elon University 2023-24 Mill Point parking pass. Historically a parking permit for the Mill Point lot has been free, for the 2023-24 school year a permit will cost \$160.

campus that is owned by Elon University, like Mill Point, has a bus stop, and we don’t,” Johnson said.

But LeMire doesn’t think a bus stop will solve the problems fixed by the new parking permits.

“If you picture a shuttle bus going over there, and the shuttle bus comes back by the post office and they go through the lights and everything, by the time they get to campus, some students said I could walk faster than that,” LeMire said.

According to an email from program assistant Marcia Dodson, campus police began ticketing cars without parking passes on Aug. 22. The email said the ticket fines for parking in Mill Point without a pass have also increased from \$50 to \$100.

LeMire said this increase comes after continuous violations, including parking in

restricted spots where faculty members live on campus.

“It was being violated enough times that we had to tell people, ‘No, we’re serious about this, don’t park in these areas for safety reasons, don’t park in these areas because they’re restricted,’” LeMire said.

Historically, LeMire said, Mill Point had free parking because it seemed very far away from the center of campus when the university was smaller. But when the university started evaluating changing the permits, they measured the distance from the different neighborhoods to the center of campus and Belk Library. LeMire said they found Mill Point is about the same distance from campus as the Daniele Center, where students are charged for parking passes.



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Workers take a break in a parking lot outside Harvey R. Newlin Elementary School in Burlington as crews attempt to clean the facility from mold before the Alamance-Burlington School System’s academic year begins Aug. 28.

# Mold discovered in 5 ABSS schools

District races to make contingency plans, clean the schools

**Joseph Navin**  
Elon News Network

The Alamance-Burlington School System discovered mold inside of multiple 1970s-era schools across the county, including Cummings High School, Broadview Middle School and Newlin Elementary. On Aug. 21, mold was discovered inside Williams High School — currently Andrews Elementary School is the only school out of the five cleared to welcome students on Aug. 28.



IT’S A RACE AGAINST THE CLOCK RIGHT NOW FOR US BECAUSE SCHOOL STARTS NEXT MONDAY.

**LES ATKINS**  
ABSS PUBLIC  
INFORMATION OFFICER

According to Atkins, in order to begin the school year on time, Newlin Elementary students will transfer to Ray Street Academy, while Ray Street Academy students will be transferred to Graham Middle School. Atkins also said ABSS is aiming to have students back in Newlin by Labor Day.

“It’s a race against the clock right now for us because school starts next Monday,” ABSS Public Information Officer Les Atkins said. “Likely we’re not going to have the mold remediation completed at Newlin.”

Williams High School administrators and staff will temporarily move to Turrentine Middle School while further testing is conducted. The school is currently closed.

Possible contingency plans for Cummings and Broadview will be made after the district determines how quickly both schools can be cleaned. Around 800 students from Cummings and 500 from Broadview will be affected.

Atkins said that the mold is pathogenic and is not considered black mold. Pathogenic mold is also not toxigenic.

“It does pose an issue for people who obviously have compromised immune systems, people who have asthma and for prolonged exposure in a building,” Atkins said. “Obviously, that’s why it’s a concern to us.”

Widespread mold was discovered as the school system worked to upgrade a number of schools with the funding that the district received from a bond referendum in 2018. According to Atkins, the district has struggled with some neglect over minor facility maintenance issues over the last few years, which have now led to problems.

The district has spent over \$1.2 million on mold remediation and heating, ventilation and air conditioning system repairs at Andrews and Newlin Elementary schools as of Aug. 21.

“It has come to our attention that there are recurring mold problems in parts of these school facilities. Upon closer inspection, it appears that some of these issues have been neglected over the years and allowed to worsen. With the recent construction work and fluctuations in weather, the mold growth has accelerated,” ABSS Superintendent Dain

Butler said in an ABSS press release.

Butler’s office declined Elon News Network’s request for comment.



IT DOES POSE AN ISSUE FOR PEOPLE WHO OBVIOUSLY HAVE COMPROMISED IMMUNE SYSTEMS. ... OBVIOUSLY, THAT’S WHY IT’S A CONCERN FOR US.

