



Elon University's Charlotte Regional Center located at 330 W. Tremont Ave.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

## ELON EXPANDS ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES AT CHARLOTTE REGIONAL CENTER

University plans to offer a four year law school program, summer finance program, more

**Erin Martin & Madison Powers**  
Elon News Network

Elon University has officially announced its expansion through the new Charlotte Regional Center, a hub for academics and university-wide events and programs. The university held an opening ceremony Sept. 19, where university representatives made announcements for the future of Elon in Charlotte, including a flexible law program, summer finance program, the sport management experience and other events

Regional centers across the country were first conceptualized in the Boldly Elon strategic plan in 2018, according to Elon President Connie Book.

"We have had great success in other national centers," Book said during the ceremony. "For more than 15 years, we've been out in Los Angeles, where that regional center has become a great learning opportunity for our students."

The Charlotte Regional Center is located at 330 W. Tremont Ave. in South End, an up-and-coming Charlotte neighborhood.

"We saw lots of natural synergies between Elon and the programs that we offer and the work being done by the local community here in Charlotte," Book said. "There was so much dynamic activity that it was infectious."

Book also announced the new Elon Law FLEX program. Developed by Elon's School of Law faculty, FLEX puts students on a four-year graduation track while allowing them to pursue full-time employment. Elon Law in Greensboro has students on a 2.5 year track while the average law school track takes 3 years.

"Why we're calling it a FLEX program is that it is designed to be completed in four years, but actually the students can engage with the faculty and plan that schedule that works best for their work environment," Book said. "It's really a dynamic, creative way to approach legal education."

Book also said the school plans to implement law clinics at the Charlotte Regional Center, where students can get real-world experience providing legal aid. She said these will be similar to the small business and immigration clinics at the current law school in Greensboro. Book said these legal services can be provided free of charge to clients as part of the clinical education.



IT'S REALLY A DYNAMIC, CREATIVE WAY TO APPROACH LEGAL EDUCATION.

**CONNIE BOOK**  
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

"We have exceptional clinics in our Greensboro campus and we're envisioning those clinics here in Charlotte," Book said.

At the ceremony, Elon University School of Law Dean Zak Kramer said the program will offer evening classes that will be staffed by current Elon Law faculty. The initial cohort will begin with 35 students, according to Kramer.

Elon Law has also submitted applications for accreditation with the American Bar Association and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, and is waiting for approval on both applications.

According to Kramer, the Elon Law FLEX program will begin taking applications Oct. 1. The program will also be holding

open houses at the regional center from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 15, Feb. 20, 2024 and April 25, 2024.

Kramer said students, faculty and staff will be representing local citizens who want to remove low level crimes from their records, as well as writing wills.

"We are going to do our best to do right by the city, the community and the bar here," Kramer said.

While the University is new to Charlotte, Kramer says Elon has been present for years because of the high population of Elon alumni in the area.

"The building is new to Elon, but Elon Law is not new to Charlotte. Over 10% of our alums are here living and working in Charlotte," Kramer said. "They're working in the sport sector, the banking sector; they're working in government positions, in public service positions. We have students every year who go during their program from Greensboro here to Charlotte."

He said he hopes the new center will help the Elon law community connect over a larger area.

"This program has the ability to not only grow our community but connect our community," Kramer said. "Even though there is physical distance between the two campuses, we want to make sure that we are one school and a community that can connect,"

Kramer also said the first two years of the program, Charlotte classes will be staffed by existing Elon Law faculty who already teach in Greensboro.

"Gradually as the students transition into the later years of the program, we would be looking to staff it locally to make sure that we can grow the experience not just for students, but also for staff and faculty," he said.

See CHARLOTTE | pg. 4

## Students express frustrations over campus crosswalks



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Two Elon University students cross East Haggard Avenue at the intersection with North O'Kelly Avenue on Sept. 18.

Campus Police and Elon town manager stress student awareness

**Katharyn MacDonald & Kathan Gandhi**  
Elon News Network

After multiple collisions and near-incidents have occurred on Elon's crosswalks throughout the first month of students being on campus, students have been voicing concerns and asking for more communication from the university, according to Campus Safety and Police. Campus Police and the town of Elon have opened discussions about possible courses of action, but said with a limited budget, there is little that can be done.

All roads that pass through and border campus — crosswalks included — are regulated by both Campus Safety and Police and the town of Elon. According to Elon Police Chief Joe LeMire, most of the 650 security cameras on campus are on the roadways, and if instances are reported where cars did not stop for pedestrians in the road or were driving dangerously, footage will be reviewed and license plates will be identified.

LeMire also said that, as with drunk driving, assault and other misconduct cases, traffic violations are referred to Elon University Student Conduct, with or without a citation from Elon Police.

According to LeMire, mitigating danger associated with campus crosswalks has been a recent topic of discussion after three collisions have occurred since last spring. LeMire said some of these options include a campaign on safer driving or make sure people understand the danger of driving recklessly.

"The bigger part of it is going to be: let's stop some people and maybe provide some education, especially to people that maybe

weren't paying attention or knew they did something against what the law actually is," LeMire said.

LeMire said there is an upcoming meeting being planned with Elon Police, the town of Elon and possibly a representative of the North Carolina Department of Transportation to discuss if the recent accidents and near-incidents could have been avoided with better signage or a different type of crosswalk.

