

ONLINE:

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LIFESTYLE



ABBY CIRBS | PHOTO EDITOR

The Harlem Globetrotters perform in Schar Center as a part of the Homecoming Weekend festivities on Thursday, Nov. 1.



LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tres McMichael and Hope Koene become Homecoming Royalty on Saturday, Nov. 3.

and the winners are ...



JESSICA RAFFOGLI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jesse McCartney performs in Schar Center for the Homecoming Weekend concert on Saturday, Nov. 3.

Getting to know the Homecoming Royalty

ROYALTY | from cover

"It's paid for completely all four years — sixth, seventh, eighth grade and ninth grade," McMichael said. "During the year, they have different Broadway shows, and they tour the country and meet celebrities."

The foundation offers mentorships with other females in different industries such as fashion design and performance. "I wanted to find a way to give back to that organization and the cool things that they're doing," McMichael said.

Koene said she will give the prize money to Planned Parenthood. Though she doesn't consider herself to be a controversial person, Koene said she decided that supporting Planned Parenthood would mean staying true to herself and her passion for health care.

"Obviously, just considering the political climate, it's really important to advocate that women's health care isn't a controversial topic; it's something that should be a right to all people," Koene said. "I support all the activism as well as the health care that Planned Parenthood provides to people."

Despite the political tension, Koene said she believes her choice played a significant factor in the elections.

"I had a lot of people tell me that they voted for me on that platform because they're really supportive of women's healthcare," Koene said.

In 2016, SGA changed the way students would vote for Homecoming Court. In previous years, students voted for one female and one male —

now students vote for two nominees, no matter the gender — changing the title from Homecoming King and Queen to Homecoming Royalty.

McMichael said he believes the winners should simply be referred to as Homecoming Royalty.

"I definitely support the idea of it being Homecoming Royalty and not necessarily Homecoming King and Queen. It's kind of dismantling this idea that everything has to be heteronormative," McMichael said. "It should be two people who the community wants — whether it's two males, two females or two people who don't identify on the gender binary — to represent the university. It's all about the spirit of the person and how that spirit is existent with Elon and how they support the university and represent the university, and it doesn't have to be limited to their gender."

McMichael says he enjoyed seeing the Elon community come together to celebrate the university.

"It was just a really great weekend to bring together the Fighting Christians and the Phoenix — all of the people who are part of this great community and make Elon so special," McMichael said.

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HOPE KOENE
SENIOR, HOMECOMING ROYALTY

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SGA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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Johnson said most students know the words to Sean Kingston's 2007

A look back at an eventful weekend at Elon

Michael Asch
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This past weekend, Elon University students, staff, faculty and alumni came together to celebrate Homecoming weekend.

The university was able to show off the brand new Schar Center, which hosted a variety of events during its inaugural Homecoming Weekend. The Harlem Globetrotters kicked off the weekend at Schar Center by entertaining a crowd of more than 3,000 people.

Freshman Danielle Thomas said seeing the Globetrotters gave her a sense of nostalgia and that the event "brings all the families together ... this is just a good Thursday kickoff to Homecoming."

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Johnson said most students know the words to Sean Kingston's 2007

classic "Beautiful Girls" and Jesse McCartney's 2004 classic "Beautiful Soul." Johnson also described Quinn XCII as an "up-and-coming major artist."

"Students wanted exactly what we gave them, according to survey results," Johnson said.

Johnson said his favorite part of the weekend was the tailgate. "Students should come out to these tailgates," Johnson said. "We are changing the culture of this university slowly, but we need their buy-in if we're going to make tailgates the massive student event that everyone seems to want to have."

Elon was able to take the energy from the tailgate onto the football field, where they beat Rhode Island 24-21. After the third quarter, the Homecoming Court winners were announced.

Johnson said Elon has "moved away from a King and Queen model to a model that does not include gender in the specifications for who can win or lose, and I think that was a great way to be more inclusive."

This weekend, Elon's class of 1968 celebrated its 50th graduation anniversary, also known as the Golden Anniversary.

Betsy Deerborn Miller '68 reflected on the milestone. "It feels wonderful that you had this legacy," Miller said. "It's very surprising what Elon looks like today, and it's great to see friends that you haven't seen in a long time."

Elon students, faculty, staff and alumni had a lot to celebrate this year. The events from this year's Homecoming Weekend did just that.