

THE PENDULUM

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Weaving students together

Student movement aims to spark conversations on campus diversity

Leena Dahal
Assistant News Editor

With a bundle of orange yarn, some popsicle sticks and a whiteboard, a group of Elon University students are vying for attention amidst the hustle and bustle of Moseley to unify campus in support of diversity.

Determined to weave differences together to unravel opportunities for discussion about diversity-related issues, 27 students from a course titled HSS 213 Working with Groups and Communities have tailored the movement, "Stringing Us Together."

The initiative, which runs April 20 to April 23, is centered around distributing or-

ange string, a color that symbolizes equality, cultural diversity and harmony. The string is intended to be worn by students and serve as a conversation starter between students and community members — a visible form of tying together the threads of difference on campus.

Senior Lizzie Guillaume, a member of the class, said the lack of discussion and awareness surrounding diversity is why such movements are necessary.

"It is so easy to make assumptions about others," she said. "College is supposed to teach you about who you are, but how can you know who you are if you don't really know anything about the students right beside you in your classes?"

Using a Moseley

table as a platform to hand out individual strings and packs of strings for students to distribute, the organizers provided students with opportunities to learn something about diversity or advocate for difference. Questions pertaining to diversity-related issues were written on popsicle sticks, creating conversation starters among peers.

Students were also invited to fill in the blank in the sentence, "I care because..." to share personal reasons for why diversity matters. The move-

See **STRING**
page 2



"Stringing Us Together" organizers Lizzie Guillaume and Maddie Turner tie orange strings on the wrists of sophomore Ciara Corcoran and senior Peter Walpole Monday, April 20 at a Moseley table where the new movement to start conversations on diversity was promoted.

Elon celebrates sustainability initiatives during Earth Week

Tommy Hamzik
Managing Editor

This week, the concerted effort Elon University has made over time in regard to sustainability comes to the forefront during Earth Week, said Jessica Bilecki, education and outreach coordinator in the office of sustainability.

"I think it's hugely important that we have public events to bring attention to what Elon is doing well in terms of sustainability and to highlight areas where we as a campus community can improve," Bilecki said. "Earth Week is a convenient time to do that."

A number of student organizations are coming together this week to sponsor events across campus celebrating Earth Week.

Focus will be put on the sustainability projects Elon has completed, while also continuing to push for more awareness among students.

"Earth Week is an opportunity for the campus to celebrate the natural environment we enjoy and learn about sustainability efforts on and off campus and how to get involved with them," said Elaine Durr, director of sus-

tainability.

Elon was recently named a "Green College," showing a strong commitment to sustainable practices, for the sixth straight year by the Princeton Review.

Sustainability projects Elon has undertaken include Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for 25 buildings, a large reduction in energy consumption per square foot and solar thermal installations.

"The most obvious [ways Elon has progressed] are that buildings are more efficient and we recycle, but there is a lot more to sustainability than that," Bilecki said. "Elon's willingness to talk about all of sustainability, not just environmental sustainability, shows progress as well."

Elon also has the Eco-Reps program for students to educate their peers about sustainability initiatives.

"One of the goals of the Eco-Reps program is to help students understand that

See **EARTH DAY**
page 5

Relay for Life 2015 brings changes

Caroline Fernandez
News Editor

Sophomore Alexa Lowey relays for a cure, change and community. But most importantly to her, she relays for a friend.

In 2007, Lowey's best friend of six years Esther Earl — who was later the inspiration for John Green's novel "The Fault in Our Stars" — was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Lowey then became immersed in a life of supporting, caregiving and fighting for her best friend until Earl lost her battle in 2010.

Five years later, Lowey continues to be involved in cancer fundraising and support efforts and serves as treasurer on the executive board for Elon's Relay for Life chapter.

"To me, Relay is all about support," Lowey said. "We all have people, and stories for why we relay, but when we relay as a whole it's a way to say, 'Hey, you are not

See **RELAY FOR LIFE**
page 2

Inside:

News



Annual Holi festival brings a splash of color to campus
pg. 3

Student-run and SGA funded short film 'Narcolepsy' finishes production
pg. 8

Style



Junior turns to Instagram to teach virtual piano lessons
pg. 13

Sports

Men's and Women's tennis teams lose in CAA semifinals
pg. 17

RELAY FOR LIFE

What

- Relay for Life, an event to raise money for the fight against cancer.

Where

- Elon University Francis Center Field

When

- April 24, 2015
- 6 pm. to 6 am.

How to sign up

- Go to main.acsevents.org and join a team.