



# CHEAT SHEET: RALEIGH'S NATIONAL RANK

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DK Eyewitness Travel just released its list of "The 20 Best U.S. Cities for Making a Fresh Start," which ranks Raleigh third.

According to the article, Raleigh is best for new opportunities and has "one of the most vibrant job markets in the nation," largely because of its proximity to the Research Triangle Park.

Research Triangle Park (RTP), located between Raleigh and Durham, contains more than 260 businesses. According to RTP's website, 45 percent of those businesses are biotech or life-services related, 17 percent deal with information technology and 11 percent fall within the category of business and professional services. Other categories include education and green technology.

U.S. News and World



CHRISTINA ELIAS | Assistant Design Chief

Report ranked Raleigh the seventh best place to live in the United States in its annual "Best Places to Live" released in early February.

"The annual average income for a resident in Raleigh and Durham is higher than the national average, due in large part to the high number of research, education, health

care and information technology opportunities," the U.S. News and World Report article said, also citing RTP's influence.

Amber McCraw, assistant director of Career Services, helps students search for employment across the country. She said the proximity of so many businesses in such a variety of fields is beneficial

to Elon students seeking internships and employment.

"We have a large number of companies [in the Raleigh area] that we can work with, obviously more than the Elon area. It provides more opportunities for students just interning during the academic year to commute there," McCraw said.

According to McCraw, the Career Services office currently has 2,930 connections to the Raleigh-Durham area businesses through LinkedIn.

Fort-Worth, Texas was ranked No. 1 for "that big-city feel," and Anchorage, Alaska placed second for the opportunities it provides to escape the "rat-race."

## Service animals provide support to students

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The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) directly addresses the use of service dogs under Title III, labeled Public Accommodations.

Title III of the ADA has left a profound effect on not only hundreds of Americans across the country, but also several members of Elon University's community.

Senior Allie Fishman is diagnosed with Insulin Dependent Diabetes and is a handler of a service dog named Colby.

According to the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, service dogs are defined as "dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities."

After 10 months of preparation at a service dog training program in North Carolina, Colby is now a Diabetic Alert Dog.

"On a daily basis, Colby can smell whether I have high or low blood sugar and warn me by licking or pawing me," Fishman said. "These are services that he can do around campus, because legally he can follow me almost anywhere."

While service dogs are protected by the ADA, emotional support animals (ESAs) are not. The difference between the two is something Fishman believes some members of the Elon community do not understand.

"I don't think that Elon students understand the difference between

service dogs and ESAs," Fishman said. "They provide completely different services, and the screening they go through are not the same."

According to the ADA requirements, "dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort and emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA."

While ESAs are not protected by the ADA, Elon's Disabilities Service Office works with students that need these animals on campus.

According to Susan Wise, the disabilities services director, there are about 50-60 registered ESAs on campus.

"Emotional support animals generally are approved to support students who have mental health issues," Wise said. "Anxiety and depression are probably the main ones that we see here, but it is not unusual for someone to have several different diagnoses."

While service dogs do not need to be registered with the Disabilities Services Office, ESAs do.

"There is a process; it is not something that automatically gets approved," Wise said. "There is documentation that is required, and there needs to be a mental health care professional that is involved."

Many students have gone through the proper documentation process required to register for an ESA, but Wise does agree that there is a misconception about the purpose of an ESA.

"ESAs are not the same as a service animal; there is sometimes a mix up with that," Wise said. "Sometimes students get the idea it would be really great to have their pet on campus, as opposed to hav-



Senior Allie Fishman's service dog, Colby, poses on the stairs.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ALLIE FISHMAN

ing a diagnosis that sort of fits with and makes an emotional support animal necessary."

This misconception between an ESA and a service animal is not the only problem that Fishman has experienced.

According to Fishman, she has encountered what she believes are fake ESAs on Elon's campus.

During her walks with Colby, Fishman said that she has met students that do not medically need an ESA, but simply wanted one and successfully had it registered. This is something Fishman believes personally affects her and Colby.

"Having but not needing an ESA hurts real service dogs," Fishman said. "In the past, poorly trained ESAs have distracted Colby which kept him from doing his job."

While this is frustrating for Fish-

man, the benefits of having Colby around greatly outweigh the negatives.

"During my freshman and sophomore year, I had two medical withdrawals. I missed a lot of class for both diabetes and allergy-related reasons. I was in the hospital a lot. It was a lot more dangerous for me to live life," Fishman said. "That all changed with Colby though. I went from having Cs and being out of class to having As, all because of Colby."

With the end of the year coming up, students hoping to get a service dog or an ESA should plan ahead.

In regards to students who do not know the details of the process, Wise said she "would encourage students to at least ask some questions."

Fishman encourages students who need a service dog or an ESA to begin the process sooner rather than later.

"Having a service dog completely changed my experience here at Elon," Fishman said. "Colby has saved my life, and I encourage people who really need service dogs to start looking into programs that suit their needs as soon as possible."

## Music Theatre program climbs national ranks

Elon University's highly competitive Musical Theatre program has reached record ranking numbers in the most recent lists released by various websites and publications. Broadway Artists Alliance ranked Elon in its "Top 15 Musical Theatre Schools," and College Magazine ranked Elon the No. 4 program for musical theater in the country — just to name a few. Ethan Andersen '14, music theatre music director and conductor, said, "I often say, 'If I were to audition now, I don't know if I would get it.' The amount of talent that the program has now is greater than when I was around, which is exciting." Andersen said when he and the other faculty review applicants, they look for not only talent, but also individuality. Sixteen to 20 new students are admitted to the program each year, and in 2017, 802 applications were submitted. Of those applications, 387 were invited to audition on campus.

## 247-year-old Bible donated to Elon University

On May 2, Burlington resident Steve Lynch donated a copy of the New Testament that was printed in 1770 and used by the Rev. James O'Kelly, the founder of the Christian Church, to Elon University. The Christian Church was responsible for founding the university in 1889. Lynch, a retired captain and investigator with the Burlington Police Department, is a descendent of O'Kelly. The New Testament will be added to the University Archives' collection of O'Kelly and Christian Church archives, which include items such as an 1816 Bible used by O'Kelly and the saddlebags O'Kelly used as a circuit minister in North Carolina and Virginia.

## Students, faculty honored at Black Excellence Awards

The Phillips-Perry Black Excellence Awards, presented annually by Elon University's Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education (CREDE), recognized students, faculty and staff members at a ceremony April 29. This year's event included a keynote address by alumnus Brandon Helton '10, assistant vice president and relationship manager for Wells Fargo Executive Benefits, and a speech from President Leo Lambert. "We are proud of you, and we hold you up as great examples of what it means to be global citizens of Elon University," Lambert said to the students assembled.

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ALLIE FISHMAN  
SENIOR