A crosswalk that has been a concern for many students is the intersection of East Haggard Avenue and North O'Kelly Avenue. Formerly a blinking yellow traffic light, it now acts as a regular light and displays pedestrian signal heads: the light with a white walking person or a red hand.

According to Adam Reisman, a freshman who lives in the Kenan Honors Pavilion right next to the crosswalk, the change has been confusing. Reisman said he uses the crosswalk on East Haggard six or seven times every day. When the traffic pattern was changed, he said he didn't realize it at first and was nearly hit by a car.



NOW THAT THEY'VE CHANGED IT, NO ONE REALLY KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON. A LOT OF STUDENTS HAVE SAID THAT IT NEEDS TO BE CHANGED.

**ADAM REISMAN**  
ELON FRESHMAN

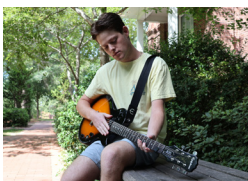
"Now that they've changed it, no one really knows what's going on," Reisman said. "A lot of students have said that it needs to be changed."

See CROSSWALKS | pg. 4



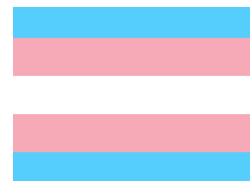
Nurse retiring leaves students struggling

PAGE 5 NEWS



Junior creates comedy company

PAGE 6 LIFESTYLE



Students have mixed opinions on trans laws

PAGE 8 SPORTS

THE PENDULUM

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CHEAT SHEET

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

# Executive at gun control nonprofit encourages students to contact their state lawmaker

## North Carolinians Against Gun Violence advocates for changing laws to reduce firearm-related incidents

Abigail Hobbs

Managing Editor of The Pendulum

Within the first month of school, there were two lockdowns at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, one resulting in the death of a faculty member. Gun violence is not a new issue; North Carolina saw 1,839 firearm-related deaths in 2021, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Becky Ceartas

North Carolinians Against Gun Violence was founded in 1993 and advocates for more comprehensive firearm laws, including banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, requiring background checks of all purchases of handguns and funding community violence intervention programs.

Becky Ceartas is the executive director at NCGV and spoke to Elon News Network about gun violence prevention in North Carolina.

### What is the organization working toward?

We're working towards preventing gun violence and its various forms throughout the state from suicides, the homicides,

mass shootings, community gun violence, accidental shootings and domestic violence. These various programs have different solutions, but we do know that there's policies and programs that are evidence based that have been proven to save lives.

### Specifically revolving around school shootings with the recent lockdowns at Chapel Hill, what are some of those policies?

There's a couple of things. ... We know that there was various elected officials that offered thoughts and prayers after that shooting. And while thoughts and prayers are important, they're not enough. The same lawmakers that offer thoughts and prayers after the tragic event are the same lawmakers that repealed our handgun permitting system and saved countless lives throughout our state for over 100 years.

Because of this repeal, that shooter could have gone to a gun show or online and bought a gun without a background check. No questions asked. But with the permitting system, he would have had to go to the sheriff's office and get a permit which requires a background check to be able to purchase his handgun no matter where he was buying that handgun that could have prevented him from purchasing this handgun.

But again, those same lawmakers that are offering these thoughts and prayers were the exact same ones that voted to override Governor Cooper's veto of the repeal of the pistol purchase permitting system.

We also know that laws like red flag laws have been proven to also save lives by allowing a family member or law enforcement official or health care provider to petition a judge to ... temporarily remove if they're a threat to themselves or others. So again, if this shooter exhibited warning signs, things like being verbally angry or domestic funds or substance abuse — there's a list of different warning signs that

somebody could display that would trigger one of those categories. ...

We know that those policies are incredibly effective at preventing suicides and school shootings.

### What do you suggest students specifically in North Carolina do? How can they take action?

The first thing they can do is to contact their lawmaker, especially their state lawmaker, because this repeal of the pistol purchase permit system happened at the North Carolina General Assembly.

They need to hear from people throughout the state that they want them to make gun violence prevention a priority, because we know that when lawmakers at the General Assembly make things a priority, they can get stuff passed, but right now they're going in the exact opposite direction by blocking common sense comrades prevention policy.

And they also stay at the state level, because unfortunately, in North Carolina, localities can only do as much as the state allows them to do.

We also know that some of our state lawmakers, specifically House Speaker Tim Moore, has said that we should re-examine whether college campuses should be gun free zones.

We know that that would again be taking us backwards in the absolute wrong direction. I mean, just imagine if many people are armed on our college campuses, it would make situations much much worse. You know, if law enforcement arrives on the scene, they're not going to be able to tell the active shooter from somebody who just has a gun or multiple people who have a gun. It just makes a situation disastrous, and so we again call on people throughout the state to contact their lawmakers to let them know that guns should not be allowed on campus to let them know that they need to make gun violence prevention policies a priority.



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Granville County Democratic Party Chair Shannon Fleming participates in a rally against gun violence organized by the Young Democrats of North Carolina in Raleigh Sept. 17 at Halifax Mall in Raleigh. The demonstration was held because of University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill's two firearm-related lockdowns within the first month of the school year.

### Corrections

In the Sept. 13 edition, The Pendulum incorrectly labeled Alamance County on a map. Elon News Network regrets this error.



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tennessee State Rep. Justin Jones spoke during a rally held to promote gun regulations and legislation Sept. 17 at Halifax Mall in Raleigh surrounded by the “next generation” of Democrats, many of which are UNC Chapel Hill students.



