

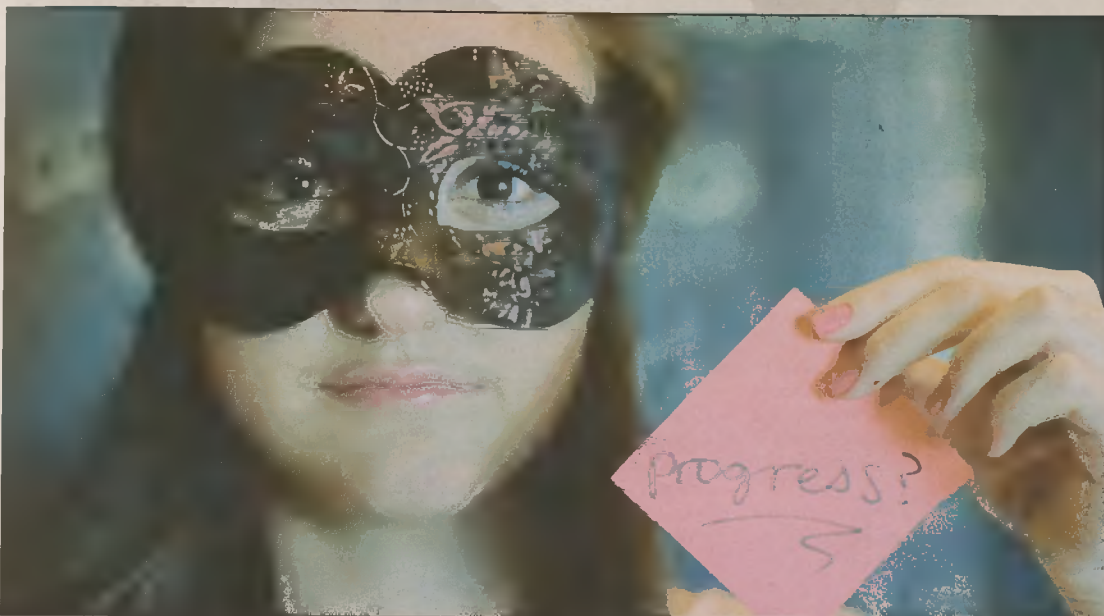
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Moving past mission statements

As Elon triples international students, are experiences equal to growth?



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Over the past five years, Elon has almost doubled the number of international students, but resources may not be keeping pace.

Caroline Fernandez
News Editor

Tripling the number of international students on campus by 2020 was one of eight main goals highlighted in the Elon Commitment, a 10 year, \$586 million strategic plan approved by Elon University's Board of Trustees December 2009.

When the goal was announced, 187 students — 3.3 percent of Elon's student population — were considered international.

Five years later, the number of international students has more than doubled to 386, or 6 percent of the population.

With the rate of international students that have been enrolled over the past five years, it looks like Elon is on track to achieve the Elon Commitment goal of close to 600 international students on campus by 2020.

But increased or even rapid growth doesn't always mean an equally successful experience for international students, especially when success requires a large staff to attend to the needs of the increasing number of international students.

Bill Burruss, assistant director of international programs, said he would advocate for the hiring of a full-time interna-

tional student life coordinator who could devote all of his or her time to leading programming and could be available to help students on a daily basis.

"It's a resource problem," Burruss said. "We are very well-staffed in this office relative to other universities, but even with as well staffed as we are, the resources allow for limited expansion of opportunities."

Burruss runs the three-day orientation program for international students before school begins in August.

During international orientation, students learn about important documents like an I-20 form — a Certificate of

Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status that is crucial for international students when entering and leaving the country — purchase cell phones, create bank accounts and even adjust from the metric system.

But after orientation weekend is over, there are no follow up sessions or meetings for students during the year.

"There was definitely a lot of valuable information, but I felt they should have had workshops after Orientation weekend," said Singapore native

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Coffee controversy brews in downtown Elon

Michael Bodley and Leena Dahal
Editor-in-Chief and Assistant News Editor

Plans by Elon University to bring a Starbucks to campus next fall have been met with fierce grassroots opposition, saying the corporate coffee giant will disrupt local business and impede the growing artisan vibe of downtown Elon.

Patrons of The Oak House — a locally owned and operated coffee, beer and wine shop that opened its N. Williamson Avenue doors last fall — take issue with the location of the Starbucks, planned to set up shop in place of what is now Acorn Coffee Shop, adjacent to the Oak House.

While Phil Smith, who owns Oak House, said he's confident his shop could co-exist with Starbucks, he's not inviting the chain in with open arms.

"I was disappointed to learn that Aramark was putting a Starbucks next door," Smith said. "As for The Oak House, I believe what we are providing in downtown Elon is exactly the type

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Campus sustainability slowed by growth

Katherine Blunt
Senior Reporter

Though Elon University's environmental initiatives have earned it praise from a number of its stakeholders, its rapid expansion has encroached on some of its sustainability objectives and challenged it to find ways to reduce emissions as the campus expands and enrollment rises.

Between 2008 — the baseline year for carbon emission measurements — and 2014, Elon added about 670,000 square feet and about 850 students to its campus. It succeeded in shrinking certain aspects of its carbon footprint during that seven-year period, but its growth has outpaced its overall rate of emissions reductions and highlighted the conflict that can sometimes exist between sustainable development and building aesthetics.

During the measurement period, Elon's carbon emissions increased by more than 10 percent, according to the school's most recent greenhouse gas inventory. The university is not on track to reduce net carbon emissions by 5 percent this year, an interim goal set five years ago in the university's Climate Action Plan.

"In terms of sustainability, a challenge today and in the future is changing behaviors," Elaine Durr, director of sustainability, said in an email. "Another sustainability challenge in terms of resources — personnel, time, financial — is

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Campus fed up with racism, not giving in

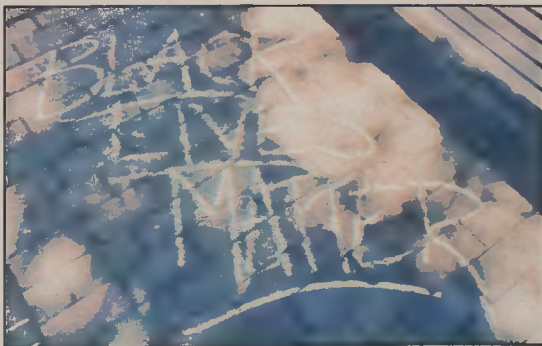
Continued bias incidents dampen minority mood

Michael Bodley
Editor-in-Chief

There are only 333 black students at Elon University, a tight-knit community where whispers of discrimination spread much faster than bias notification emails from the administration to the student body.

The latest reported this spring — in which a female black student said she was the victim of a racial slur shouted from a passing car on N. O'Kelly Avenue two weeks ago — has led minority student leaders to voice their frustrations of a system they say is too slow to change.

"A lot of times, people just



MICHAEL BOOLEY | Editor-in-Chief

Across campus Tuesday, students scribbled phrases such as these.

feel like they don't belong," said junior Danielle Williams, president of the Panhellenic Council, who is black. "We're in the shadows."

Williams and others — such as junior Alex Bohannon, president for the Black Student Union — work as both leaders among the black

community on campus and as liaisons to communicate student concerns to the administrators who control campus initiatives on a larger policy level.

"I think that with anything, sometimes we don't necessarily understand the gravity of certain situations until we get to a point when we have to say, 'This is enough. This is too much,'" Bohannon said.

Though there have been more than a half-dozen reported incidents of racial bias since 2011, it's important for Randy Williams, dean of

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