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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

# THE PENDULUM



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**M**EMBERS OF THE LGBTQIA community and people of color have always been discriminated against. But for people of color who also identify as LGBTQIA, they say they face double the discrimination — and the experience of having multiple oppressed identities is called intersectionality.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines intersectionality as “the complex, cumulative manner in which the effects of different forms of discrimination combine, overlap, or intersect.”  
People — especially college students — often use identity to connect with others and exist in social groupings. But in cases where people may fit in multiple identity groups, identity can become complicated. It is even more complicated

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE HAYS | DESIGN CHIEF  
Clockwise from top: Tres McMichael, Matthew Antonio Bosch, Julian Rigby, Darius Moore, Chris Stolz and Detric Robinson are members of the LGBTQIA community and people of color.

**DEFINING INTERSECTIONALITY**  
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When these two spheres are marginalized.  
According to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 40 percent of LGBTQIA adults are racial and ethnic minorities, but 60 percent of LGBTQIA and HIV positive people who report hate violence are people of color.  
According to the American Public Health Association, black sexually marginalized men may be 1.2 times more likely to

attempt suicide than their white counterparts.  
With Intercultural Engagement being one of the four themes of Elon University’s 2018 Winter Term, students and faculty who identify in these groups want the conversation around this issue to open up.  
Detric Robinson, community director for the Danieley Neighborhood at Elon

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## Rushing to religion

A girl’s journey to finding her independence through community

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When junior Leah Vail decided to rush a sorority during Fake Break of 2016, she felt that there were two categories of girls at Elon that rush: the ones who had always dreamt of joining or the ones — like her — who were told to try it out to see how the experience was.

At Elon, 53 percent of females joined a Greek sorority in 2016 according to the

Elon Fraternity and Sorority Life Spring 2016 Chapter report.  
Once Bid Day came, Vail joined the Epsilon Chi chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. The happiness she felt as she ran down to the AOP house on Bid Day would soon turn into depression and loneliness, soon leading her to withdraw from the organization. It was through other organizations such as Catholic Campus Ministry and Leadership Fellows that she found the communities that allowed her to prosper on Elon’s campus.

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Junior Leah Vail holds a poster in support of Catholic Campus Ministry fall 2016.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LEAH VAIL



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**LIFESTYLE • PAGE 9**  
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