HELEN JACKSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon redshirt sophomore and running back Wayne Dixie III runs with the ball during a home game Sept. 16. Elon beat North Carolina A&T 27-3. This was Elon's first win against NC A&T in its last five tries. This also continued the Phoenix consecutive home win streak to seven games.



ERIN MARTIN | VISUAL MEDIA EDITOR

A Native American dancer performs in the 46th annual Guilford Native American Association Pow Wow on Sept. 15. Hundreds of Native Americans from varying tribes across the country gathered at Greensboro Country Park to celebrate their history and culture.



JOSEPH NAVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ben Bass, the executive vice president of Builder Services Inc., presents photos of mold during the remediation efforts inside ABSS schools during the Alamance County Commissioners meeting on Sept. 18 in Graham. “When I tell you these buildings are leaking, I’m not talking about a drip, drip. We’re talking it’ll fill up a 44-gallon trash can in less than an hour,” Bass said.



SARAH T. MOORE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Local dancer Alondra performs with Mexican folk dance group Ballet Folklorico Mexican Tradition of Julio Ruiz during the Hispanic Heritage Month kick-off event Sept. 15 at Medallion Plaza.

# Campus police, town look over options to educate drivers

## CROSSWALKS | from cover

Freshman Dylan Yrastorza is also an honors fellow living in Kenan Honors Pavilion by the crosswalk, and he said he prefers the light with pedestrian signal heads, though the change was not publicized.

"They should set up a sign right next to the crosswalk," said Yrastorza.

Freshman Molly Lorden is another honors fellow who lives right next to the crosswalk.

"It's always very crowded because of the intersection and confusing to navigate," Lorden said.

According to Reisman and Yrastorza, during class changes, crosswalks get backed up with both cars and pedestrians quickly — especially at intersections with pedestrian signal heads, such as the one at East Haggard Avenue and North O'Kelly Avenue.

"It takes so long for it to be our turn that most people just walk out when they know they don't have the right of way," Lorden said. "The pedestrian lights need to be in a shorter loop because pedestrians are being unsafe because they feel like they'll be late otherwise."

Yrastorza said he was at Powell Tennis Center on Aug. 31 when a pedestrian was struck by a car at a crosswalk on East Haggard Avenue.

"Right when the person got hit, you could hear the sound," Yrastorza said.

According to the police report, the pedestrian was struck at the center of a "clearly-marked" crosswalk and sustained "significant bodily injury," causing "visible blood spatter" on the road.

According to LeMire, the amount of

collisions and near-collisions so far this semester is not unusual.

"All college campuses that are heavy populated areas will have a lot of crosswalks and a lot of people," LeMire said. "Normally on a road where you might do the one or two looks, you probably should do a third or fourth look until you actually go."

LeMire said turning out of parking lots has been a source of many near-accidents, as drivers looking to the left before turning right neglect to look to the right again to make sure no one is crossing the street in front of them.



GET YOUR HEAD ON A SWIVEL AND PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND YOU, BECAUSE NOT ALL DRIVERS ARE GOOD DRIVERS.

**JOE LEMIRE**  
CAMPUS POLICE CHIEF

According to LeMire, there have also been instances of cars speeding and not slowing down when approaching crosswalks, especially during busy times such as class changes.

LeMire said squad cars are sometimes stationed on the roads — especially those leading into campus from public roads — to discourage speeding.

Lorden said she sees the effects of cars

speeding on roads through campus.

"I have seen people have to slam on their brakes to avoid hitting pedestrians," Lorden said. "I wouldn't say student drivers are reckless, but that intersection is stressful for everyone involved and it shows. I've been yelled at by student drivers for crossing even when they have a red light."

Some students, including Reisman, said they want it to be changed back to the blinking yellow traffic light, while others, such as Yrastorza, said they prefer the current setup with pedestrian signal heads. Nevertheless, there has been confusion among students on what the change means.

"It's just not a great system," Reisman said. "A pedestrian thinks they can cross, so another pedestrian tries to cross from the other way, and it just causes backup because no one knows the rules. No one communicated them to us."

Lorden also said there has been a lack of communication about crosswalks at Elon.

"I do not think crosswalk safety has been communicated," Lorden said. "I haven't seen or heard anything from Elon about the safety issues caused by the crosswalk. I think students should be more informed about crosswalk safety."

According to LeMire, most of the incidents this semester have occurred during the day. LeMire said he thinks that a large part of the issue is distracted pedestrians; students using headphones or looking down at phones aren't aware of their surroundings and can walk onto a crosswalk without looking — creating dangerous situations.

"They think they have the right of way, and maybe they do once they step out there, but they're not paying attention, and you can still be right and injured at the same time," LeMire said. "Against a car, you're just

not going to win that fight."

LeMire said students should improve their situational awareness to stay safe on campus.

"Get your head on a swivel and pay attention to what's going on around you, because not all drivers are good drivers," LeMire said. "Not all drivers are going the speed limit. That's something people have to watch out for."

Town of Elon town manager Richard Roedner said adding more cross signals around Elon's campus would be helpful, but there is no room in the town budget.

Roedner said a single installment may cost from \$20,000 to \$30,000 — which he said is too high of a cost.

"If people are not going to use the walk signals, from a policy standpoint, why would you spend money on that?" Roedner said.

He said the most efficient way to improve the situation is better road education.

