

Check out the Valentine's Day special section for Elon-themed cards and unique date spots



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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

Virtues of Valentine's Day

How LGBTQIA students celebrate their love on a typically heteronormative holiday

ANTON L. DELGADO AND RACHEL ELLIS | Enterprise Story Coordinator and Breaking News Manager | @JADelgadoNews and @rachel_ellisTV

Their friendship began with a simple text over Thanksgiving break. A few months later, freshman Jubitz Figueroa started asking questions, "Are we just friends or are we more than that?"



Freshman Jubitz Figueroa holds hands with her girlfriend of two months, who did not want to be identified. Their relationship transformed from best friends to girlfriends in the first week of January.

By January she found herself happily in love and dating her best friend, her girlfriend.

This new relationship blossomed at the perfect time, right before Figueroa's favorite holiday — Valentine's Day.

"I love Valentine's Day ... I want to make everything memorable. Living your life should be a novel-worthy experience and I don't ever want her to look back on our relationship and think that it wasn't the very best," Figueroa said. "Hopefully this will be a night she will forever remember. Fifty years from now if someone ever asks 'What was your best Valentine's Day,' hopefully she will be able to bring me up. I want to be that level of romantic."

See LGBTQIA | pg. 11

CLASS OF 2021 SEXUALITY

8%

of the 1648 freshman students on campus this year, consider themselves non-heterosexual, according to the Gender & LGBTQIA Center.



Girlfriends Jazz Harris and Tiana Lynn pet their cat Luna in Lynn's room in the Gender and Sexuality LLC.



Freshman Savannah Bulloch (left) smiles with her boyfriend Omar Latif.

Long-distance relationships prove to be a rewarding challenge for couples

Victoria Traxler
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

With Elon University students hailing from 49 states and 58 countries, long-distance relationships are not uncommon.

Freshman Savannah Bulloch came to Elon from Bracknell, United Kingdom, an hour outside of London. This change in location left Bulloch with a decision to make about her relationship with boyfriend, Omar Latif.

"We started out our relationship not wanting to date in college," Bulloch said. "We sat down and had a really serious conversation. I realized that if I cared about someone that much, why would I not want to be with them?"

Bulloch said Latif is taking a gap year abroad during her first year of college in the United States.

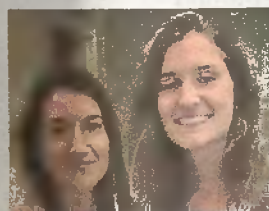
"We just decided to see how it works and go with every day," Bulloch said. "So far, it's been working."

Bulloch and her boyfriend have been dating for a year and one month. Six months of their relationship have

See LONG DISTANCE | pg. 12

STEPHANIE HAYS | DESIGN CHIEF

El Centro staff member denied work visa, returning to Spain



Prieto Viñas (left) and senior Alicia Leja celebrate at Leja's Turning 21 dinner.

Selina Guevara
Elon News Network | @SelinaGuevara

If people walked through downstairs Carlton anytime over the last five years, have probably seen Diana Prieto Viñas, assistant director of El Centro de Español in the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education at Elon Uni-

versity, through the windows of El Centro, smiling and sharing her culture with students from around campus.

But now her office is empty as she travels back to her hometown in Spain because of complications with her visa. Legally, Prieto Viñas has a 30-day window to leave the country, but with no income and no health insurance, she said

there's no reason to stay.

Senior Evan Seder said when Prieto Viñas told him she was leaving, his first thought was that she was kidding, but he soon realized she was serious.

"I just didn't really know what to say," Seder said, "I could see in Diana's face that

See EL CENTRO | pg. 8

KINDS OF VISAS

Prieto Viñas had been working at Elon under a J-1 visa, an exchange visitor program meant for temporary work or studies. She applied for another visa, an H-1B for special occupations, to continue working here.

The H-1B visa is intended for talented foreign workers with unique skills.

NEWS • PAGES 4-6

SGA candidates campaign for elections

NEWS • PAGE 9

Crest residents told they can't move back in this semester

SPORTS • PAGE 14

Freshman basketball players take charge, gain confidence