**LES ATKINS**  
ABSS PUBLIC  
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Atkins said the mold issue at Andrews Elementary was likely caused by a shutdown of the HVAC system inside the facility, leading to an increase in mold. He also said it is likely Newlin Elementary suffered the same consequences after an HVAC system went down.

“When you have the perfect storm of hot air in the building, cold air in the building, moisture, condensation, high humidity — with the outside temperatures — it’s a recipe for mold growth,” Atkins said.

The most recent mold discovery comes as Southeast Alamance High School is scheduled to welcome students for the first time Aug. 28 after being completed over the summer.

The ABSS Board of Education will meet on Aug. 28 to further discuss the mold issue along with hiring an outside firm to conduct further air quality testing and address roofing systems.

# ‘The Forgotten:’ Art exhibit showcases consumer culture

Todd Jones’ exhibition will be in Arts West from Aug. 22 to Oct. 19

**Abigail Hobbs**  
Managing Editor of The Pendulum

Amidst the pandemic and graduate school at Ohio University, Todd Jones developed an interest in consumer culture and materialism, breaking off from his traditional paintings and working with nylon and paint skins.

Jones said he noticed an influx of mistinted house paint — paint that was created with the wrong tone or color and typically sold at a discounted price — in 2020, when people were stuck at home doing renovations.

“During the pandemic — especially when people were doing a lot more home and renovation projects — I became really interested in seeing all these paints like at the stores, especially more so because we were all at home so everyone decided to do renovation projects,” Jones said. “A lot of hardware stores would donate them to me or I would purchase them. And it was very interesting because I would use them to essentially pour to make these paint slabs that I would then carve and excavate.”

The collection of carved, discarded paint named “The

Forgotten” that Jones has created over the last two years is now on display in Arts West from Aug. 22 to Oct. 19.

Jones said the collection shows the connection between consumerist culture and behavior.

“I talk a lot about my work through the lens of geology and archaeology, understanding our own consumerist culture and behavior, especially with archaeology,” Jones said.

While dabbling in throughout his life, Jones really got his start in art in high school, where he discovered graphic design. With some encouragement

college to study art,” Jones said. “Then, while I was in college, I knew I loved teaching. So then I was like, ‘I want to teach art.’ So I was like, ‘OK, I want to be a practicing artist. And then work my way up to becoming a professor.”

After finishing his graduate degree in Ohio, Jones moved to Raleigh to be a visiting assistant professor and gallery director at Meredith College.

Jones said he wanted to get involved in the local community, and when he saw the posting for an art exhibit at Elon, he knew he wanted to reach out.

“I’m always looking for ways to engage with the local community and the surrounding areas. And I recently moved here about a year ago, and I always keep my eye out for shows and things like that,” Jones said.

“When I saw it, I was like, ‘Oh, I recognize that name. And that’s right down the road.’ So I am always looking to try to expand my reach to the community. So that was one thing that really stood out to me.”

Gallery Director and art professor Michael Fels said he usually receives up to 200 applications

for the five to seven exhibitions the university hosts per year. When choosing which artists to highlight, Fels said he looks for timely pieces of dialogue. What drew him further to Jones was the concept behind the material, which he said he wanted to express to the senior art students who will be writing

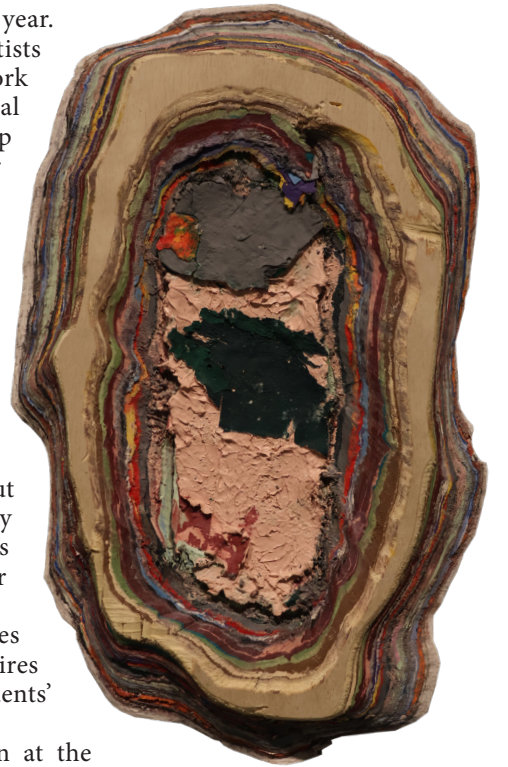
a thesis throughout the year.