"Ninety-nine percent of the problems would go away if people pay better attention," Roedner said.

Roedner said that although some states legally require cars to stop if a pedestrian is standing at the curb, this is not the case in North Carolina. According to Roedner, a car must only stop if a person is already walking on the crosswalk. He said because most students do not know that, both walkers and drivers are put in danger.

"I'm in the right, you're in the wrong, but you're being hit by a 2-ton vehicle, that doesn't go very far," Roedner said.

He said he hopes as people become more aware these incidents will decrease.

"They're not accidents; they're collisions," Roedner said. "With an accident, you can't help an accident, but with better education, you can prevent a collision."

# University announces finance internships, new events, opportunities at new Charlotte Regional Center

## CHARLOTTE | from cover

"This program has the ability to not only grow our community but connect our community," Kramer said. "Even though there is physical distance between the two campuses, we want to make sure that we are one school and a community that can connect."

Kramer also said the first two years of the program, Charlotte classes will be staffed by law school professors already teaching at the Greensboro campus.

"Gradually as the students transition into the later years of the program, we would be looking to staff it locally to make sure that we can grow the experience not just for students, but also for staff and faculty," he said.

Book also announced a new intensive summer finance internship program for undergraduate students.

"We also want to partner with business leaders. We want to provide those networking opportunities and cultural intellectual opportunities with speakers and opportunities to engage with the kind of learning that we do on our other campuses," Book said. "This facility, in our vision, will be bustling with activity of that kind of learning year-round."

Book said it is important to the university to bring its values of honesty, integrity, responsibility and respect to Charlotte.

"We want to be very intentional about our presence here in the city and bringing those values to Charlotte as part of our presence here as a participant in the higher education environment," Book said.

Book said Elon is collaborating with the United Way of Greater Charlotte, which will offer 10 paid internships to undergraduate students beginning in the summer of 2024.

"We'll be part of the community," Book said. "That is going to bring that very valuable work with nonprofits, and those students further into the Charlotte community."



MY HOPE IS THAT THE STUDENTS ARE NOT ONLY GETTING A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE, BUT ARE FINDING OPPORTUNITIES.

**ZAK KRAMER**  
ELON LAW DEAN

Kramer said he is excited for law students to engage with the Charlotte community through internships.

"My hope is that the students are not only getting a wonderful experience, but are finding opportunities to connect them in Charlotte with internships, with experiences, with opportunities to meet with judges, with lawyers, with civic leaders, with business leaders — a fully networked experiential experience," Kramer said. "I'm confident — given our experience doing that in Greensboro and the experience that we already have in Charlotte, and the deep connections that we'll be able to leverage — it's definitely feasible."

The regional center will also house university events, according to Book.

A new program called "Leading Authentically in a Fractured World" — a leadership development workshop — will be open to the public and led by former White House adviser and founding chair

of Elon University School of Law's National Advisory Board David Gergen and his son, Christopher Gergen. The first event is set to take place at the regional center and is scheduled for March 18, 2024.

The Charlotte Regional Center is also home to "Elon in Charlotte: The Sport Experience" program, being offered for the first time this fall. Students in the program live and intern in Charlotte while enrolled in three to four Elon courses.

Cinema and television arts professor and director of communications core and minor Vic Costello is teaching COM 3350: Sport & Media through the sport management program and said he is excited to be teaching in Charlotte.

"I think it's a fertile ground for all sorts of curricular connections — both within the school communications as well as other programs on campus and graduate programs," Costello said.

He said Charlotte is a perfect hub for sport management majors.

"Charlotte is a top 25 professional sports market. It is the largest city in North Carolina. It's the finance capital of the East Coast — other than New York," Costello said.

Costello also said he is exploring the city of Charlotte while teaching there.

"It's all very consolidated. It's got a pretty tight, urban footprint. So getting from one place to another is pretty easy within the city," he said. "There's a lot of potential for other programs besides for management to find a way to connect and tie in to the opportunities down there."

Elon junior Sarah Dawkins, an economic and sport management major, is participating in The Sport Experience.

"I feel like we are getting access to so many great opportunities by being here," Dawkins said. "Through being a part of this small group, we have gotten the chance to build close relationships with our professors and are also making connections with many Elon alumni in the Charlotte area."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY

# STUDENTS WITH ALLERGIES LEFT WITHOUT TREATMENT FOLLOWING NURSE RETIREMENT

Students who need allergen immunotherapy search for alternative places to receive treatment

**Sarah T. Moore**  
Chief Copy Editor

When freshman Aidan Fishkind was preparing to come to Elon from Michigan, they had planned to get their monthly allergy shots through Student Health Services. Since health services' only registered nurse retired over the summer, Fishkind said they will be at least six weeks behind by the time they get their next shot.

"Right now is when I need them — fall — because the leaves are just about to start falling," Fishkind said. "Pollen's about to increase. I'm going to have no protection."

At the end of the 2022-23 academic year, registered nurse Cynthia Moore retired after working at Elon for over 14 years. Registered nurses are licensed through the North Carolina Board of Nursing and, according to the NCBON, their role within a medical practice includes the implementation and evaluation of patient care. The NCBON was unavailable for comment.

The lack of registered nurses on its staff affects what treatments health services are able to administer in patient care. Elon Student Health Services currently has two physician assistants, two primary care nurse practitioners and three certified medical assistants on staff.

