

THE PENDULUM

— ‘HER TIME’ —

CONNIE BOOK RELIES ON HISTORY TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

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DR. BOOK WAS JUST THE PERFECT SELECTION TO TAKE US INTO A WHOLE NEW ERA.

JO WATTS WILLIAMS '55
VICE PRESIDENT EMERITA



ALEX HAGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EMMANUEL MORGAN | Executive Director | @EmmanuelMorgan

PRESIDENTIAL HISTORY

Leo Lambert, the eighth president of Elon, assumed office in January 1999 — before most of the class of 2022 were born.

ELON UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT CONNIE Book has mentored numerous students in her career. But even as the first woman who'll be inaugurated as an Elon president, she loves being mentored, too.

In 2015 before Book left Elon to become provost at The Citadel, she and Vice President Emerita Jo Watts Williams '55 had a lasting conversation. Some of Williams' brothers attended The Citadel, so she knew the military school's rigorous traditions. She wanted to give Book some uplifting advice before leaving.

"She stopped me on the sidewalk and said, 'Now, Connie, you know that you're going to have some challenges,'" Book said. "She was so good at reminding me that whatever got me that position was going to serve me well when I got there and not to lose sight of it."

Now with her presidency in its infancy, Book's sights are set on the future as new initiatives and tasks claw for her attention.

Williams has had a close eye on presidents for more than 50 years. She's worked for five different Elon presidents, ranging from a student worker to eventually vice president for development.

Though Book is new to the role, Williams has full faith in her. And she, along with other Elon colleagues, are ready to help Book add new tricks in her pitch count.

"The beautiful thing is each of the presidents was really just right for his or her time," Williams said. "Dr. Book was just the perfect selection to take us into a whole new era."

See **BOOK** | pg. 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF TREVOR COCKBURN | THE BREEZE

Elon freshman Zach Monson and sophomore Destin Floyd take down JMU redshirt-junior Ben DiNucci during the game on Oct. 6.

Legit at long last

Elon's new brand of football is making the team a real contender in the CAA

Alex Hager

Elon News Network | @awhager

It's hard to overstate how momentous Saturday's win was for Elon. The Phoenix marched into Harrisonburg, sling and stone in hand, and topped the FCS football Goliath that is James Madison University.

All of the stumbles, the mediocrity, the two-win seasons — all those autumns of uninspired football felt like a distant memory as the Phoenix reigned triumphant in Bridgeforth Stadium.

JMU has been a budding dynasty as of late, having won the conference for the past three years and making a trip to the Football Championship Subdivision National Championship for the past two. The Dukes have been a familiar face in the national rankings year in and year out. Their presence in the Colonial Athletic Association has elevated the conference to be considered among the nation's best.

They hadn't lost a conference game since 2015; that was until the Phoenix came to town.

A spunky sophomore quarterback, a second-year head coach and a little mojo were apparently enough to unseat the No. 2 team in the country and make headlines.

To say the odds were stacked against the Elon University football team wouldn't even begin to do it justice. Some Vegas betting books had the Phoenix pegged as underdogs by a spread of 39.5 points. By flipping the script and winning, Elon can lay claim to the third-largest victory in the history of college football.

But more important than any wonky-sounding betting odds, more important than any stat line to emerge from the win, is just how much the narrative of Elon football has been turned on its head.

See **FOOTBALL** | pg. 14



NEWS • PAGE 5

The community keeps its promise to aid Florence victims



LIFESTYLE • PAGE 12

Representing LGBT pride in Alamance County



SPORTS • PAGE 15

Volleyball outside hitter stands out on the court