

# BALANCING PARALLEL PASSIONS:

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Elon graduate student loves photography and physical therapy



# ELONTHON: FOR THE KIDS

Elon students raise money and awareness by dancing 24 hours for Duke Children's Hospital

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# THE PENDULUM

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## Construction projects impact Town of Elon

Melissa Kansky  
Assistant News Editor

Construction projects throughout the Town of Elon influence university students in addition to Elon residents. Projects are not restricted to Elon University, but also involve the Town of Elon and the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

University projects include The Station at Mill Point, an expanding Moseley Center, the Global Village, the Multi-faith Center, additions to downtown Elon and a renovation of the newly-named Francis Center.

"The university pretty much let the town know several years ago that they did not intend to expand to the maximum it could and wanted to stay within 6,000 students," said Mike Dula, Elon town manager. "Mostly everything they have built has been on the property they have owned or next to the property they have owned."

University Drive north of campus and the railroad on south campus represent the confines of the campus, according to Dula. Nevertheless the university construction impacts the town, said Jerry Tolley, mayor of Elon.

"I think they go hand in hand," he said.

Dula sees the development of downtown Elon as testament to the connection between the school and the town.

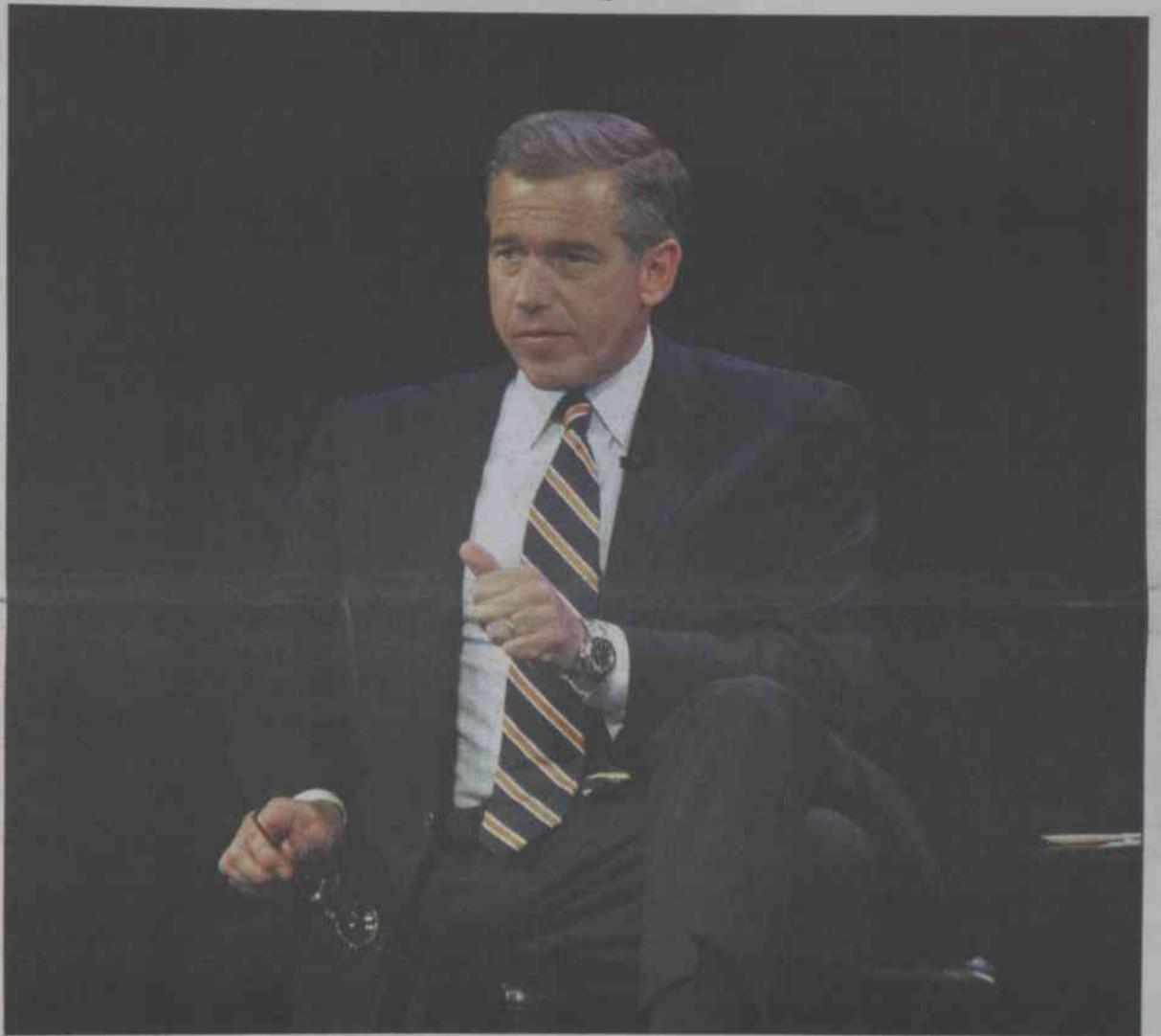
"The idea was to develop the downtown where the students will use it and be welcome to use it, but it wouldn't just be for the students," he said. "I think that will only create interest for citizens in the town and the surrounding areas to visit the Town of Elon."