Elon's interim Nursing Program Director Stacey Thomas wrote in an email to Elon News Network that while being a registered nurse requires a two year associate degree in nursing, passing a national certification exam and state licensure, certified medical assistants are only required to have a high school diploma and successfully complete a medical assisting program. Medical assistants are also not regulated by the NCBON.

"Medical assistants don't need to be certified and are basically office assistants with a little bit of medical training added in," Thomas said.

Fishkind said when they originally called in July, health services told them Moore had retired, but had someone to administer treatment.

Fishkind said when they called again before moving on campus Aug. 10, they were informed health services no longer had a staff person who could give allergen immunotherapy shots.

"I hadn't called to check in again because I had no reason to believe that there's going to be any issues," Fishkind said. "Then I called again, just to be like, 'Hey, just making sure everything's good' and they're like 'No, everything fell apart.'"

Fishkind said their

original injection appointment was scheduled for Sept. 7, but now the earliest they can get their treatment is Oct. 20. Fishkind said, with their treatment plan, they are supposed to get the shots every four weeks.

Since Fishkind can no longer get their shots through health services, they had to look outside of Elon to find a clinic that would continue their treatment.

"The people at health services have so far been really considerate and they've helped me figure out where to go," Fishkind said. "They gave a ton of names and they were super apologetic and they were just very helpful."

Fishkind said they called the allergists health services recommended but found some of them would not continue a treatment plan from another practice. If they went to one of these centers, Fishkind said they would have to restart their treatment plan completely.

"I'm not about to start from point one. I can't go back three times a week. I physically cannot get there that many times between how expensive it would be with the transportation and with Ubers and stuff," Fishkind said. "At one point, the only option was going all the way to Greensboro."

There are only three locations in a 25 mile radius from campus that can administer allergy shots, according to a directory by the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. LeBauer Allergy and Asthma has two locations, one in Burlington and the other in Greensboro. Allergy and Asthma Center of North Carolina also has a Greensboro location.

Fishkind said they started looking for alternatives as soon as they learned they could not get their allergy shots through health services, but Fishkind said they first found out in August.

"At that

point, ... we were way too late," Fishkind said.

Fishkind said they were eventually able to schedule a consultation appointment at LeBauer Allergy and Asthma for Oct. 19 — 42 days after they were originally supposed to get the injection.



I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW BAD THIS IS GOING TO PUSH ME BACK. ASIDE FROM THE MEDICAL PARTS OF ANY WITHDRAWAL STUFF OR WHATEVER, THE FINANCIAL PART OF THIS IS BIG TOO, AND THE BUSES DON'T GO THERE SO I HAVE NO TRANSPORT EITHER.

**AIDAN FISHKIND**  
ELON FRESHMAN

Fishkind said they have been calling LeBauer regularly to see if there are any cancellations but so far has not been able to move the appointment to a closer date.

Allergy shots are a form of long-term treatment to decrease sensitivity to allergens. The shots work similarly to a vaccine, according to AAAAI.

"Your body responds to injected amounts of a particular allergen, given in gradually increasing doses, by

developing immunity or tolerance to the allergen," AAAAI's website states.

Nationwide, nearly one third of U.S. adults and more than a quarter of U.S. children report having seasonal allergies, eczema or food allergies, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Though a considerable portion of the U.S. has allergies, Fishkind's struggle to find an allergist is not unique. According to the American College of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology, a medical organization made up of allergist-immunologists and other medical professionals, there is an ongoing shortage of certified allergists in the U.S.

According to the ACAAI, allergy shots are given in an allergist's office due to the potential risk of anaphylaxis shortly after the injection.

Thomas said the risk of allergy shots causing anaphylactic shock, a life-threatening allergic reaction, is why CMAs are unable to administer the shots themselves.

"CMAs are not trained or equipped to handle life threatening emergencies such as that. Registered nurses are," Thomas said. "If a CMA works in an allergy clinic and has been trained to administer the shots and is being supervised by a RN, MD, PA, or NP and has emergency equipment on standby, then and only then they may be able to administer the shots."

While Fishkind said none of their allergens are severe enough to cause anaphylaxis on their own, there is still a risk of anaphylactic shock when receiving the shots.

Fishkind has said they have already started noticing a significant impact from being off of their treatment schedule. They said they have had to leave classes several times due to their symptoms and have struggled with navigating Elon's campus due to exposure to their environmental allergens.

"My allergies definitely have been picking up," Fishkind said. "Usually in the mornings I'm fine, then this morning I was up for five minutes and I had to get Benadryl because I was already like a six out of 10 with my symptoms — which is, you know, real pain."

In addition to worrying about the medical aspects of their shots being postponed, Fishkind said the unexpected financial burden of switching from health services is also taking a toll.

"I don't really know how bad this is going to push me back," Fishkind said. "Aside from the medical parts of any withdrawal stuff, or whatever, the financial part of this is big too and the buses don't go there so I have no public transport to take either."

Fishkind said they do not have a car on campus and had not been expected to pay regular Uber fees in addition to paying for their appointments and medication.

According to the Uber app, it would cost around \$14 for Fishkind to travel to and from LeBauer's Burlington location each month once they begin receiving treatment there.

Fishkind also said that getting their treatment will now be a larger time commitment than they were originally planning on with the added travel time, making it more difficult to receive their treatment between their class schedule and extracurriculars.

