

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022  
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

# House bill seeks increased funding for North Carolina public schools

Legislation's sponsor Rep. Ricky Hurtado wants state to invest \$800 million more into education

Liv Frey, Ross Hudson & Monika Jurevicius  
EJP.NEWS

Access to an equitable and equal education for students in North Carolina public schools has been a prominent dinner table conversation for many families for two and a half decades. The issue extends beyond the face value implications of easy accessibility, venturing into topics concerning teacher salaries, support staff, and most importantly, early childhood education.

Take 2-year-old Elliott Zuckerman, who was on a childcare waiting list before he was even born. Two years and six different teachers later, his mother, Elaine Zuckerman, is only just beginning to understand that she cannot put a band-aid on a broken system.

Zuckerman, along with being a mom, is a part of the North Carolina Early Childhood Education Coalition, an organization that specializes in making childcare more accessible and affordable to families all across the state primarily through more stable funding. Part of their work is advocating for legislation such as House Bill 1079, which would dedicate \$800 million over two years to funding public schools across the state, and part of the reason why Zuckerman believes this bill is critical to retaining teachers.

"Childcare teachers in North



PHOTO BY BELLA PELINI

Hurtado is the primary sponsor for House Bill 1079, first introduced in May 2022, which aims to increase funding in North Carolina schools and promote equal education.

Carolina make an average of \$12 an hour, even though over 60% of them have a degree," Zuckerman said. "One in five doesn't have health insurance, 40% rely on some form of public assistance themselves. So we're talking about a workforce that is really earning poverty level wages. And this is a workforce that is 99% women, and primarily women of color."

One main problem with the childcare system is how much of it is inaccessible. The average single parent would have to pay 40% of their livable income towards early childhood education, according to Zuckerman.

Because of this, childcare centers cannot raise the prices of their services, which leads to lesser facilities and larger class sizes, and

then results in a higher teacher turnover due to stress and exhaustion.

"I think then it's the time where we start to think, 'How do we change the system, not just fix some of the holes?'" Zuckerman said.

With HB 1079, early childhood care is only the first step in fixing the public education system. Ac-

cording to North Carolina Representative Ricky Hurtado (D-NC), educational programs funded by HB 1079 will rip off the band-aid and dig deep to create better opportunities to help align children on a track to graduating high school.

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# Local museum aims to become a world heritage site

Naamah Silcott, Keely Garcia & Liya Rike  
EJP.NEWS

The Greensboro International Civil Rights Museum (ICRCM) is in the process of gaining international recognition as a world heritage site from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to promote cultural heritage and dignity.

By gaining recognition ICRCM will be exposing the surrounding community to a more diverse and well rounded source of education on not only a local but a national level.

The museum is located in the

F.W. Woolworth building where the Greensboro sit-ins took place during the US civil rights movement in the 1960s. When four African American North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College students sat down at a whites only diner counter in protest of the segregation taking place in the area.

These sit-ins lasted just over 5 months and had a large influence on the progress of the historical movement, eventually ending the process of racial segregation in all Woolworth stores in the United States.

It wasn't until 50 years later in 2010 that the Civil Rights Museum opened with the original seats

and counter the four students sat at still preserved and blocked off as part of the exhibit.

ICRCM has also gone as far as to purchase the First Citizen National Bank next door, as an effort to preserve and expand the museum while also working in a collaborative fundraising campaign with the capital to pay for the necessary expenses that come with seeking this level of recognition.

John L. Swaine, CEO of ICRCM explains this process by expressing their desire to continue the expansion of the museum through the hire of new scholars and inclusion of new programs and exhibits to contribute to the museum's impact on the community.



PHOTO BY LIYA RIKE

The museum is located in Greensboro, North Carolina in F.W. Woolworth's, a site of a non-violent protest during the civil rights movement.



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# Elon hosts annual Pride Month gathering



PHOTO BY BELLA PELINI

A table display with pride flags and pronoun badges are laid out for Elon students and community members to take in order to represent and take pride in their identities.

Elon held its pride celebration on Young Commons to celebrate the LGBTQIA community

**Florencia Olivera & Bella Pelini**  
EJP.NEWS

Elon University's GLC program has been rated one of the "Top 30 best of the best LGBTQ-Friendly Universities" by the Campus Pride index for seven consecutive years. Elon University's Gender and LGBTQIA Center held its annual pride celebration on June 27 on Young Commons.

Pride month recognizes members of the LGBTQIA communities and acknowledges the struggles of exploring and empowering identity within sexuality and gender in a predominantly heteronormative society.

