

THE PENDULUM



FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE CAPITOL

Elon students trek to Washington, D.C., for inauguration, protest

Meg Malone
Assistant News Editor
@megretjeane

The motivations for traveling to Washington, D.C., are different for each person. Curiosity. Marching for a cause. Witnessing history in the making. Regardless of their convictions, a variety of Elon University students are planning to be in Washington, D.C., for the Inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump Jan. 20, and for The Women's March on Washington Jan. 21.

Scores of people, these students included, have said the inauguration is more than a just a historic day — it's a stepping stone toward an uncertain future.

Sophomore Evan Sassaman and senior Nicole Baugh will be at the inauguration as part of an experiential learning course, "Experiencing D.C.," taught by political science professors Betty Morgan, Joel Shelton and John Strange.

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE HAYS | Design Chief

Elon takes steps to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.

Anton L. Delgado
Contributor
@alDelgadoNews

The second line of the Declaration of Independence states that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

For more than 50 years, Martin Luther King Jr. has inspired citizens across the nation to reconsider their interpretations of equality and liberty. More importantly, he made citizens think about what those words truly looked like in practice.

Elon University students draw motivation from the Civil Rights Movement King led against injustice and inequality despite the adversity he faced.

"Despite the countless threats to his life, his family and the physical abuse he suffered, King held true to the belief that what he was

doing was right and that it was necessary," said junior Alexis Williams, president of the Black Student Union (BSU).

King's steadfast dedication to his cause is not the only admirable quality that students attempt to emulate.

"His tenacity is what influences me the most," Williams said. "When you are trying to change things, ultimately you are going to be faced with challenges but like MLK, you can't quit."

BSU didn't host just one event for MLK Day, but instead has planned a series of events throughout Black History Month in February.

According to Williams, these events will "focus on African-American Heritage, which is the nature of the BSU organization."

"We constantly try to remind students that understanding each other's differences is important to do on a daily basis," she said.

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PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SIGMA DELTA CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA
Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity attend a march in Burlington in honor of MLK Jan. 15

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