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THE PENDULUM

‘The goal is to put the spotlight on a population who feels invisible.’

Asian American and Pacific Islander students share concerns of inclusivity during AAPI Month

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Ozelle Bower, a sophomore at Elon University, is used to the assumption that she is Latina because of her tan appearance. But that’s far from the truth.

Instead of sulking and complaining, Bower has used her identity to her advantage. As the student coordinator of Asian-American and Pacific Islander Awareness

month at Elon, she saw the importance of educating her peers through multiple events and celebrations.

According to Ray Lin, assistant director for the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education (CREDE), 2.5 percent of students identify as Asian-American or AAPI at Elon. Bower is one of them.

See **AAPI**
pg. 4

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY
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**Sophomores Ozelle
Bower and Eliza
Singleton act as
ambassadors for
their community.**

The stars behind the scenes

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The applause sounded and then faded to a slow clap. A man in the aisle seat rose and offered his hand to the woman next to him, his eyes following the performers as their beaming smiles blinked off and their bodies sank down stage for the last time.

“Man, they were so good.”

Elon University’s Department of Performing Arts production of “The Importance of Being Earnest” opened April 6 for a three-day run in McCrary Theatre. While the cast members are the visual focal point of the audience, the story

itself is brought to life by the men and women behind the curtain.

In early November 2016, “The Importance of Being Earnest” creative team — composed of lighting, scene, sound, costume and prop designers — met in the Center for Performing Arts design lab. Aside from budgeting and hiring work, the designers were the first to look at the show, stretching it and molding it to fit Kirby Wahl’s, professor of performing arts and director of this production, vision. Two months later, the production team began to meet, and a month later, the actors were cast.

See **EARNEST**
pg. 12



Senior Shay Hopkins-Paine adjusts a hat she designed as the milliner for ‘The Importance of Being Earnest.’
CAROLINE BREHMAN | Photo Editor

NEWS

Reactions vary to new housing process for rising sophomores **7**

STYLE

New club promotes female leadership **11**

SPORTS

NCAA lifts ban on sporting events in North Carolina **14**