“There may be artists that approach work through the material and not delving as deep about the concept or the theory around the work, but just the work of the material itself. There’s others that do more conceptually driven work, where the materiality becomes a second, or an afterthought,” Fels said. “Todd, in his proposal, he talks about how both are equally important. And that’s what we want with our students.”

Fels said he hopes Jones’ exhibition inspires topics for his students’ theses.

“By bringing him in at the beginning of the semester, when our seniors are just starting to develop their ideas, they’ll get to hear somebody that’s able to talk about how you deal with your concept and the art ... and then help have both of those kinds of work together for stronger exhibitions,” Fels said.

Jones said making art is problem solving and a learning process.

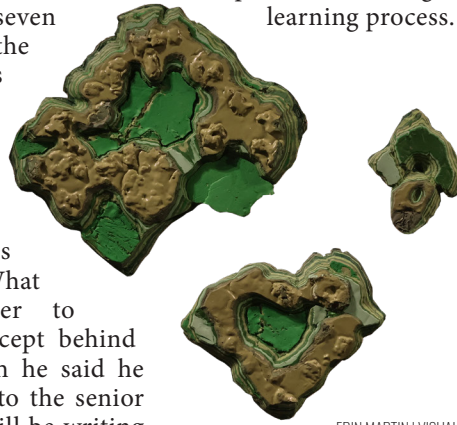
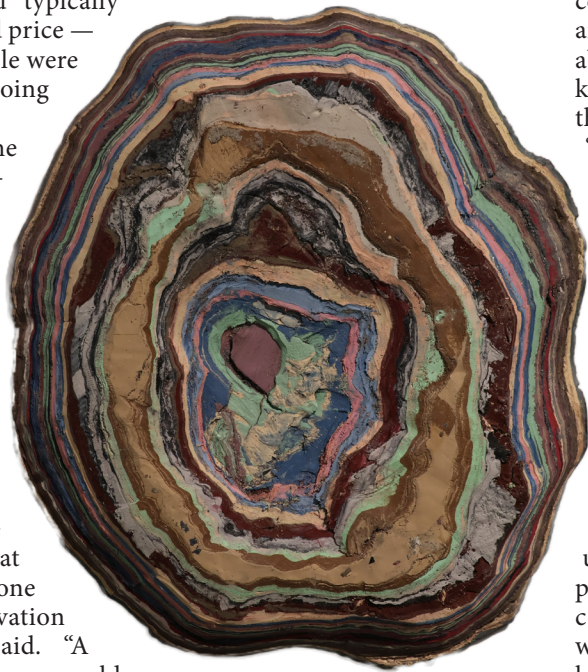


“Art encompasses so much of our daily lives and just in general art, to me, it’s just creative problem solving. And for me, in general, I always love seeing creative ways of solving problems,” Jones said. “I don’t see any piece as being like a particular failure. It’s like a learning process.”

**SEE “THE FORGOTTEN”  
FROM 8/22 TO 10/19  
FIND OUT MORE HERE**



ERIN MARTIN | VISUAL MEDIA EDITOR



*Strata*  
Discarded/mistint house paint  
12" x 12" x 8"  
2022

# From East to West: Rip\_Chord alumnus' music journey in LA



COURTESY OF MATTHEW CLANTON

Matthew Clanton '18 in his in-home studio. As a freelance musician, Clanton provides production, songwriting and vocal services to other musicians and companies.

Matthew Clanton '18 moved to Los Angeles 5 years ago to pursue music

**Betsy Schlehuber**  
Lifestyle Editor

Matthew Clanton '18 remembers his reluctance toward singing in elementary school.

"Singing's not cool, that's for losers," Clanton recalls his 2007 self saying.

But that outlook would soon change for him, all thanks to a solo in a medley of High School Musical songs that the choir performed. His solo was in the movie's first song, "The Start of Something New," an ironic choice for the now Los Angeles-based musician.

