

"I FEEL LIKE HE IMPACTED MORE PEOPLE IN 20 YEARS THAN MOST PEOPLE WOULD IN 100. I HOPE HE SEES HOW IMPORTANT HE WAS TO SO MANY PEOPLE."

- ABBY HESLER
ELON JUNIOR

In memory of Trent Stetler - page 4,5

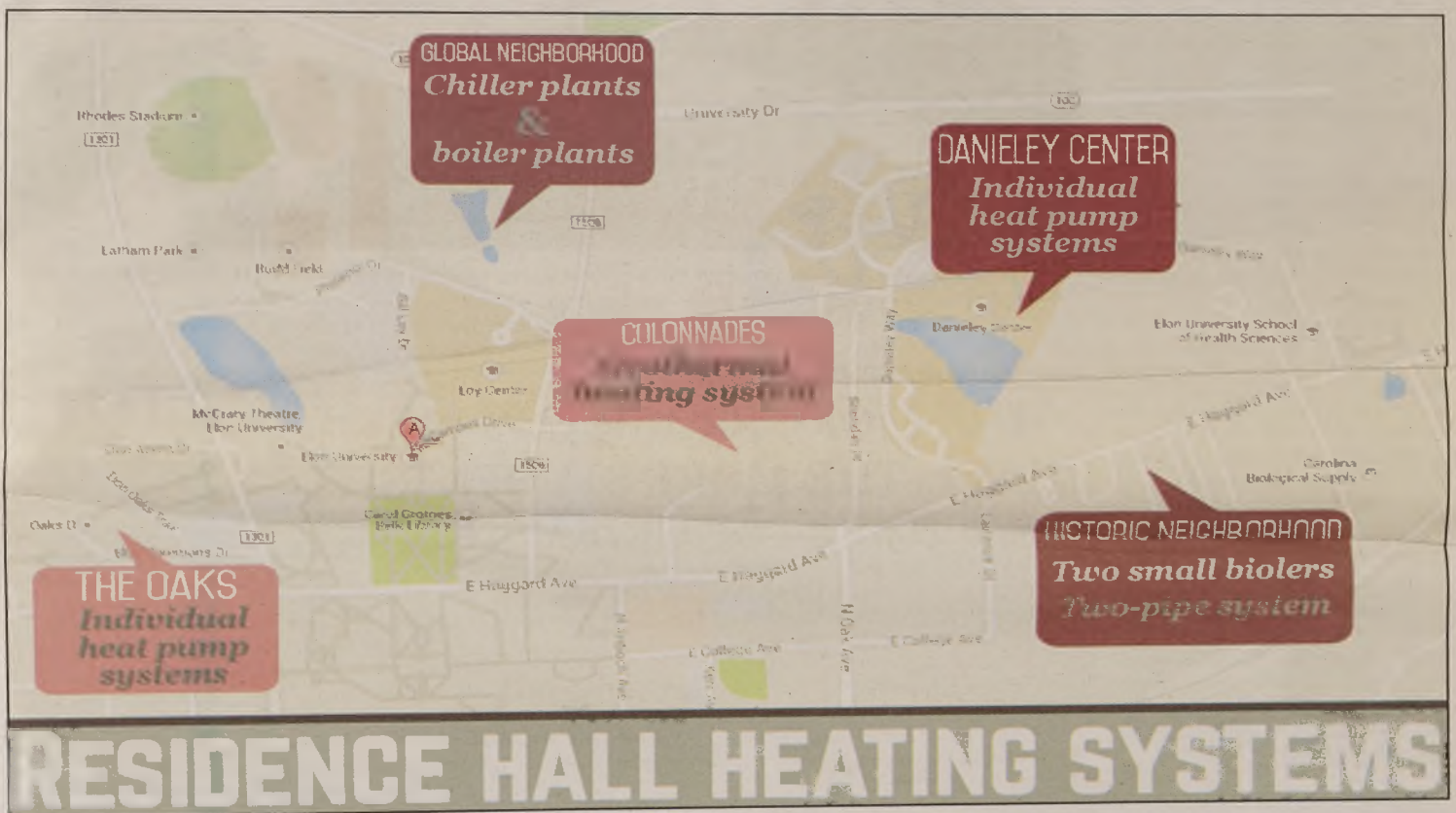
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Hot and cold: thermometer wars

As temperatures drop, dorm heat becomes a balancing act



GRAPHIC BY MEGAN GRAVLEY | Design Editor

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Everyone who has endured a winter at Elon University knows that nothing is predictable, except for one thing: as temperatures drop, numbers on thermostats rise.

To face the demand for higher temperatures on the thermostat, Physical Plant works around the clock to ensure that residential buildings and academic spaces are suitably heated while aiming for a temperature range that falls to around 68 degrees — one they deem both appropriate and environmentally-aware.

But the imposed limit has become a

cause of discomfort for some students at Elon who find that their residential spaces are too cold.

Maria Hadaya, a sophomore who lives in Colonnades, said that though her room would heat up to around 70 degrees, she had to seek alternative measures to stay warm.

"It was just too cold and it took too long to heat up in the first place," she said. "I had to buy a space heater because I was so cold. It was the only way I could stay warm."

According to Robert Buchholz, director of Physical Plant and the figure who drafted the 68-degree policy, the number reflects extensive research but has nothing

to do with Physical Plant's budget.

"It's a number that, as far as talking about energy conservation, has been around for a long time," he said. "Part of my research involved checking with other universities, and I found that the norm was 68 degrees."

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), a program that Physical Plant partners with, also listed in a 2011 report that its recommended temperature range is from 68 to 72 degrees. During the energy crisis of the 1970s, city, state and federal administrators, including the Navy, also imposed a 68-degree limit.

According to the Office of Sustainabil-

ity website, Elon's policy on heating and cooling is based on degree-days, a formula that relates each day's temperature to the demand for fuel to heat buildings. The average of the high and low temperatures of the day are calculated. If the result is greater than 65 degrees, then those would be cooling degree-days. Conversely, if the average is below 65 degrees then the difference would be heating degree-days. But Buchholz emphasized that while Physical Plant does their best to ensure that the temperatures fall in the requested range, there isn't much they can control as the university relies on several different kinds

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Residentially-linked courses on the rise

Ashley Lowe
Senior Reporter

In the fall of 2014, Elon University implemented residentially-linked courses as a part of the Residential Campus Initiative, an effort to promote engaged, collaborative learning among freshmen living in similar parts of campus. Such courses are designed so students live where they work

and attend class, with faculty members doing the same thing, too.

Of the 1,497 freshmen at Elon, 960 were enrolled in residentially-linked classes last semester — proportionally more than ever before at the university.

According to Connie Book, associate provost for academic affairs, there is a correlation between residence life and academic performance.

"Research shows that students who live and learn together are more inclined to talk about their readings outside of class," Book said. "These students live in the same area and eat in the same dining halls, meaning that they can create relationships around the work."

Elon is following in the footsteps of notable institutions such as Yale University, which uses residential colleges to

help students learn with students that live close to one another.

After the end of the fall semester, the overall effectiveness of the residentially-linked courses is in good standing, with many freshmen who were enrolled in these courses. COR 110 (The Global Experience), ENG 110 (Writing: Argu-

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