

# passing the TORCH

Graduating seniors offer advice to underclassmen as a parting gift



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College is a place where you can press the limits of your identity. You can mold your passions, press against your understanding and expand your beliefs. It is somewhere where you can test out different thoughts and process them with the people around you. You are surrounded by people who are willing to listen, collaborate and challenge you. But perhaps the most important out of all of those are the people that will challenge you. The people who will tell you when your arguments are incomplete, when your ambitions are

off base or when your passions needs redirecting. Those are the voices that you should listen to with the most respect and attention. Be proud of the times that you experience failure, change directions and keep moving forward. College is about changing directions to find your true life path. So don't be afraid to mold, innovate and craft new versions of yourself. This is the time to be the most creative with your life, so expand your thinking and work to create the most incredible version of yourself that you can imagine.



**Jackie Pascale**  
Former ENN Executive Director  
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A lot of my Elon experience has been impacted by the opportunities I've taken and the friends I've made. My advice is to say no more and also to say yes more. Because this statement is confusing, let me explain.

Elon students are notorious for overcommitting and scheduling their days up to the minute. While this can be a good thing, it's OK to say no. Whether it's to helping your friend edit a paper or taking on a project, you know if you have enough time to

do this without getting overwhelmed. Don't overwhelm yourself! Your friend can go to the Writing Center, and the project will turn out better if someone else can dedicate 100% of their energy to it. Remember, you're a human who is not perfect, makes mistakes and only has 24 hours a day to work with. And sometimes, those 24 hours should be all about you.

However, challenge yourself. If you're passionate about something, then take on that project. If you do what you love, it won't feel like work. This can be a cliché statement about careers, but it also applies to your college work. Also, if there's a trip offered with friends or to a conference, go on it. You will never regret experiences with your peers and mentors. Some of my favorite college memories come from spontaneous day trips, nights staying in with roommates and in-depth projects I saw through from start to finish. I wouldn't have these memories if I didn't say yes.

So say yes, and say no. And soak up every minute of your undergraduate career. Speaking from experience, it flies by.



**Rachel Hobbs**  
SGA Secretary  
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I remember first coming to Elon and being so overwhelmed by how new everything felt. In particular, I remember the concerning feeling of not recognizing anyone. As the year went on, I made friends on my hall and got to know people through my involvement. I also started to realize that Elon is a small community and I would find myself saying hi to people I had class with or met once, even if we had never had a conversation. By the end of the year, Elon felt like home.

My advice to underclassmen is that if you already feel a sense of camaraderie at Elon, take the time to appreciate our community and this unique chapter of your life.

I really can't imagine another time in my life where all of my good friends will live within a 10-minute — or 10-foot — radius or when I walk in somewhere, I know I'll recognize a few friendly faces.

With that said, I recognize that some students may be struggling to feel connected. Being involved with SGA, I've heard from students who feel disconnected and understand how we need to keep working to further unite our student body. My advice for all students is to pursue your passions on Elon's campus so you can connect with other students who share that interest. More importantly, don't be afraid to get to know people outside of your usual friend group. It takes student leadership to truly bring a campus together.

It is both exciting and sad to realize that my friends and I will be scattered across the country upon graduation. I will miss Elon's people, but know that an Elon friend will never be too far away. As the famous saying goes: you can leave Elon, but Elon will never leave you.

## From two to four: How Elon is expanding its engineering program

Program improvement enables students to chase their dreams even further

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A new engineering program and degree are being offered at Elon University. The College of Arts & Sciences will be expanding its engineering options next fall, from a dual-degree program to a four-year program.

The school's new four-year bachelor's degree in engineering will allow students to stay at Elon and pursue their degree in engineering.