"In a way, I see that as the start of my personal interest in music versus just going with the flow," Clanton said. "It's a funny coincidence that that's the name of the song."

Clanton said he decided his main instrument was his voice by the time he was in high school. Voice was also what he chose when declaring his music production and recording arts major at Elon.

On Clanton's Elon graduation day, he dropped his first EP titled "Goin' Up," featuring four songs, two of which had been released as singles leading up to the release. A month later, Clanton started offering freelance music services on Fiverr, an online platform for freelancers across art forms.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, his 9 to 5 job at The Vocal Corner Store in LA ended and he noticed his numbers on Fiverr spiking.

"It was just getting to a point where some months I would make more on Fiverr than I would make at my job," Clanton said, "and it was in the back of my mind, like, I would love to just be doing Fiverr because it just gives me so much more autonomy and flexibility of my time and allows me to then

take on other opportunities that aren't necessarily paid but have opportunity for payment down the line."

Over 300 clients later, Clanton offers his services full-time, such as production, studio engineering, songwriting and vocal services. During the summer, Clanton released two collaboration songs and dove deeper into electronic dance music, a genre he found massive success with following a career shift.

In 2022, Clanton collaborated with German EDM artist Neptunica on his remix of the song "Love is Gone," originally by Dylan Matthew. This was the first song where Clanton was not anonymous upon release. The song gained popularity in Germany, now sitting at 40 million streams, complementing his recent accomplishment of hitting 1 million monthly listeners on Spotify, although that number has since shifted down.

The two have continued to collaborate since then, releasing their song "Living Life, in the Night" in 2022, which garnered 11 million streams. Clanton said they have another song coming out in September.

Outside of this past summer, Clanton said his freelance endeavors include recording demos for artists he met at his old job and doing demo vocals for the FOX show "Empire." But Clanton said his full circle moment was when his backup vocals were included in a Disney+ movie "Sneakerella," a modern take on the Disney princess movie "Cinderella."

His original job was to record the demo vocals for the movie's song, "A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes," which would then be swapped out for the actor's vocals once the song's pitch was accepted. This is a job Clanton said he frequently does on Fiverr.

But this time while recording, he went "above and beyond the

expectation" and recorded backup vocals. He said Disney liked the backup vocals and decided it wasn't worth it to have the actor try to recreate them, so they kept his vocals.

To Clanton, his Disney feature was a call back to his High School Musical solo his first performance as both projects came from Disney.

Clanton said his immediate

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I KNEW I HAD A DIRECTION, OR AT LEAST I HAD A LANDING POINT, WHEN COMING HERE.

**MATTHEW CLANTON**  
ALUMNUS

arrival to Elon's all-male a cappella group Rip\_Chord helped build his skills in production and arrangement. When looking at colleges, Clanton included collegiate a cappella groups in his decision and knew he wanted to be in Rip\_Chord before even submitting his application.

He served as music director and vice president, during his time in the group. As music director, Clanton said he had to analyze and listen to songs "intently" in order to coach the group on singing.

"There's this piano, there's this bass, it's doing this, this moment is happening like this; how can I translate that to voice? Not even just the notes, what vowels are they going to be singing? Will this make more sense as an 'ooh' or 'oh' or 'ah'?" Clanton said. "What kind of musical impact will happen if we're doing either one of those?"

Clanton's involvement as music director heavily translates into his work on Fiverr, he said.

His transition from North Carolina to Los Angeles was made easier by Clanton's involvement in

the Elon in LA program, which he participated in 2016. While on the west coast and working his soon-to-be full-time job as an intern — a job he spent two summers at — Clanton built connections with people in the music industry and Elon alumni.

"I knew I had a direction or at least I had a landing point when coming here," Clanton said. "It was kind of quick, but it was at least aided by the fact that I wasn't going completely into the unknown."

It's been five years since Clanton took that leap, and one of his goals is to work with more American artists and expand his audience locally.

One piece of advice he offers current Elon musicians is to put the work in and use Elon's resources, such as the studios in Arts West, a location Clanton and his friends pulled many all-nighters in just for fun.

