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from the semester | Section B

# THE PENDULUM

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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

## A TAXING CHANGE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

A tax reform bill in Washington may have everlasting effects on many lives at Elon

ANTON L. DELGADO | Assistant News Editor | @JADelgadoNews

BURIED WITHIN A 429-PAGE tax reform bill are provisions that specifically target those within the higher education community.

In the bill titled H.R.1 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the elimination of student loan interest deductibility, tax exempt bond financing and tax exempt tuition remission are three provisions with the most potential to affect lives at Elon University.

The end of tax deductibility of student loan interest may make paying off student loans, for seniors such as Erin Bishop, set to graduate this May, harder than expected.

The cutting of private activity bonds may slow down Elon's plans to continue to expand the campus.

Additional taxes to tuition remission may make affording Elon more difficult for students such as Kevin Scott who enjoy the benefits of having parents work at the university as faculty or staff.

These potential challenges for Bishop, the university and Scott are becoming more likely as the majority of the Republican Party hopes the legislation will be signed into law by the end of 2017.

It's a goal many leaders on Elon's campus have spoken out against.

"I am not sure this bill has fully permeated into the American consciousness about what this is going to

mean for actual outcomes for people and institutions," President Leo Lambert told Elon News Network. "Those outcomes will not be positive."

Lambert's stance on the issue has been supported by several professors from different departments. Professors in both the departments of accounting and economics agreed with Lambert.

"This bill is bad. It is not good for Elon, and in the long run it is not good for the country," said Susan Anderson, professor of accounting with a specialty in tax policy.

"The passing of this bill could be disastrous for Elon, there are a number of provisions that would directly hurt not only universities

See **TAXES** | pgs. 4-5



## Stretched too thin

Elon's counseling services tries to do more as students seek additional resources

Meagan Gitelman  
Elon News Network | @meagan\_gitelman

For his sophomore year of high school, Noah Dyson was not sitting at a desk in the classroom. After suffering a mental breakdown and taking a razor blade to his wrist, he was in the hospital.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, in 2015 almost 50 percent of college students in the United States reported feeling hopeless. Of the college students who battle mental health issues, almost two thirds of them never seek treatment, and one in 12 will make a suicide plan at some point in their college career.

Elon University's Counseling Services is struggling to meet the needs of its students — students such as Dyson, who is now a freshman.

See **COUNSELING** | pg. 7

## Female Elon leaders shine as powerful figures in their fields

Lauren Kukosky  
Elon News Network | @lkukosky

"I asked my dad, 'Do they let girls do that job,' and my dad said a very good thing. 'Well you can be anything you want to be,'" said Connie Book, the next president of Elon University.

The topic of powerful women is one that is strongly represented in the world today. The Women's Index Study revealed that 86 percent identify femininity as a strength and 76 percent of women believe that the 21st century has become the best time to be female.

Though in recent weeks, sexual assault reports have bombarded the news cycle as more women speak out about inappropriate, and often illegal, practices in the workplace. The allegations bring about questions of women feeling safe in workplaces that are dominated by men abusing their power. In the face of the outpouring of these allegations, women have proven they are important figures in their fields and will not be treated as anything less.

Women are feeling more empowered than ever before and taking matters into their own hands to alter the trend of male dominated workplaces, boardrooms and mastheads. Many women leaders from the Elon community are doing the same.

See **WOMEN** | pgs. 12-13



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### NEWS • PAGE 6

With holidays approaching, Allied Churches feeds homeless



### LIFESTYLE • PAGE 11

New restaurant opening highlights chicken and shakes



### SPORTS • PAGE 14

Junior guard Dainan Swoope leads Phoenix squad