

# Editorial

## Students should invest in local community outside university

### LOCAL COMMUNITY INFO

#### TOWN OF ELON: Board of Aldermen

Mayor Jerry Tolley  
Mayor Pro Tem Ron Klepyck  
Aldermen Stephen Buff  
Aldermen Lawrence Slade  
Aldermen Davis  
Montgomery  
Aldermen Mark Greene  
Town Manager Mike Dula

#### Board of Aldermen meetings

Elon Board of Aldermen meet at 6 p.m. at Town Hall, located at 104 S. Williamson Ave., Elon.

Agenda setting meetings are held the first Monday of the month. Regular meetings are held the Monday after.

For more information visit: <http://www.elonnc.com/default.asp>

#### ALAMANCE COUNTY: County Commissioners

Chair Linda Massey  
Eddie Boswell  
Bill Lashley  
Tim Sutton  
Ann Vaughan

#### County Commissioners meetings:

Commissioners Meetings meet at 7 p.m. at the County Office Building, located at 124 W. Elm St., Graham, NC.

The first meeting is held on the first Monday of the month and the second meeting is held on the third Monday of the month.

Freshmen: this first weekend at Elon University not only marks the beginning of a journey toward higher education, but the first moments in your new home. Relish and savor the newfound independence, but also understand that new responsibility.

The community you've entered extends beyond Elon's bricks and mortar. The Town of Elon, neighboring towns and Alamance County all have a stake in the successes and failures of Elon students. If motivated, students can shape local elections, determine the future of businesses and improve the lives of their neighbors.

When given the opportunity, students should frequent locally owned shops and restaurants off campus—going beyond the occasional Wal-Mart shopping trip and late-night Cookout runs. The convenience of eating on campus can dissuade students from eating and shopping off campus, but local stores need the business of Elon students to survive. In return for student's patronage, businesses are able to expand their stores and hire more staff—including students.

Supporting local businesses ensures more money stays within Alamance County's borders and, in turn, provides a stronger tax foundation for town and county officials. Alamance County is no stranger to the budget and service cuts that have plagued most governments during the economic recession; financially investing in the local area's businesses prevents drastic cuts to services that students,

professors and staff use.

And this investment goes beyond providing funds for county services. Students have the ability to determine how those funds are spent by electing politicians that will act in the best interest of the students. With an upcoming fall election, students have the chance to choose three Alamance County Commissioners and whether to increase sales tax by a quarter-cent. In 2011, two aldermen seats and the mayoral seat is open on Elon's Board of Aldermen, providing students a chance to choose the leaders that directly impact them.

In between elections, students can voice their opinions and concerns at county and town meetings. Representatives rarely see student participation, and those who speak at board meetings are able to give their opinion on noise ordinances, pedestrian and cycling plans, developing downtown Elon and other town concerns.

The opportunity to have a voice in the local government is too important for students to forsake. And if students wish to remain registered in

their hometowns, attending these community meetings still allows a channel of communication between the elected officials and the students.

For those want to get their hands dirty and have a tangible impact on the community, Elon University does coordinate with different civil service nonprofits in Alamance County through the Kernodle Center for Service Learning. Working with area schools, animal shelters, food banks, retirement homes and other groups fills a physical needs in the community. For students, it can fulfill a learning requirement, a service-education class or the need to help.

Once students move to off-campus houses or apartments, the service continues by respecting neighboring residents in regard to noise, trash and property.

Elon students positively—and negatively—impact the Town of Elon, the neighboring towns and Alamance County. In this symbiotic relationship, students must strive to leave a positive mark on the surrounding community.

### TO COMMENT...

We appreciate original responses to Pendulum articles. Feedback of 500 words or fewer can be sent in several ways.

Letters to the editor and columns can be e-mailed to [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) or sent to 7012 Campus Box, Elon, N.C. 27244.

Content will be edited for clarity, length and accuracy. All submissions must include a name and phone number.

A message board also accompanies each article online at [www.elon.edu/pendulum](http://www.elon.edu/pendulum) where commentary can be quickly posted.

### THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is published each Wednesday of the academic year. The advertising and editorial copy deadline is 5 p.m. the Friday before publication. Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed and e-mailed with a telephone number for verification. Submissions are accepted as Word documents. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned. You can reach The Pendulum by e-mail at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu). If you have questions or concerns about an article, contact a section editor. Please do not respond to reporters directly.

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## Executive President: First year is vital to success in higher education

Class of 2014,

First and foremost I would like to say congratulations on being accepted to Elon University.

Even though many of you have chosen Elon for different reasons you are all here and ready for a new year.

This first year at college is often the most important. It sets the tone for the rest of your years in higher education. Make your decisions wisely, as the decisions you make in these first couple of weeks may lay the path for the rest of your time here at Elon.

You are stepping into a brand new world—this is your chance to set yourself apart from everyone else. Think forward to where you want to be in life and what you have to do to get there. Elon University is your first big step. Take

everything you have learned from the past 18 years of your life and mold it together, show your true colors in the best way possible. As always, there will be distractions, there will be excuses for you to lose focus, but don't fall for it. You are here for a reason and it is up to you to remember that. The strongest of us will make it through no matter what obstacles are thrown in our way.

Every single one of you are new to Elon so it is the perfect opportunity to meet everyone you can. Everyone is here for the same reason, it's OK for you to step out of your shell. It might be hard to meet people at first but all of the relationships that you create here will be rewarding in the end. Don't be afraid to ask your neighbors to hang out or if they want to grab something to eat. Chances are they are thinking the same thing.

Elon is not like other schools, we pride ourselves in our academic environment, our social atmosphere and our growing athletics program. There is an aura when you walk through Elon's campus: it's a sense of community that you cannot find anywhere else. Don't feel afraid to reach out to a fellow student or faculty member when you need help or have an issue.

Everyone here wants to help you, and will greet you with open arms when you come to them with a problem.

Through my years here one of the most important lessons that I have learned is to get involved. Elon offers so many hands on activities and organizations for students that it is impossible not to find something that you like. With more than 150 clubs and organizations there is something here for everyone, it is just up to you to discover it.

Once you find your niche, delve deeper into it. Don't be afraid to hold a leadership position. This is your opportunity to step out of your comfort zone and try something new. Take chances, it's OK if you fail as long as you learn from it.

This is your experience, it is up to you to take from it what you will, but just remember you won't get these four years back. Live these years to the fullest and make the best of your time here.

This is just the beginning, but every step is important. Take your time and cherish every moment you have here. Best of luck to each and every one of you and I hope your experience here at Elon is the best that it can be.



**Taylor Martin**  
Student Body Executive President