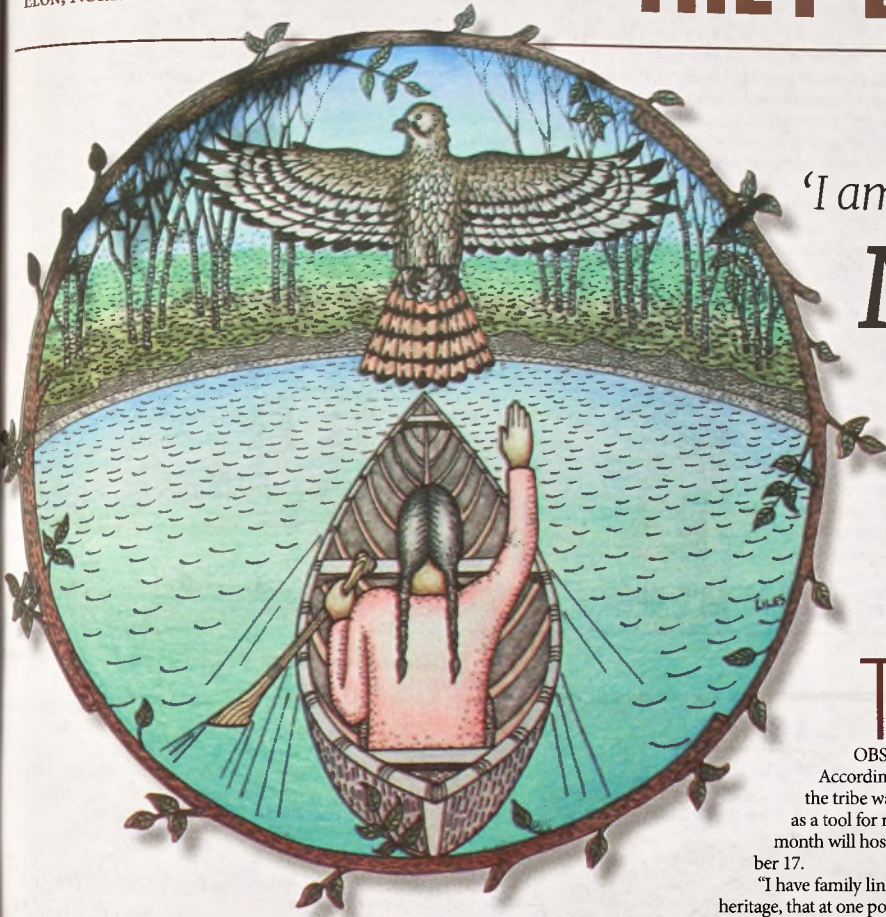


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# THE PENDULUM



## 'I am honored to be who I am - Native American'

Local Native American tribe embraces lineage  
while looking to the future

VICTORIA TRAXLER | Elon News Network | @victoriatrix

THE OCCANEECHI BAND OF Saponi Nation (OBSN) is a state-recognized Native American tribe in North Carolina. Tammy Hill, an administrative assistant for the department of student health and wellness at Elon University, has been a member for around 25 years. OBSN has become an important part of personal identity to those involved. According to Hill, many traditions and aspects of OBSN's culture were lost after the tribe was overwhelmingly defeated in battle in the 1700s. Today, OBSN serves as a tool for reconnecting members of Occaneechi heritage to their culture and this month will host their 23rd annual American Indian Heritage Celebration on November 17.

"I have family lineage to this Native American tribe, that we have this Native American heritage, that at one point was lost, rediscovered," Hill said. "For many people, it's almost like a sense of coming to know who you are."

OBSN currently has more than 2,000 members and is still growing. To join, people must complete an application to prove lineage by hereditary ancestry or ancestry who have lived in the area.

Vickie Jeffries, tribal administrator, member of the Executive Tribal Council and Women's Traditional Dancer, said she feels proud to be a member of OBSN. Jeffries said she hopes people know the tribe is resilient and growing.

"There are a lot of Occaneechis, and we continue to receive enrollment applications on a weekly basis," Jeffries said in an email.

In 2002, OBSN was officially recognized by the state of North Carolina. They purchased their tribal grounds in 2004 in Burlington, just down the road from Elon. OBSN is one of seven state-recognized tribes in North Carolina, yet only one of these is also federally recognized (the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians).

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THE OBSN'S FUTURE IS VERY BRIGHT,  
AND WE ARE ON THE RIGHT PATH TO  
BECOMING GREAT.

VICKI JEFFRIES  
TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR

The official tribal seal of the Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation as displayed in front of tribal grounds in Burlington.

## ALPHA EPSILON PI: another outlet for Jewish students

Though unrecognized by university, fraternity remains hopeful for future

Alexandra Schonfeld  
Managing Editor | @aschonfeld096

As of the 2017-2018 school year, Elon University's student body consisted of 503 self-identifying Jewish students. Like other religions, Judaism can take many forms, but at Elon, there is only one Jewish organization available on campus. According to Phoenix Connect, there are 278 registered members of Hillel, but some Elon Jews have not yet found the community they were hoping for.

Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, a historically Jewish organization, may offer that community to some, but for the founding members of Town of Elon's colony of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity, those two options were not enough.

Senior Maxx Tannenbaum



Alpha Epsilon Pi celebrates the initiation of the Alpha class this past weekend.

decided it was time for Elon to become one of more than 300 universities around the world with an AEPi chapter or colony. Elon's group, which now has just under 30 members, is considered a colony rather than a chapter because it has yet to gain recognition by the university.

After a year of back and forth with the Office of Student Involvement, who declined to comment for this story, Tannenbaum decided to move the process along and have the Town of Elon's AEPi approved by the national organization. "We were told about two years ago that we

could wait until an expansion year and hope for the best," Tannenbaum said. "I was going to graduate by that point, and that's not even a guarantee of recognition. So we tried, we really tried with the school, we met with them numerous times, had nationals speak with them. At the end of the day we had to make the decision that we needed to be recognized nationally in the now versus in three years from now. And that is what irritates the school, that we deviated from their process."

An expansion year refers to a year when Elon University could welcome in a new fraternity; 2016 was one of those years, when Elon added a chapter of Beta Theta Pi. Tannenbaum says the university has a strict expansion policy that only allows new fraternities in the case of an expansion year or in the case of a recharter — when a fraternity

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Senior lands position in competitive Google program

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Elon football celebrates its seniors at last home game