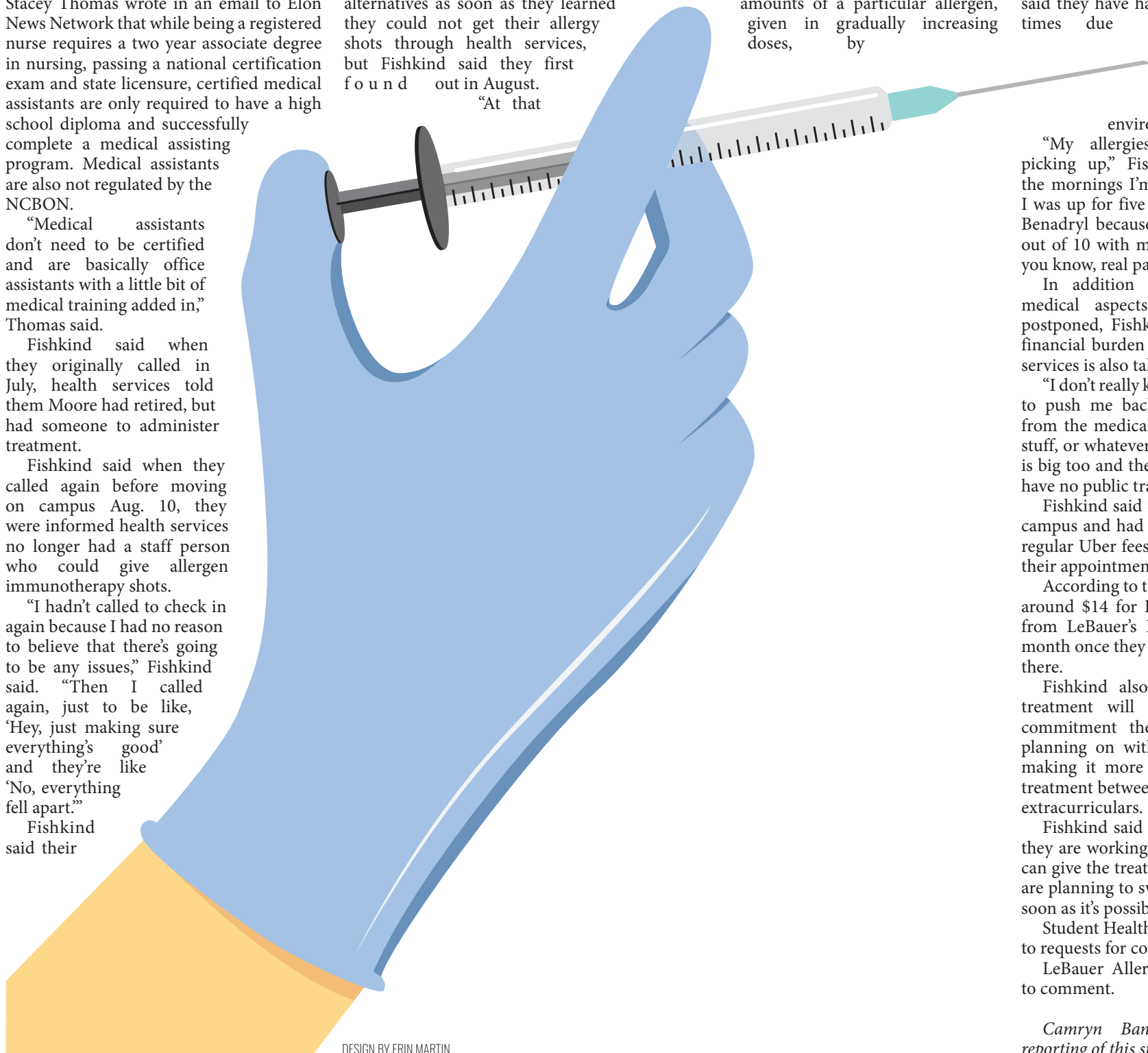
Fishkind said health services told them they are working to find a new nurse who can give the treatments. Fishkind said they are planning to switch to health services as soon as it's possible.

Student Health Services did not respond to requests for comment.

LeBauer Allergy and Asthma declined to comment.

*Camryn Banks contributed to the reporting of this story.*

DESIGN BY ERIN MARTIN



# Junior uses comedy to bring positivity to campus

Jesse Riback is a musician, comedian, founder of a comedy production company

**Lilly Molina**  
Elon News Network

Junior Jesse Riback said he is no stranger to making people laugh on Elon University's campus. Head writer of *Elon Tonight* and founder of JRibs Entertainment, Riback said he enjoys making comedy content through music and video.

"I want to be a comedy writer, and it is hard to get exposure right now if you are not on TikTok or YouTube," Riback said. "I wanted to get myself out there, and who knows, something could go viral. That is the ideology."

His TikTok, @jribscopy, consists of videos of him walking around campus, interacting with Elon students and promoting his songs.

"I'm using funny songs, but I'm still telling stories," Riback said. "I still think that they are enjoyable to listen to even though they are not Bob Dylan-esque; they are JRibs-esque."

Riback said he shares his satirical message through his music. Riback said one of his popular songs — "Drugs Are Bad" — tells the story of someone who ends up in the hospital due to drugs and turns their life around. The person later becomes a motivational speaker and spreads the word about how drugs are harmful.

Riback said he wants his music and content to exhibit a positive message through the lens of comedy.

Riback's collaborator sophomore Benji Stern said he appreciates the story underneath Riback's comedy.

