

5 YEARS OF CRIME

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WHEN A STUDENT BRE... IS HANDLED BY ONE OF JUDICIAL AFFAIRS

CRIMINAL PATTERNS AT ELON:



FILE PHOTO

Whitney Gregory, coordinator of Judicial Affairs, said the first two months of school are the busiest for her office. She said many freshmen are "looking to figure out where the boundaries are . . . now that they are creating their own framework rather than being in the framework their parents have created for them."

Judicial Affairs, Elon University's internal judicial body, not only holds students responsible for statutory laws but also Elon's Honor Code and student handbook. Whitney Gregory, coordinator for Judicial Affairs, said Elon students are held to a higher standard than the law requires them to be.

Gregory said it was this standard that led her to Elon.

"I really loved what Elon was saying philosophically about all student conduct," she said. "What we are interested is inside the classroom and outside of the classroom. Being a student at Elon is like being a member of an honor society, so there are higher standards."

Gregory studied political science and said while in the legal system it can be argued whether it is meant to be educational. At Elon, she said, education was the main goal.

She said her least favorite part about the judicial process is when parents or students treat the judicial process like a legal system.

"They want to make some sort of deal, to drop this piece or ignore that piece," she said. "And I do try to talk to people through this is not the goal of this system and tell them we don't make those kind of deals."

Every Monday, Campus Safety and Police and the Town of Elon Police Department meet with Gregory to discuss what incidents have occurred in the past week. She said sometimes there are zero incidents and sometimes there are 10, which is one of the highest numbers they have received in a week.

Resident assistants, professors and students can also report students to

Judicial Affairs. Gregory said they always investigate and make sure the case is valid before placing someone in the judicial process.

There are three aspects to Judicial Affairs: education, mediation and sanctions.

The policy aspect is what is listed in the student handbook. It is expected of students. Some of the changes that have been made in the five years include an update to the alcohol policy. Policies that were the age of 21 were not allowed in the same area as the campus.

"We gave students that freedom and the responsibility to use but try to make the responsible decisions for themselves," she said.

This is the good samaritan rule, which states that if someone sees an alcohol poisoning and an underage student who is in trouble, that student will not be punished.

The enforcement process of judicial affairs is more about how different rules are communicated, how they are enforced and what the policies are that the university has in place for these functions.

The final step in the judicial process is to make sure that it is important to have an educational aspect to the process and to correct behavior in the student.

In May 2009, 12 Elon University students were arrested for drug-related criminal offenses. A total of 29.2 grams of cocaine were seized and several students were charged with possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia. The drug busts led to more than 50 students protesting the Town of Elon Police Department and the raids.



FILE PHOTO

CRIME AT ELON during the past five years

	Elon Police Department	Campus safety & police	Judicial Affairs
Murder	0	0	0
Rape/forcible sex	12	2	1
Burglary/Robbery	633	121	n/a
All assaults	163	3	0
Alcohol violation	32	192	1682
Drug violation	310	81	81
Peeping Tom	5	n/a	n/a
Indecent exposure	12	n/a	n/a

*All information gathered from Elon Police and Campus Safety and Police incident reports
**Jan. 1, 2002-Feb. 28, 2010
***August 2005

LAVELL LOVETTE



FILE PHOTO

Name: LaVell Lovette
Position: Police Chief
Years in position: Eight
Favorite part of the job: Getting out from behind the desk and working in the field.

If a crime occurs away from the town of Elon University, the Town of Elon Police Department has 16 officers with four on duty at the Town hall at 104 S. Williamson Ave.

Police Chief LaVell Lovette said the typical types of crime around Elon are the advantage of when students go home.

She said in recent years the town has seen assaults, but not in a large amount.

"I won't say (they are) really peaceful cause things to be in a turmoil for a lot of scary. But I can't say we've had any."

Lovette said handpicking her staff is a crime in the past five years. Having staff and skills, she said, helps the smaller police department.

"What I want is someone who is in the community," Lovette said. "Someone who is capable of making decisions. We don't want someone who is just going to follow so I want to make sure our officers are someone who is outgoing and loyal to the community."

She said her current staff poses a challenge to the community of the department. She said everyone is aware of it. She said her staff has personal issues.

"In a smaller department, everyone has to make sure the job gets done, even if it means making sure the job gets done."

CAMPUS SAFETY AND POLICE

Students can see the officers on segways or patrolling the residence halls throughout the night. Elon University Campus Safety and Police, based out of Oaks Commons, has 16 certified police officers within its ranks, each with the power to arrest and carrying the standard Glock 40.

Chuck Gantos has been the director of Campus Safety and Police since the department's creation in 1996. He said prior to the department, the university had student guards, a parking enforcer and four security guards. The measures were acceptable at the time, Gantos said, but in the mid '90s Elon experienced a physical growth and needed a police force that could conduct its own investigations.

One trend, Gantos observed, is the campus is becoming more urban, and outside influences are beginning to play a larger role in the community.

"Most of the crimes that we have, most of the major things we have are not done by our students," he said. "They are done by outsiders."

While there have been no vehicle break-ins this year, he said the major incidents such as vandalism, burglaries, break-ins and assaults are not things being done by students but by outsiders.

Another trend was the number of individuals traveling within the university and being unrelated to the campus.

"Anytime we have people here late at night that aren't part of the university setting, the reason for them being here could be legitimate or illegitimate, but we have to make sure the people we have around here are good on," Gantos said.

Gantos echoed Lovette when he said alcohol was the main issue involving students, followed by the abuse of prescription pills.

"Alcohol is just a social issue all colleges have," he said. "If there was a major issue in the country would jump on it. It is just one of those things that educate people and hope people are responsible."

He said he didn't believe alcohol use had leveled off in recent years. But the most common issue is underage possession and consumption.

Gantos said there have not been major incidents but more frequent smaller incidents.

"We have a little drug bust here or there but not significant violence on campus," he said. "I don't want to see any more."

He said 99 percent of students go through the judicial process, and it is the remainder 1 percent that causes the incidents on campus.

Gantos said the force vastly differs from the day most officers generally do community patrol. He said this is when a majority of the citations are issued.

When it comes to the relationship between the university and the town, Gantos said he hopes it is one of mutual respect. He said he personally enjoys working with students but can't do more.

"The most challenging thing is trying to get things right and at the same time do that within the budget," he said. "Sometimes you would like to do more."