

E L O N



MYTHBUSTERS

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Submitted by students through questioning and a Facebook group, these are some myths that have been spread around campus for years. After asking authority figures about these issues, we were able to uncover the truth, once and for all.

Elon means "oak" [UNSOLVED]

Several Web sites have cited Elon to mean oak. Others have also said that Elon means terebinth, which is a different type of tree. According to the Jewish Daily Web site, the Hebrew word "alon" means oak, and "elah" means terebinth. In Genesis, "elon" combines each of these words. As a result, some translations cite "elon" to mean specifically an oak tree, while others say that it can also mean simply, a tree.

The hills in front of Moseley were put there to block out the road that runs through campus [BUSTED]

After contacting McBride Hess Design Group, the landscape architecture firm that designed Young Commons outside of Moseley, this myth is partially true; but obstructing the road was not the main reason for the construction of the hills.

"It was to try to give a relief and volumetric space so that you would feel like you were in a big green bowl, so to speak," said Ken Bark, of McBride Hess Design Group. "The hills were put there to bring down the size of the buildings and give the open space a park-like setting. The road was just one of a number of reasons to place the hills in Young Commons."

Elon's Bird Flu plan calls for a morgue to be set up on campus [CONFIRMED]

Dan Anderson said that in 2006, the university developed a plan to deal with quarantine or a major national flu outbreak.

"There was a very expensive pandemic plan that would include any sort of contagious disease," Anderson said. "If students died on campus and you wouldn't be able to transfer them to a morgue, there would be a temporary morgue on campus."

According to Anderson, the reason behind the plan to have a morgue came from the fact that Alamance Regional would be overwhelmed in the case of a flu pandemic.

In terms of the exact location of the morgue, Jana Lynn Patterson, assistant vice president for student life, said that the first option would be to use the space in McMichael, where cadavers were already stored. After this space was filled, the next option would be to bring in a refrigerated space, such as a tent.

Elon spends \$5 million a year on flowers and re-plants them as soon as they wilt [BUSTED]

Tom Flood, superintendent of landscaping and grounds, was excited at the notion of having \$5 million in the landscaping budget, but said that the amount spent on flowers each year is only a small fraction of the rumored figure.

"We plant between 40,000 and 55,000 annual plants a year," Flood said. "But they are very small when we plant them and they don't cost all that much."

The landscaping crew rotates the flowers twice a year. They plant around commencement, replacing the pansies with summer flowers, and then again in October when the summer flowers are replaced with winter pansies. Flood said that it is very rare that flowers are re-planted in addition to the normal planting schedule.

"Sometimes we will have a disease problem that will cause a planted bed to fail," Flood said. "Once in a while we will just have to pull it out and put something back in its place, but that is unusual."

Students must wait 15 minutes before leaving class if a professor does not show up [BUSTED]

Whether the professor has a B.A. or a Ph.D., there is no required time that students must wait for a professor at Elon.

"There is no policy on this," said Dr. Steven House, dean of Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences. "We expect our faculty to be in class when the class is scheduled. We also expect the students to be there. But things can happen, so I think the thing to do is to wait a reasonable amount of time, and then have a student try to contact one of the program assistants from the department or the department chair. If I know a faculty member is going to be late, we will have something posted on Blackboard."



Elon puts blue dye in the ponds on campus [CONFIRMED]

Pond dye is added to Lakes Mary Nell and Verona in the spring and summer, but it is not for aesthetic value. Flood said that pond dye reduces the amount of sunlight in the water, and therefore reduces the amount of algae that grows in the ponds.

Dye is added to the ponds during typical algae seasons. Flood also said that in addition to Mary Nell and Verona, Elon Homes Pond will also require an occasional pack of pond dye.

If something happens to your roommate, you get straight A's [CONFIRMED]

While Patterson said that if a student is left on medical withdrawal and a roommate of a roommate, these students get credit for this absence, she further confirmed that the myth is in fact true. A student's roommate is in fact connected with their grades.

But this urban legend has spread through campuses around the world for decades, and was the subject of the 1998 film "Dead Man on Campus" where two students attend a party with a depressed roommate to convince them in order to raise their GPAs.