"We would go at 8 p.m. and we would leave when the birds were chirping and the sun was rising the next morning. We would do that at least once a week and in between that we'd be in there for hours and hours and go back and forth, listening to what each other was working on," Clanton said. "You don't have to do that, it's important to have a good sleep schedule as well, but we were just putting in the time, using the resources that are around you, whether that's the physical resources like the studio or the people that are around you."

**STREAM MATTHEW CLANTON'S MUSIC HERE**



COURTESY OF MATTHEW CLANTON

Matthew Clanton '18 performs at the restaurant "Ella" in Beverly Hills, California, in June. The performance was hosted by Breaking Sound, a collective that hosts artist showcases in various cities internationally.

# Track, field athlete enters motorway with NASCAR internship



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURYN CARLTON

Senior Lauryn Carlton shares experiences as partnership marketing intern

**Abigail Hobbs & Mason Willett**  
Elon News Network

When deciding on an internship for this past summer, senior track and field athlete Lauryn Carlton said she didn't want to make her passion for sports feel like a job, but wanted something in the industry—resulting in a partnership marketing internship with NASCAR.

"I like to watch football. I like to watch soccer in my leisure time. I didn't want those to become my job," Carlton said. "I'm interested enough in motorsports that I would be engaged with it and interested in the product, but it wouldn't become like it, my other passions wouldn't become my job."

In the internship, Carlton

““ I'M INTERESTED ENOUGH IN MOTORSPORTS THAT I WOULD BE ENGAGED WITH IT AND INTERESTED IN THE PRODUCT, BUT IT WOULDN'T BECOME LIKE IT, MY OTHER PASSIONS WOULDN'T BECOME MY JOB.

**LAURYN CARLTON**  
SENIOR TRACK AND FIELD

said she helped manage the relationship between NASCAR and its official partners. Carlton said her most memorable assignment was putting together an information packet for the Chicago Street Race — the first street race in NASCAR history.

"They said it was super helpful," Carlton said. "I was super happy about it as it was the first ever street race in NASCAR history."

Carlton's throwing coach Laura Igaune said she was ecstatic to hear one of her athletes doing such an impressive internship.

"I think she has a very good work ethic. She's really, really good about it, trusting the process and just taking one step at a time and going in the right direction," Igaune said. "I really enjoy seeing that. And I really support that because I feel like the more diverse areas, my student athletes are finding internships and jobs, the better Elon University looks for success after graduation."

Igaune said she has known about Carlton's great work ethic since recruiting her. She also said Carlton has grown into a great leader.

"When I recruited her in the senior year of high school, during the football season, she actually played football, she tore her ACL," Igaune said. "She's just

a really good kid. I love seeing her growth, I think she has left a mark and in her fifth year I think she is going to leave even more."

Carlton said she got her start in motorsports from watching it with her dad as a child.

"I told my dad I got the internship, he was so ecstatic, he was like, 'This is insane. I'm so excited for you,'" Carlton said. "And he was just so proud."

Though she drifted away from motorsports in middle and high school, Carlton said she worked in partnership marketing for a grassroots racing team last summer, which she credits to getting this larger-scale internship.

"The bug got me after I did that internship last summer with this race team," Carlton said. "I'm happy to be back into it, and it's just a really good time."

Carlton said she saw the similarities between motorsports and track and field, namely how time-oriented the sports are.

"You do this one little thing wrong, you might drop to last or

““ I THINK SHE HAS A VERY GOOD WORK ETHIC. SHE'S REALLY, REALLY GOOD ABOUT IT, TRUSTING THE PROCESS AND JUST TAKING ONE STEP AT A TIME AND GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

**LAURA IGAUNE**  
TRACK AND FIELD  
THROWING COACH

not even finish the race. So similar in that way, small small margins of error, every little minute detail counts, every second counts," Carlton said. "And the amount of focus that you have to have because you're kind of out there alone a little bit sometimes."

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# Women's soccer duo fosters strong relationship on, off the field

Sophomores Ashlee Brehio, Rachel Buckle look to use chemistry to lead season

**Mason Willett**  
Sports Editor

On the field, sophomores Ashlee Brehio and Rachel Buckle said they have a connection that allows them to know where the other is at all times.

