

# THE PENDULUM

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## Fall Sports Preview



**Football: FSP 2-5**



**Women's soccer: FSP 8-9**



**Volleyball: FSP 10-11**



**Men's Soccer: FSP 6-7**



**Cross Country: FSP 12**

## The two year catapult Elon ranks 15 in Campus Pride Index

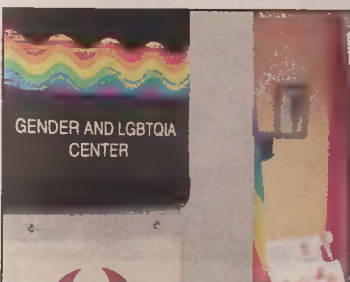


PHOTO BY HALL TALIXE-STEWART | PHOTO EDITOR  
The Gender and LGBTQIA center is Elon's focused organization for LGBT advocacy.

Leena Dahal  
Assistant News Editor

Snug in the corner of second floor Moseley, a three-roomed, brightly colored office bedecked with rainbows celebrates its second birthday this year.

But don't underestimate the office, Elon University's Gender and LGBTQIA Center (GLC), for its age.

After two years of programming, policy changing and community building, it was announced Monday that the GLC placed 15th in a nationwide study ranking LGBTQIA-friendly campuses.

Elon's center received 4.5 out of five stars and ranked No. 1 in the South.

The GLC leapt over 350 schools since its last ranking (370th), sending a bold message to college campuses: things can happen quickly with community support on all levels.

To place in the Top 25 listing in the Campus Pride Index, an institution had to score the highest percentages in the

LGBTQIA-friendly benchmarks — a checklist of practices, policies and opportunities that set LGBTQIA students up for optimal success. The listing this year includes public and private universities with student populations ranging from 1,600 to over 50,000.

### A unified voice

When Matthew Antonio Bosch, the only hired-staff member of the GLC, began his tenure at Elon in Spring 2013, LGBTQIA initiatives at Elon were scattered.

The decision to keep Chick-fil-A on campus despite its CEO's openness to anti-LGBT rights had been sparking debate throughout campus. Elon had earned only 2.5 out of 5 stars in its Campus Pride Index that year. The President's LGBTQIA task-force had only just been launched. No formal LGBTQIA programming existed in one office space.

"I think what lacked the most was a unified voice," Bosch said. "There was no one person to go up to and ask, 'Hey, why does this matter?'"

That's where Bosch's role filled the gap. Making the GLC's presence known from fraternity and sorority life, to athletics to residence life and even the application process, Bosch strived to engage many areas of campus in dialogue on LGBTQIA-related topics.

On several occasions, that meant standing in front of Elon's head coaches in the athletic department and discussing topics that Bosch

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## Confronting race relations

Community Connections to join nationwide discussion on race

Caroline Fernandez  
News Editor

The first of four Community Connections panels centering on race relations is scheduled to take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1 in McKinnon Hall.

The topic of the Elon University and Burlington Times-News-sponsored panel is "Improving Race Relations in America."

Jason Husser, assistant professor of political science and policy studies, will moderate the discussion that includes four panelists—Jim Bissett, professor of history, Barrett Brown, NAACP of Alamance County president, Patrice Fields, St. Matthew's AME Church pastor and Tony Foriest, a former state senator and retired business executive.

"Many members of the Alamance County and Elon University community have expressed a desire for a civil, authentic conversation about the ways to understand and improve race relations in the United States," Husser said in a story on E-net.

Unlike past years, during which each forum centered around a different topic, all four discussions of the 2015-2016 year will center on an aspect of race in the United States' past, present and future.

Madison Taylor, executive editor of the Times-News, recently wrote a column in which he described why the topic of race relations was chosen for all four forums, not just one.

"Last month we decided our first forum topic would be Race Relations," Taylor wrote. "But after a few minutes of discussion on Monday, we quickly determined that a single one-hour forum would hardly

be enough to cover such a complex subject and quickly decided to make Race Relations the theme for all of our forums this coming school year. This offers a great opportunity for a running discussion about what is arguably the most important issue in America today."

This year marks the third year that Elon partnered with The Times-News to discuss methods to improve local and national issues.

Last year, three forums were held that centered on the topics of domestic violence, the future of the area and the issue of hunger.

The event, which is scheduled to run 7-8:15 p.m., is free and open to the public. In his column, Taylor said in hopes to have a wide range of views at the event, planners even considered offering transportation for people located outside of Elon's campus.

### RACE RELATIONS FORUM

- **When:** September 1
- **Where:** McKinnon Hall
- **Topic:** "Improving Race Relations in America"
- *There will be three more forums about race relations this year*