

# THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2015 • VOLUME 41 EDITION 19

f facebook.com/thependulum www.elonpendulum.com @elonpendulum

## SGA election bounces back

29 percent increase in ballots cast since last fall's SGA election



**Kenneth Brown, Jr.**

Name: Kenneth Brown, Jr.  
Hometown: Greensboro  
Position Won: President  
What I hope to accomplish: "Give the students a powerful voice and host more events centered on how to make Elon a better place, for all."



**Michael Pitten**

Name: Michael (Mike) Pitten  
Hometown: Scituate, Mass.  
Position Won: Vice President  
What I hope to accomplish: "Engage the Elon Community in meaningful activities that unite us."



**Austin Brehio**

Name: Austin Brehio  
Hometown: Hopkinton, N.H.  
Position Won: Treasurer  
What I hope to accomplish: "Get our class into a strong financial position."



**Elyse Cowles**

Name: Elyse Cowles  
Hometown: Redding, Conn.  
Position Won: Secretary  
What I hope to accomplish: "My goal is to take the aspects of Elon that we already love and improve and expand upon them. I want to create a community that fosters the best interests of every member in our class."



**Warren Barrett**

Name: Warren Barrett  
Hometown: Cookeville, Tenn.  
Position Won: Senator  
What I hope to accomplish: "Create an online suggestion box for students to outlet their ideas easier."



**Emily Cline**

Name: Emily Cline  
Hometown: Indianapolis, Ind.  
Position Won: Senator  
What I hope to accomplish: "I want to make everyone in the class of 2019 feel like they are a part of a family here and feel like they have a voice on campus."



**Sophie Zinn**

Name: Sophie Zinn  
Hometown: Indianapolis, Ind.  
Position Won: Senator  
What I hope to accomplish: "I want to be there for my fellow classmates as someone who's relatable and easy to go to."

Caroline Fernandez and Leena Dahal  
News Editor and Assistant News Editor

With a renewed emphasis on recruitment, SGA in this week's Class of 2016 election turned around a recent track record of uncontested races and lackluster voter turnout.

Almost 1,000 freshmen — of a 1,520-person class — voted Monday and Tuesday to elect seven of their peers to first-time positions on SGA.

Twenty-five members of the Class of 2019 ran for elected office, a 60 percent increase compared to the 2014 elections.

The 933 ballots cast represents a 29 percent increase over the 722 ballots cast in the Class of 2018 races last fall.

Jana Lynn Patterson, associate vice president for student life, credited signs posted in residence halls and more social media promotion to the bump in candidates and overall attention paid to the election.

Robert Danis, Class of 2016 vice president, said a push from current SGA members, Orientation Leaders and RAs helped encourage students to run for office.

Danis said he sees increased freshman

interest in SGA as a positive sign for the future.

"As for SGA as a whole, more candidates and more interest should translate into more driven students that can better represent their constituents, so I am very excited to see what we can do for Elon this year," Danis said in an email. "I would attribute the higher number of candidates to SGA members as a whole reaching out in every way that they could. We have students who were OLs or RAs, and they made sure to encourage their students to run."

"I think another factor is just the students in general — it seems as though each candidate was a part of Student Government in high school, so it only makes sense for them to continue being involved in college."

Of the seven open positions, only one, Class of 2019 Treasurer, ran unopposed.

Ten students ran for the position of class president, four for vice president, three for secretary, seven for senator and one for treasurer.

Kenneth Brown, Jr., the elected Class of 2019 president, said running against nine other candidates was nerve-wrecking, but rewarding.

"It's a weird feeling, because it's the first race when I had to run against other people," Brown said. "So you put up this front where you're confident and you keep thinking, 'What if the cookie doesn't crumble in your favor?' But the cookie crumbled."

Michael Pitten, elected Class of 2019 vice president, said participation is paramount to a more-engaged class.

"I think our voter turnout serves as a benchmark of how the Class of 2019 is going to be engaged this year," Pitten said. "I'm excited to serve our already engaged class."

With more candidates running, though, came more disappointments. But SGA President Avery Steadman said there are still opportunities for students interested in joining SGA.

"All [interested members] need to do is contact me, and I will work my hardest to find a place for them somewhere on SGA or another committee," Steadman said.

Weekly SGA meetings are open to the public. The organization meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays in Moseley 215, where winners will begin their duties as elected officers representing their constituents.

## Inside pg. 13

### Host-ready? Athletic facilities aim bigger, better

Alex Simon  
Sports Editor

Though construction is nothing new to Elon University, campus conversation around facilities has focused on a building with no ground broken yet: a more than 5,000-seat convocation center.

Elon University announced Sept. 1 it had purchased 19.5 acres of land for a proposed convocation center, a major step forward for a project still in its fundraising phase.

Beyond the developing proposed facility, preparations have begun for the first ever Elon-hosted Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Championship events.

At the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center, which will host the men's and women's championships April 21-24, 2016 along with the Burlington Tennis Center, the surfaces have been redone for the first time since 2008, and are due to be completed today.

The Jerry and Jeanne Robertson Track and Field Complex was picked Aug. 25 to host the outdoor track and field championships May 6-7, 2016. Now, the question is what will be done to improve the complex before the championship.

And finally, cross-country head coach Nick Polk said that Elon has been chosen to host the 2017 cross-country championships, which will take place on the running course at the intramural fields.

## Number of universal bathrooms at Elon nears 90

Terminology and signage updated across campus

Leena Dahal  
Senior Reporter

From academics to social life, Elon University's commitment to inclusivity manifests itself in many ways throughout campus. To this end, for the past two years, administration has cracked down on restroom inclusivity.

Prior to the creation of the Gender & LGBTQIA Center (GLC), there were less than 15 bathrooms on campus open to students of all genders and sexes. One year later,

more than 70 were built. This year, the number of universal bathrooms has progressed to 90.

From unisex to universal

Matthew Antonio Bosch, director of the GLC, said the term used to describe gen-

See RESTROOMS  
page 2



Elon houses nearly 90 universal bathrooms.