Dean of Students Jana Lynn Patterson suggested that people to become more knowledgeable about the issues surrounding people who identify as LGBTQIA.

"I think knowledge expands our ability to think kind of beyond our narrow focus," Patterson said. "So I would say one would be to study and two to support our LGBTQIA community."

Elon University offers counseling resources for various reasons, including identity development, coming out and gender transition in order to ensure every student feels a sense of belonging. Elon also offers universal bathrooms and allows other services such as name changes, one of the few things many institutions are implementing to challenge the heteronormative narrative.

Elon supports programs such as the GLC that are given the opportunity to create a safe environment where anyone, specifically members of the LGBTQIA communities, can feel accepted. The GLC's primary missions include accessible knowledge and education regarding LGBTQIA topics and supporting the "three v's": validated, valued and victorious. Center personnel work to remind those on campus that even if no



PHOTO BY BRITT MOBLEY

Cupcakes are decorated with rainbow icing and topped with the progress pride flags at Elon's Pride celebration on June 27.

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WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT, UPLIFT AND ADVOCATE FOR ALL MARGINALIZED STUDENTS, NO MATTER THEIR SEXUAL IDENTITY, RACE OR ETHNICITY

**SIMONE ROYAL**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CREDE

one's experience with sexuality and gender are the same, they are still valid.

"We are here to support, uplift and advocate for all marginalized students, no matter their sexual identity, race or ethnicity," said Simone Royal, assistant

director for the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education.

The CREDE's mission is to create an inclusive campus for all students, specifically for those from underrepresented and marginalized communities. Its

work often coincides with efforts the GLA undertakes and enforces the push for inclusivity on campus.

"It's [Elon] a really good community, which I appreciate," Elon student Gage Andrews said.



