

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017  
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

# THE PENDULUM



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## GLOSSING OVER Puerto Rico

Students from Puerto Rico wonder what they will be returning home to following Hurricane Maria

For three Elon University students, going home for Fall and Thanksgiving Break will mean facing a new reality on the island of Puerto Rico.

Hurricane Maria struck the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico Sept. 20., two weeks after the island was barraged by Hurricane Irma. The recovery is estimated to take years and cost \$30-60 billion. As of Oct. 2, 16 people have been confirmed dead by Maria, while 30 remain missing. Meanwhile, the majority of the island is still without power and lacking access to basic necessities such as clean water, fuel and food.

"I don't think I'm emotionally prepared to see my island destroyed," said sophomore Ana Garcia, who will return to her family in Puerto Rico for Thanksgiving break.

Ford's father sent her a video of her childhood playground,

now covered in downed power lines and palm trees.

Senior Sofia Wensel said she, too, is unsure about the state of the home she will be returning to.

"My dad says it looks like a bomb exploded," Wensel said. "The infrastructure is completely destroyed and there is chaos in the streets. My neighborhood and home are okay, thank God. My house has damage, but nothing that will not be able to get replaced and fixed later."

"I think Puerto Rico is going to be 100 percent different than how I remember it," Wensel said.

The majority of homes in junior Ana Garcia's neighborhood were spared, because of their concrete foundations, but the neighborhood is flooded, and Garcia does not know when she will be home to see how her island has changed.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAMILY OF ANA GARCIA

Top: Sofia Wensel, left, Kevin Vergne, center, and Ana Garcia, right, hold the Puerto Rican flag together to show support for their native country after Hurricane Maria.  
Bottom: A severely damaged McDonald's sign in the capital of Puerto Rico, San Juan, is an example of the destruction from Hurricane Maria.

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## Elon Elementary School closing approved

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Elon University finally closed its deal with Elon Elementary School at the Alamance-Burlington School Board Member (ABSS) meeting Sept. 25. The board approved Elon to give the land they owned on 752 Walker Rd. to Elon Elementary School.

The current elementary school will close and Elon will build a new

**MORE SPACE**  
There are about 700 students currently enrolled at Elon Elementary school. The new facility will house 1,000 students.

school about 1.2 miles north of its current location. The construction of this new school is estimated to cost \$18 million.

Elon Elementary school was built in 1953 and is badly in need of renovations. Along with maintenance issues, the school is also experiencing overcrowding.

"ABSS will be getting a brand-new school, and Elon Elementary will have a new facility for their students," said board member Allison Grant. "It is

certainly advantageous for the university because they need that property to continue to expand and build."

The construction of the new school will not cost the school system — or the tax payers — anything. All of the furnishing and technology will be moved to the new location. No new resources will be bought for the school.

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## 'I am tired of praying about these things'

Elon reacts to Las Vegas shooting, the deadliest in modern U.S. history

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Elon University alumna Laura Stump '12 arrived in Las Vegas for a conference earlier this week. She

**GUN COUNT**  
Authorities found 23 guns and thousands of rounds of ammunition in the shooter's hotel room.

stayed in the MGM Grand Hotel, only an eight minute drive from Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino.

But little did she know that she would be

merely 1.4 miles away from the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history that happened late Sunday night.

"By about a little after 10 p.m., I started hearing kind of popping noises outside," Stump told Elon News Network. "And so of course you don't want to immediately think that this is ... you know gunshots. You want to think it's fireworks instead."

For about 15 minutes, those noises continued. A stampede of people ducked for cover and amid the carnage, 59 people were shot dead and more than 500 were injured.

Las Vegas Police say Stephen Paddock, 64, of Mesquite, Nevada, fired into a crowd of about 22,000 people during a Jason Aldean country concert. Paddock took his own life before authorities could apprehend him. Hauled in his room on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Resort, authorities found 23 guns and thousands of rounds in ammunition. Ingredients for explosives were found in his car. While a motive hasn't been determined, every detail of the massacre was meticulously planned.

And as the nation grapples with the fallout of yet another tragedy, Elon is doing the same.

### A time for reflection

Members of the Elon community gathered in Numen Lumen Pavilion on Monday afternoon in what was called, "A time of prayer and lament," following the shooting.

The vigil, hosted by the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, allowed people to speak and voice their thoughts and feelings.

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Latest Elon Poll examines President Trump's likeability



### LIFESTYLE • PAGE 13

Elon students pursue musical theater off campus



### SPORTS • PAGE 15

Discussing NFL protests is hard, but we need to do it