

# THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2015 • VOLUME 41 EDITION 28

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## Students support Syria

*Letters to NC governor criticize refugee decision*



Freshman Colton Cadarette sends an email to Gov. Pat McCrory urging him to reconsider his decision blocking Syrian refugees in the state.

Caroline Fernandez  
News Editor

With three iPads, a computer and two mobile smartphones at Tuesday's College Cof-

fee, a small group of students hoped to make a change and make their voices heard.

The students are Core members — members of the executive staff — of a

recently formed Elon organization called Speak Out for Syria (SOS), a group whose mission is to raise awareness and funds for the refugee crisis in Syria.

"I feel like people are interested in learning and hearing about the issue," said Albert Waters, SOS president. "Some students might not follow the news so this organi-

zation and our mission gives them a way to be better informed."

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## Remembering Demitri Allison

*Gatherings celebrate life of Elon junior*

Tommy Hamzik  
Managing Editor

No one said anything, because no one knew what to say.

No cameras flashed. No cellphones glowed. The only lights were the streetlights and the dozens of candles brought by those in attendance, and of the shooting star one person saw as he arrived.



Demitri Allison

**New normal:** Road win gives football team temporary escape from reality pg. 7

**Editorial:** Speak now, not later pg. 10

Gathered in remembrance of junior Demitri Allison, a wide receiver on the Elon University football team, hundreds stood in silence.

Then, they prayed. They held hands. They cried.

They remembered their friend, teammate and classmate hours

after he committed suicide, according to a UNC Police report, by holding an impromptu midnight candlelit vigil outside the stadium he used to play on Saturday afternoons.

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## Mosque to open near campus in Burlington

*Plans reflect growing Muslim population in North Carolina*

Simone Jasper  
Assistant News Editor

As the Muslim community in North Carolina grows, a local group is planning to start a mosque in Burlington. The board of directors for the proposed worship center — Burlington Masjid — is set to buy a building on South Mebane Street in January.

Arshad Sheikh, member of the mosque's board of directors, said the number of Muslims living in Burlington has grown in the past decade, and community members believed they should start a worship center.

"Right now, there's a community center that we temporarily use as a mosque," Sheikh said. "The community decided we should have a mosque, so a cou-



This building, a former church, is slated to be the site of a new mosque in Burlington.

ple of years ago we sat together and started planning it."

According to the U.S. Religion Census, an estimated 26,000 Muslims lived in North Carolina in 2010—a 29 percent increase from the number of Muslims living in the state 10

years earlier.

To address the expansion in this area, the mosque's board of directors plans to spend \$650,000 to buy and renovate a church building at 1908 S. Mebane St. The approximately 10,000-square-foot space

includes a prayer space and a two-story building housing classrooms, a library, a kitchen and a multipurpose hall.

The mosque group estimates that renovations will end in June or July. To gain money for the building and renovation costs, Burlington Masjid has held fundraisers and requested donations from people at other mosques in North Carolina.

The Burlington Masjid also plans to expand its free clinic program, Al-Aqsa Clinic. Through the existing program, doctors volunteer free care twice a month.

"We're planning to merge the clinic with the mosque," Sheikh said. "Every Saturday, there will be a free clinic for anyone who doesn't have insurance or enough money to go to

the hospital."

Anna Torres-Zeb, Muslim Life coordinator at Elon University, said she hopes students of different faiths can volunteer together at the clinic and with other programming the mosque might offer.

"It's a great opportunity for all students on campus to get involved," Torres-Zeb said. "It's good to volunteer with people from all backgrounds."

Torres said the mosque will allow Muslim students to worship closer to Elon — instead of in Greensboro or Durham.

"For students on campus, it's very beneficial," Torres-Zeb said. "It's a smaller population, so we can't do all the programming that [universities] with a larger mass of population can do."

### NEWS

Local group aims to change perception of confederate flag pg. 5



Elon senior interns in LA, gains fanbase on Youtube pg. 12



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