

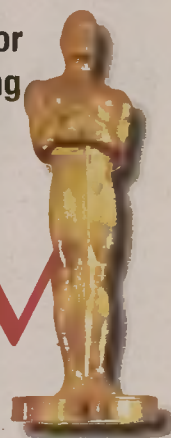


Austin Hamilton scores 31 points against Delaware pg. 14



pg. 6

Oscar buzz for this upcoming weekend pg. 11



# THE PENDULUM

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## Another semester, another

pg. 4

## slur



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Sophomore Jamal Joseph recounts a story from his time at Elon to Susan Kirkland, assistant vice president for business and finance, in a Jan. 23 forum that was organized by the Black Cultural Society. The meeting, a response to a reported Jan. 21 incident of racial and sexual bias, was attended by predominantly black students, prompting criticism of the absence of other ethnic groups. The incident was at least the fifth at Elon since 2011.

## Students stranded by winter storm

As snow piles up, staff scrambles to bring students back to Elon amidst delays

Leena Dahal  
Assistant News Editor

As many students, faculty and staff returned from Elon University Study Abroad and Study USA programs, they were greeted by a traveler's worst nightmare: a record-breaking series of winter storms.

Winter Storm Juno, accompanied by other winter storms in the Northeast region, have caused havoc across the nation, affecting the lives of millions of people and testing the patience of travelers. Media reports noted more than 14,000

flights were canceled because of heavy snow and record-breaking high-speed winds.

According to Rhonda Waller, director of study abroad at the Global Education Center, six of the 35 total programs at Elon were affected by the inclement weather conditions. Of that group, about a dozen flights had to be re-routed.

"We were being told that airports in the Northeast might be closed for four to five days," Waller said. "So, getting students, faculty and staff back to the United States became our next priority, even if it meant dividing the program into

smaller groups or bringing them into cities not on their original itinerary."

Madeline Monaco, a senior aboard the "India: Education & Development" Winter Term trip departing from Kerela, India, was one of the students whose arrival home was delayed. Her transferring flight from Dubai was scheduled to leave at 2 a.m. Jan. 27, but didn't end up flying out until 8 p.m. Jan. 27. Anticipating the cancellations caused by the weather conditions, the group decided to stay at a hotel, paid for by the university, and wait for word from Elon.

"The time difference was at some points frustrating," Monaco said. "But with Wi-Fi in the hotel, good food and good company, we made it through."

According to Waller, the process of rerouting flights was difficult, especially because many were group bookings handled by divisions within airline offices that were all dealing with systems overloaded with cancellations and limited seat availability.

"In a few cases, we had to wait for the airline to officially cancel the flight before they could be asked to respond to requests for rebooking," she said. "We were grateful to the airlines that acted proactively and canceled flights early on, as opposed to those few who adopted a 'wait and see' attitude."

Lexi Williams, a sophomore student on "The Sundance Experience" trip returning from Utah, said that though her traveling group inevitably had to be divided because of flight availability, she is staying positive.

"I've been up since 5 a.m. this morning, so it has definitely been a long day," she said. "But we're all trying to remain positive, especially because we've had such a great experience on the program."

Williams emphasized the role of her program leader, Mark Dalhouse, director of Study USA, who missed his own flight home in order to be with his students, in maintaining a sense of calm to weather the storm.

"They told us that everything would be taken care of, booked us a hotel and have offered to pay for our dinners," she said. "At this point, there's nothing we can do but just wait — so I think everybody's trying to do the best they can."

Waller said that while the office did everything possible to keep groups together, the scenario of finding 30 available seats on another flight, all within 24 hours, proved tough. For the most part, she said, the airlines determined how individuals were rebooked.

Elon Winter Term programs include a round-trip international airfare from a designated U.S. departure airport in their program fee. Some students who didn't depart from a nearby city had to book other domestic flights with the office's affiliated travel agency, Aladdin Travel. Waller noted that many students booked their domestic flights independently of the GEC, which complicated the troubleshooting process.

But for some students, finding their own way home wasn't an option.


Senior Leah Channas, who was also a member of the Sundance program and a former Pendulum staff member, said that she is disappointed by how the situation has been handled.


"Students spend thousands of

See STUDY ABROAD pg. 3

## WINTER TERM STUDY ABROAD FLIGHT DELAYS

 **6** of **35** traveling courses were affected by Juno and other Northeastern snow storms

 **12** flights had to be re-routed

 **1** program was scheduled to arrive Sunday, but due to delays it did not return until Tuesday