

# THE PENDULUM

## RANKINGS, REALITIES AND VARIED EXPERIENCES



*In spite of recent recognition, LGBTQIA students push for greater community presence*

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Before Elon University students broke for Thanksgiving, they received an email from President Leo Lambert condemning several reports of homophobic slurs directed at members of the community.

"It is understandable that this type of incident makes members of the LGBTQIA communities feel unsafe and unwelcome," Lambert wrote in the email, "despite the good work of hundreds of people to support and value Elon's LGBTQIA students and colleagues."

According to Leigh-Anne Royster, director of inclusive community well-being

at Elon, the slurs Lambert referred to were directed at Elon students, and authorities have not been able to identify all perpetrators. All reported incidents were investigated by the police when possible and responded to through the Student Life Emergency Response system and/or the ongoing Bias and Harassment Response system.

### A recurring problem

But still, Royster said this is not the first time her office has received reports addressing incidents faced by a member of the LGBTQIA communities at Elon.

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## Elon seeks to meet alumni goals

*Some transition programs, alumni engagement recently expanded, per Elon Commitment*

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More than halfway through its strategic plan, Elon University has developed programs to address goals for alumni and career transitions. But the university is hoping to make more progress before the plan ends in 2020.

The goal of "developing innova-

tive alumni programs to advance and support the Elon graduate" is a part of The Elon Commitment, the university's 10-year strategic plan. Since the plan's creation in December 2009, Elon's Office of Alumni Engagement and Student Professional Development Center (SPDC) have made some adjustments to help students transition into post-graduate life.

### Expanding alumni programs

One area of expansion was increased interest in volunteering with the Young Alumni Council, a group of alumni who have graduated within the past 10 years. These alumni currently make up 41 percent of all Elon's graduates, according to the university's website.

Scott Leighty '09, president of the Young Alumni Council, said an increasing number of alumni have helped new graduates in their regions with the transition process.

"Everyone reaches out to at least 10 new grads," Leighty said. "We build relationships with them. It helps facilitate the transitional process."

But Tricia Teter '13, senior alumni engagement officer, is hoping to expand other alumni volunteer programs. She said clubs and chapters have already participated in service events, but she hopes more groups will take part. Teter also believes service after graduation is important be-

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## Beta Theta Pi Fraternity to join campus this spring

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Beta Theta Pi Fraternity will join Elon University's Greek life community spring 2016 to become the eighth active IFC organization on campus, according to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

Theta Chi Fraternity, who presented alongside Beta Theta Pi in October, was the other finalist for the spot.

"After a comprehensive review of 17 applications from inter/national organizations, we invited Beta Theta Pi to

join our community because of its outstanding volunteer support, its pledge to assign a full-time staff person to campus throughout the calendar year, and the 'Men of Principle' component of its membership development," said Dan Fail, director of fraternity and sorority life, in an email. "We were equally impressed with Beta Theta Pi's quick response on other college campuses to confront behaviors that do not align with its principles."

Fail said details of the recruitment and colonization process are still being finalized.

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