"I think all good comedy probably includes some sort of underlying message. If it is just jokes, what differentiates that from anything else? That's not really where the comedy comes from," Stern said. "When you have that positive message, just some sort of lesson to be learned, ... that's when it is the funniest, original and true to yourself."

Stern said he and Riback have been friends since his freshman year and said they frequently work together. Stern said every week, they come together to brainstorm ideas for sketches. Stern said he likes to work with Riback because he makes him feel comfortable to be himself.

"When you are writing jokes, not everything is going to hit, and a good writing partner will let you fail and figure it out. He lets me do that. It is really nice," Stern said.

Riback said he plans to collaborate with local band Thistle Ridge on a song he wrote called "Space Monkey."

He said he is currently making another song called "Daddy's Money." All of the songs and sketches Riback has created are under his own production company, JRibs. His music can be streamed through Apple Music and Spotify under the name JRibs.



JRIBS IS A COMEDY POWERHOUSE. ... YOU NAME IT, JRIBS CAN DO IT.

**JESSE RIBACK**  
ELON JUNIOR

"JRibs is a comedy powerhouse where any ideas are open for the table and can be discussed, thought about and improved upon. You name it, JRibs can do it," Riback said.

Riback said he is looking for anyone dedicated to the mission of making people laugh. JRibs Entertainment was founded in November 2022, according to Riback. *Elon Tonight* and his production company worked on a mockumentary in May called "Ribs to Riches." Riback said this year, his goal is to create a JRibs comedy hour, consisting of sketches and music videos that will come together to tell a story.

"The more you scroll, the more you get further and further removed from today's world, so I wanted to distract people and give people a smile and purpose," Riback said.

Riback said he started all of this to make the world a brighter place. Whether it is through his music or TikTok page Riback said he just wants people not to take everything so seriously all the time and to be able to laugh.

"The world is really hard, difficult, and stressful," Stern said. "[Comedy] brings a lot of light, joy and laughter into people's lives. He's still working on his craft and getting there, but he's doing what he can and is doing his best."

SCAN TO OPEN  
@JRIBSCOMEDY ON TIKTOK



Elon junior, musician and comedian Jesse Riback said he wants to spread positivity through songs such as "Laugh With Me." ERIN MARTIN | VISUAL MEDIA EDITOR



COURTESY OF JESSE RIBACK

Riback plays his guitar in the Sacred Space loft of the Numen Lumen Pavilion while filming the music video for "Daddy's Credit Card," released Feb. 24.



COURTESY OF JESSE RIBACK

Riback plays the drums in a recording studio on campus.



ERIN MARTIN | VISUAL MEDIA EDITOR

Riback said he shares satirical messages through music.

# Bike to Burlington connects students to community

The Office of Sustainability partners with Elon Outdoors for Bike to Burlington Sept. 22

**Audrey Geib**  
Elon News Network

The Office of Sustainability and Elon Outdoors' Bike to Burlington event on Sept. 22 will give members of the Elon community the opportunity to explore Burlington and learn about local businesses.

Associate Director of Sustainability for Education and Outreach Kelly Harer said the event is aimed at getting students to see the surrounding community.

"We want students to just get outside of the Elon campus and explore the local area," Harer said.

Harer said one goal of the event is to spread awareness to Elon students about ways they can participate in sustainable practices, such as supporting local businesses.

"We want to help students understand why supporting local businesses is important and give them some idea of the local businesses that are available," Harer said.

Participants will use the Burlington Greenway to make the three-mile journey from campus to downtown Burlington. Harer

said this will give students the opportunity to experience the accessibility of the greenway and downtown Burlington.

Sophomore Virginia Campbell participated in the event last year and said it helped her understand the areas around campus and made her more comfortable riding her bike places.

"We went on the greenway trail, which goes right by Loy Farm," Campbell said. "I was a freshman, and I didn't have a car so I didn't know where the farm was. ... That was really cool to learn because now I am aware of it."



I THINK IT WAS FUN TO MERGE STUDENTS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN ELON OUTDOORS AND STUDENTS THAT WERE INTEREST IN SUSTAINABILITY.

**VIRGINIA CAMPBELL**  
ELON SOPHMORE

Participants will gather at 3 p.m. Sept. 22 to bike from the Koury Athletic Center to downtown Burlington. Registration is required through a form on the sustainability website. Bikes are provided for students who wish to borrow an Elon Outdoors bike, but participants are welcome to bring their own.

Harer said another benefit of the event is students meeting and getting to know their peers with similar interests. Harer said the Office of Sustainability works to provide

students with opportunities to broaden their connections with one another.

"We just want people to find other people who are also interested in sustainability," Harer said.

The event is open to anyone who wants to participate, regardless if they are involved in either organization. Campbell said at last year's event she had the opportunity to meet students that were interested in sustainability and also students involved with Elon Outdoors.

"I think it was fun to merge students that might have been interested in Elon Outdoors and students that were interested in sustainability," Campbell said.

Due to scheduling conflicts Campbell is unable to attend this year but encourages others to participate.

"I would recommend it to anyone," Campbell said.

Harer said the Office of Sustainability hosts other events similar to this one throughout the year to educate students about sustainable practices and help them meet new people.

"I think we will be doing more of these in the future," said Harer. "If someone isn't able to do it now if they don't have the time available or it does happen to be full. We will be doing one in the spring."