The construction on Williamson Avenue also benefits the town because of the expected revenue the retail stores will attract, he said. In previous years, Elon has been below average in Alamance County in terms of retail, but Dula said he predicts the new project will enhance the Town of Elon.

"Anything that generates retail sales, we get some retail tax off of that," he said. "It's

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## Williams leads panel discussion of national challenges facing society for spring convocation



HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

Brian Williams, managing editor and anchor at NBC Nightly News, moderated a panel discussion at spring convocation of pressing national issues including religious extremism, partisanship in politics and fiscal responsibility. Williams was joined by national leaders David Gergen, David Walker, Shirley Ann Jackson, Eboo Patel and David Levin, who each focused his or her responses about a specific theme, from the subject of education to the issues of national debt.

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## Possible N.C. cell phone ban looks to eliminate handheld talking

Sam Parker  
Senior Reporter

North Carolina lawmakers are debating a ban that would make talking on cell phones while driving illegal unless an individual is using a hands-free device, such as a voice-activated phone or a Bluetooth.

If passed, the ban would override North Carolina's current cell phone driving law, which allows individuals over the age of 18 to use handheld devices when driving a vehicle.

The proposed legislation would still allow individuals to use handheld devices in emergency situations, but if caught using one outside of an emergency situation, individuals would face a \$100 fine.

Chuck Gantos, director



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Sophomore Thomas Emery talks on his cell phone while driving. Lawmakers are debating a ban that would make these actions illegal, unless a hands-free device is used.

of Elon University's Campus Safety and Police, said cell phone usage while driving has not been a huge problem on Elon's campus, but rather the problem lies more in students

texting or talking on their cell phones and not paying attention when crossing walkways.

Gantos said he thinks the new legislation would prevent

many local fender-benders, as he has seen problems of talking while driving more in off-campus locations, since students are more prone to drive instead of walk.

Freshman Kelsey Harris, a North Carolina native, said she uses Bluetooth technology in her own vehicle while driving.

She said she believes the proposed ban is targeting the right idea by banning handheld cell phone usage instead of restricting both hands-free and hand-held devices, talking is allowed but Harris said she is hesitant about the law's potential effectiveness.

"I think, in theory, it will help," Harris said. "But I just feel like the police will have a hard time catching a lot of people on their phones because a lot of people do it, so maybe it won't make a big difference

at first, but maybe down the road it will."

Talking on hand-held cell phones is easily visible, Gantos said, and the proposed legislation would allow law enforcement to more easily ticket reckless drivers using their cell phones. He said if an individual is currently caught and proven guilty in North Carolina, he or she could face a fine between \$240-280.

Freshman Kimberly Edwards, a New Jersey resident, said she is accustomed to cell phone restrictions while driving because New Jersey passed strict legislation banning hand-held cell phone use by all drivers three or four years ago.

"As far as driving is

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