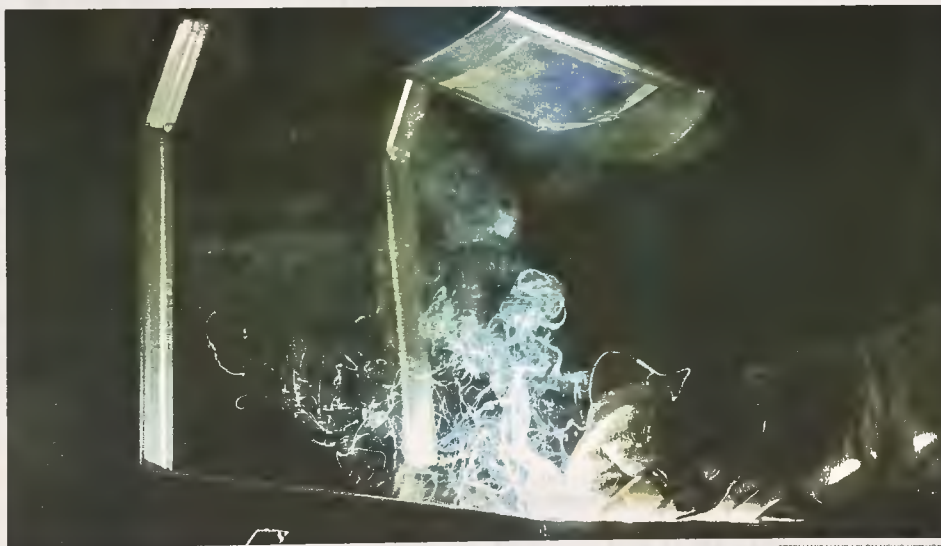
Scott Wolter, the director of the current dual-degree engineering program, is looking forward to the exciting development.

"We are providing this degree for our students because they basically conveyed to use their interest in staying at Elon and getting an engineering degree," Wolter said. "It was driven by student interest."

The current dual-degree program allows students study engineering at Elon for three years before transferring to another institution for an additional two years to complete their degree.

Wolter believes having students transfer to other institutions has not helped the program's growth.

"Many of our students fall in love with Elon and they don't



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want to leave," Wolter said. "They like different aspects of doing their undergraduate education at Elon. They like the small class sizes, the liberal arts environment. They just like Elon because it's a great place."

Freshman Noah Kagan is currently undeclared but is looking forward to declaring his major next fall. Having the new four-year option at Elon has made a world of difference in the aspiring engineer's life.

"I just want to finish the degree in four years because I don't have the funds to do an additional year of college," Kagan said.

The idea of leaving Elon and having to pay for an additional year of school to earn his degree worried Kagan, until the announcement of the four-year program in January.

"I am so excited to stay here and not have to move, I hate moving," Kagan said. "I've found so many friends here and I don't want to throw all of that away if I don't have to. By the time I would have had to transfer I would have already found my place at Elon and having to move schools would just not be the best situation."

Another of the new program's goals is to increase the

amount of student interest in engineering. In order to have more students like Kagan, excited to continue engineering at Elon.

For the last decade, the amount of student majors in the engineering department has been in flux. According to the Registrar's Fall Reports, in 2007 the major had 58 students, this grew to an all time high of 81 in 2012.

But since then the numbers of students majoring within the engineering department have steadily decreased, to an all time low of 22 in fall 2017. The program suffered another decrease

**Sparks fly as freshman Shan Roy welds metal for his new electric motorcycle, "The 1.0." Roy plans to enroll in Elon's new four-year engineering program next fall.**

this spring, with now only 13 student majoring in engineering at Elon.

But Wolter is confident these numbers will grow with the start of this new program.

"We know what we need to do, and we know what type of education our students need to succeed," Wolter said.

Another main goal of the program is to receive its Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) accreditation within the next four years. The ABET is a non-governmental organization that accredits education programs in applied natural sciences, engineering being one of those natural sciences.

"The important part of this change is that the program gets ABET accreditation," Wolter said. "We are pursuing that for the program and are in the process of getting this. The goal is that when we graduate our first students, we will be accredited."

The new program will offer a bachelor of science degree as well as allow students to concentrate in biomedical engineering, computer engineering, or design their own concentration.

This focus on student interest is a key aspect of this new program.

"Elon is such a great place to be a student or a faculty member," Wolter said. "We would talk to students and figure out exactly what their interests are. Whatever they are we will work with them."