DESIGN BY AUDREY GEIB

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# NC General Assembly bans transgender women from playing in women's sports

Bill affects transgender athletes in middle, high schools, collegiate sports

**Miles Hayford**  
Elon News Network

North Carolina lawmakers overrode Gov. Roy Cooper's veto of the Fairness in Women's Sports Act with the power of the Republican supermajority in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. The new law went into effect at the start of the academic year and bans "students of the male sex" from playing on all "athletic teams designated for females, women or girls." This includes teams at the middle school, high school, intramural, and collegiate level.

With the passing of the bill, North Carolina joins a long list of states that have prohibited transgender women from playing in women's sports.

Former Democrat North Carolina Representative from District 63 Ricky Hurtado said he rather see state politicians working on more challenging issues facing public schools.

"They have spent so much time and energy focused on challenges that don't really exist in our public schools when they should be focusing on the very real challenges that our schools face like the whole mold situation here and if they would have spent that time thinking about how we properly fund our public schools," Hurtado said.

Hurtado said state politicians

are making this a much larger issue that are meant to divide people.

"Republicans in Raleigh, including our state delegation here of Senator Galey and Rep. Ross in particular, have really weighed the culture war in our public schools and are crafting solutions to problems that don't exist," Hurtado said. "I think their attempts are misguided and something that they're using to distract us and divide us rather than actually helping our students succeed in our schools."

Elon University's Gender and LGBTQIA Center and Elon Athletics did not respond to Elon News Network's requests to comment.

Junior Belle Stephens, a member of Elon's intramural soccer team, said she is displeased with the ban. Stephens said she sees this as a human right's issue.



TRANSGENDER PEOPLE ARE HUMANS. THEY DESERVE TO PLAY SPORTS BECAUSE I FIND THAT TO BE INHERENTLY A HUMAN RIGHT.

**BELLE STEPHENS**  
ELON JUNIOR

"Transgender people are humans," Stephens said. "They deserve to play sports because I

find that to be inherently a human right."

She said the ban may also have a detrimental impact on the mindsets of transgender people hoping to play sports.

"I think this will cause a rift in those people's lives and just another instance of society telling them that they don't belong, which is terrible," Stephens said.

Stephens said this law may also lead to division within teams and communities that have previously included transgender athletes.

"It definitely will cause rifts within teams within populations on campuses, even though it might not affect everyone because not everyone knows a transgender person or is a transgender person," Stephens said.

According to the Women's Sports Policy Working Group — a bipartisan group of former elite athletes and sports administrators working to guarantee girls' and women's right to separate single-sex sports competitions — the inclusion of transgender women in women's sports is unfair because of the key advantages biological men hold when it comes to athletic activities, including additional testosterone.

In a previous interview with Elon News Network, senior Faith Minor said they believe that this bill wouldn't only harm transgender student athletes, but cisgender students as well.

"This idea that cisgender women can't hope to compete with anybody with a testosterone-based endocrine system is fundamentally misogynistic, before you even get into the

transphobia of the whole argument," Minor said.

Senior Ryan Lockwood, the president of Elon College Republicans, said he reacted positively to the new ban.

"I was very in favor of it, and it's something I feel strongly about, so I was really happy to see it," Lockwood said.

Lockwood said he believes that the bill fights for North Carolina female athletes and female athletes across the United States.

"It is important to preserve women's sports and it is unfair for the female athletes who put in the hard work to compete against biological men," said Lockwood.

Currently, there is not a federal bill about rules for transgender athletes in women's sports. Policies vary by state, from no restrictions in some states to North Carolina's outright ban of transgender women athletes in female sports.

Lockwood said the disparity between states makes the issue a complicated one.

In addition to the lack of a uniform way of resolving the issue, there is also the matter of making sure that transgender people don't feel excluded. Certain groups, such as WSPWG, believe there are ways to accommodate transgender athletes, while still maintaining a level of integrity and competition in women's sports.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association is still navigating the bill, considering current NCAA policy allows transgender student-athletes in women's sports if they meet certain standards, such as documented testosterone levels.

The NCAA and CAA did not respond to Elon News Network's request to comment.

The passage of this bill is a sign of more than just a desire of people to ban transgender athletes from sports, but a signal that North Carolina politics are transforming into a partisan process that is dominated by a singular party. The bill passed as a result of the Republican supermajority in the General Assembly, which was gained via the midterm elections last year and Representative Tricia Cotham's switch from the Democratic party to the GOP.

This supermajority is proving to be a powerful tool for the Republican party. They have been able to push through many Republican backed bills, such as the Fairness in Women's Sports Act.

"Well, obviously with the Republican majority, you know, these kinds of things are going to take a pressing matter, and they're going to be prioritized," said Lockwood.

Not even Cooper's 76 vetoes since 2017 have been able to stop the supermajority because of the power the General Assembly has to override his vetoes. With the supermajority there is no buffer against Republican power. The Republican party has total control of North Carolina's legislature.

Despite the power it gives to his party, Lockwood acknowledges how this process can be a bit undemocratic.

"I don't think we're at a great time of unity or bipartisanship, and it's pretty unfortunate," Lockwood said.

## 2023 transgender athlete legislation by state

The Fairness in Women's Sports Act went into affect at the beginning of the 2023-24 academic year.

■ No Law in Place ■ Transgender Athletes Girls Participation Ban ■ Transgender Athletes Girls and Boys Participation Ban