"I would say our energies on the field bounce on and off of each other really well. Ashlee is a very go, go, go type of player and I like to slow it down and like to see the field more, so we work really well together," Buckle said. "Especially going forward in the box, I just know that if I'm in the box, I can find Ashlee and she's going to be able to put a goal away."

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ESPECIALLY GOING FORWARD IN THE BOX, I JUST KNOW THAT IF I'M IN THE BOX, I CAN FIND ASHLEE AND SHE'S GOING TO BE ABLE TO PUT A GOAL AWAY.

**RACHEL BUCKLE**  
ELON WOMEN'S  
SOCCER MIDFIELDER

According to Buckle, the bond between the soccer duo started last year as freshmen entering the program, and they have only gotten closer thanks to the long road trips on the bus and team dinners spent together.

"Ashlee's the type of person who's just going to tell you how it is, and she'll give you a bunch of crap. And she's also just going to be super honest with you. So I would say we mess with each other a lot," Buckle said. "All the time, it's just joking around with each other. I don't think we ever take each other seriously."

Buckle and Brehio said they never let anything get in the way of their friendship, especially if it means jeopardizing the game.

"Even if something was wrong off the field, I feel like Rachel and I wouldn't take it onto the field, which I think is super important," Brehio said.

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EVEN IF SOMETHING WAS WRONG OFF THE FIELD, I FEEL LIKE RACHEL AND I WOULDN'T TAKE IT ONTO THE FIELD, WHICH I THINK IS SUPER IMPORTANT.

**ASHLEE BREHIO**  
ELON WOMEN'S  
SOCCER FORWARD

Brehio is coming off an all-conference second team and all-rookie team performance in her first year at Elon. According to head coach Neil Payne, Brehio



Rachel Buckle (left) and Ashlee Brehio are a sophomore duo who have a connection that allows them to succeed both on and off the field.

MICHAEL WOLFF | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

excels at scoring, proved by how Brehio played in all 18 games last season scoring six goals to lead the Phoenix.

"I've got no concerns over Ashlee, her game is improving all the time. She's got an eye for goal, that the key for her is just to get in the right spots at the right time," Payne said.

Payne said he isn't looking for Brehio to be the sole leader for the team as she is only a sophomore this upcoming season. He said he is looking for her to lead by example rather than with her words with the 11 new freshmen added to the roster.

"Ashlee leads by example on the field. There's always a high work rate at practice, players notice that; Players feed off that," Payne said. "She's still a young player, still lots to learn, so we can't put too much pressure on her. But in equal measure, she's gonna have to take on a slightly bigger role this year."

As for Buckle, Payne said he has seen her grow since coming to the team and said she is already playing a large role. Buckle finished her freshman season tied second on the team for assists with three.

"She brings a good, solid, steady performance every single game. And she certainly doesn't play like she's a sophomore," Payne said. "I'm excited for Rachel, not only for this season, but for the next few years that she has left with us. She's been a really good addition to the group."

Buckle said she looks to improve even more this season and continue to be able to get assists and help Brehio make good shots. she also said she has the confidence in Brehio to be in the right spot when she's looking to pass to her.

"Moving off the ball is something huge for me this year, and getting into the box and just creating plays moving forward," Buckle said. "I can trust that Ashlee is going to be where I need her to be to put it where it has to go."

With the team bringing in so many new freshmen, the two women said they look to help make all of them feel at home by trying to build the same connections with the new girls that they have built between themselves already.

"It was stressful at first thinking like, 'I need to maintain my role,' I think also it's just making them feel like a family and getting them involved to the team really fast," Buckle said. "We have a lot of team dinners during preseason where we all just like to hang out and do things like that."

Brehio said they need to hit the ground running with the new group of freshmen and get them acclimated quickly, as the season goes by quickly before playoffs start.

"I feel like to keep the momentum going, you have to be ready to play, and you have to be ready to work with new people," Brehio said.

The two now look to prepare for a game they both have circled on their calendars: Aug. 31 against University of South Carolina, a team both say is high on their target list this season.

"They're ranked super high. And I think we definitely have a fighting chance against them. I think we can compete with any team if we think we can compete with any team. And I think that's the mindset that we have to have," Brehio said.