

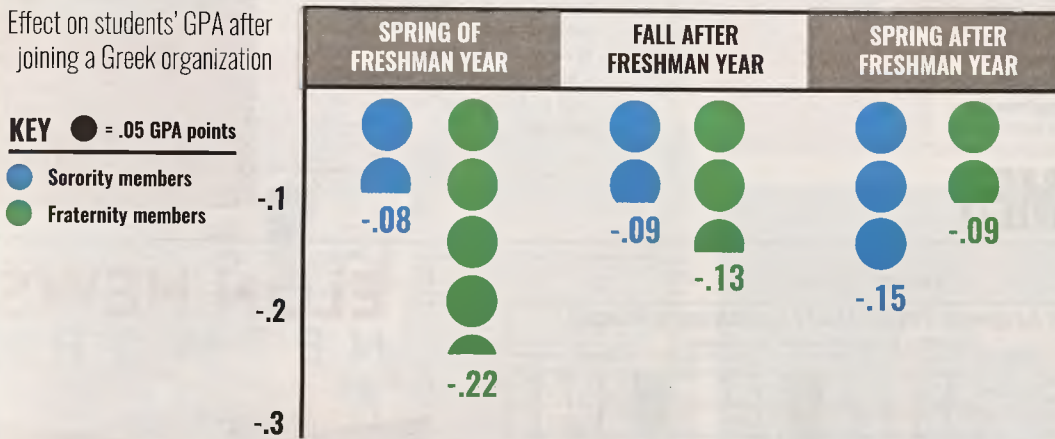
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 ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

GRADING THE GREEK EFFECT

A study at Duke University showed that joining a Greek organization resulted in a drop in students' GPA, but the data at Elon University shows a more complicated picture.

Results from "The Effects of Greek Affiliation on Academic Performance," which controls for students' demographic information and difficulty of coursework



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A Duke University study shows a decline in GPA for students who join fraternities and sororities, but the study's applicability to Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) at Elon University is complicated.

The study, published last month in the

Economics of Education Review, quantified and analyzed the effects of fraternity and sorority affiliation on academic performance at Duke, which has a deferred recruitment policy similar to Elon's. This study compared the GPA between freshman students first semester and their following semesters.

The study found male students showed a significant decline in GPA during their freshman spring semester — a popular time

for recruitment — but insignificant change in GPA other semesters. For female students, the results revealed the opposite. According to their research, GPAs significantly decline during females' spring semester during their sophomore year, when they are responsible

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Multi-faith scholars spark conversation

First cohort of scholars encourage religious engagement

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Elon University sophomore Sophie Zinn considers herself the person in her friend group

The cohort consists of six students who receive \$5,000 in their junior and senior years to develop as multi-faith leaders.

that is constantly encouraging others to talk about religion, a subject she is very passionate about and believes is not talked about

much.

"It's not really in the public sphere of college life or America in general as something that's positive," Zinn said. "I think there are a lot of positive elements to religious dialogue and learning from other people's interest and faith traditions."

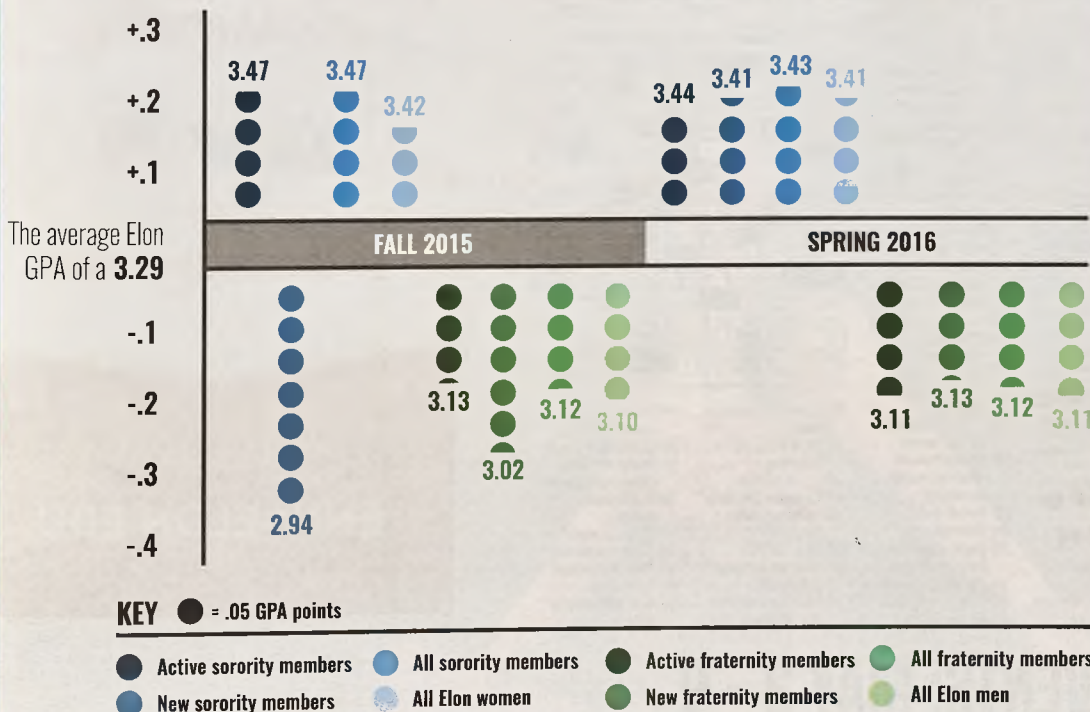
Zinn was raised Jewish and has been practicing Buddhism for four years. She does not identify with one main religion, but bases her experiences more on her religious studies experiences learning why various religious traditions matter to those who do not follow them.

Zinn, along with five other sophomores at Elon University, was recently selected to be part of Elon's first cohort of Multi-faith Scholars. The program combines academic coursework, undergraduate research and community engagement in multi-faith contexts. The students selected receive \$5,000 annually in their junior and senior years to assist them in their development as engaged multi-faith leaders.

The idea of this program sprouted from the 2015 Multi-faith Strategic Plan of the Elon Center for the Study of Religion, Culture and Society, which advocated for the development of this program. A \$100,000 grant from the Arthur Vining Davis foundation supported the establishment

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Results from Elon's Fraternity and Sorority Life, which only provides raw GPA data.



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