# Maker Hub offers creative outlet for students

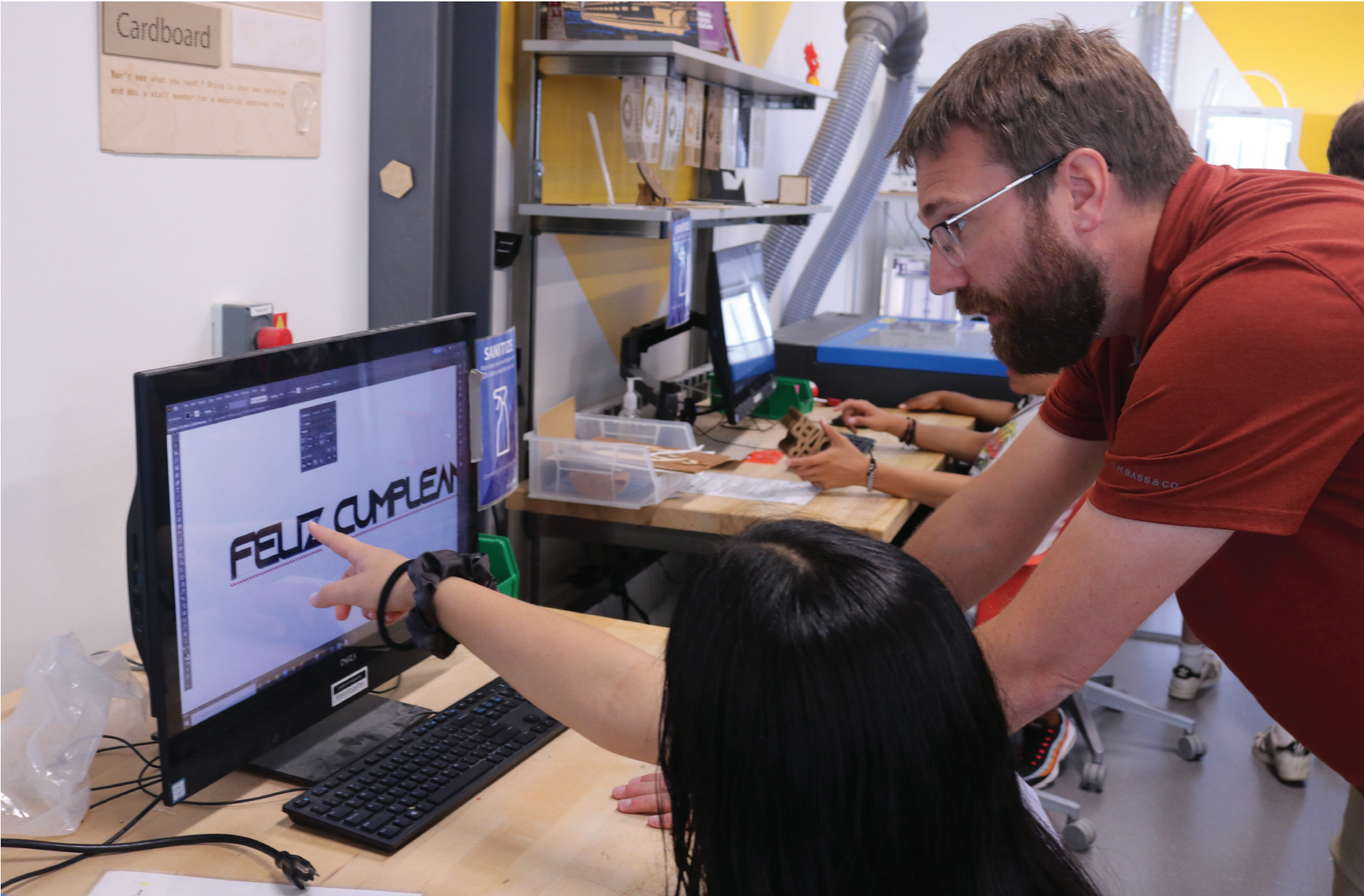


PHOTO BY NAAMAH SILCOTT

Maker Hub co-founder Dan Reis helps an Elon Academy student with a laser engraver project. The Maker Hub supplies opportunities with creative tools such as a laser engraver or 3D printer.

The Maker Hub not only offers educational tools for students but it also serves as a creative space for free

**Gabrielle Lashley, Lilly Molina & Naamah Silcott**  
EJP.NEWS

Elon University’s Maker Hub is known to be a place where students can channel their inner artistry and relieve stress. First-time maker and Elon Academy student Christen McAdoo thinks the same.

“While I’ve been in here, anything that’s kind of made me sad throughout the day, I haven’t really thought about it,” rising senior McAdoo said. “You can make things out of anger, sadness, happiness, anything.”

The Maker Hub was established five years ago by Dan Reis, a senior Instructional Technologist at Elon University. Reis had the idea to build a creative space for students around seven years ago and after discussing the proposal with upper administration, his wish was granted and the Maker Hub was opened in Elon’s Residence Hall.

“I like the opportunity of giving students a chance to work with their hands on stuff,” Reis said. “And then there’s research on how seeing a project through to its physical form is just an experience. It can’t be replicated by writing a paper or designing something.”

The Maker Hub gives students access to basic tools such as wood cutters, multiple types of paper and several tools made to shape and cut various materials. They are also given access to more advanced machinery like 3D printers, embroidery machines, laser engravers and more.

Students from the Elon Academy have made buttons, paintings, wood engravings and 3D printed items so far. Summer employees of the Hub have been assisting the students in the program.

“When it comes to projects, Maker Hub is a useful tool to use,” Maker Hub consultant Seth Wolter said. “A lot of equipment. A lot of resources, so it’s helpful.”

Employees of the Maker Hub have said it

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WHEN IT COMES TO PROJECTS, MAKER HUB IS A USEFUL TOOL TO USE. A LOT OF EQUIPMENT. A LOT OF RESOURCES, SO IT’S HELPFUL.

**SETH WOLTER**  
MAKER HUB CONSULTANT

has benefited them as well. Since the Hub is easily accessible, as it’s open from 12-6 p.m., some even come on their own time to find a creative outlet and make things.

They say it’s a good place to gain experience working with different kinds of machinery. Both employees and users have also said that the Maker Hub has taught more than just working machines. Users of the Maker Hub have found that it is a good place to grow communication skills.

“It helped me listen and help others,” Elon Academy student Johnathan Mushi said. “I had to listen to another peer show me how to build a little button and then once I listened, and he taught me, I showed other people.”

The Maker Hub has become a sanctuary for people to clear their minds from their busy agendas. Users and employees of the Maker Hub said they find it to be a relaxing place where they can get away from stress.

“I had an idea for Father’s Day, so I was kind of stressed out that day,” Elon Academy counselor Bridget Peralta said. “But when I came out, I was very happy.”

Students from Elon Academy have said they look forward to coming back to the Maker Hub and use the facility to pursue their academic or personal projects.

“I definitely would come back just to try new things and make new things,” McAdoo said. “While you’re in here, I talked to people I haven’t usually talked to before so I get to meet new people.”



PHOTO BY NAAMAH SILCOTT

An Elon Academy student asks Maker Hub staff for advice on a project.

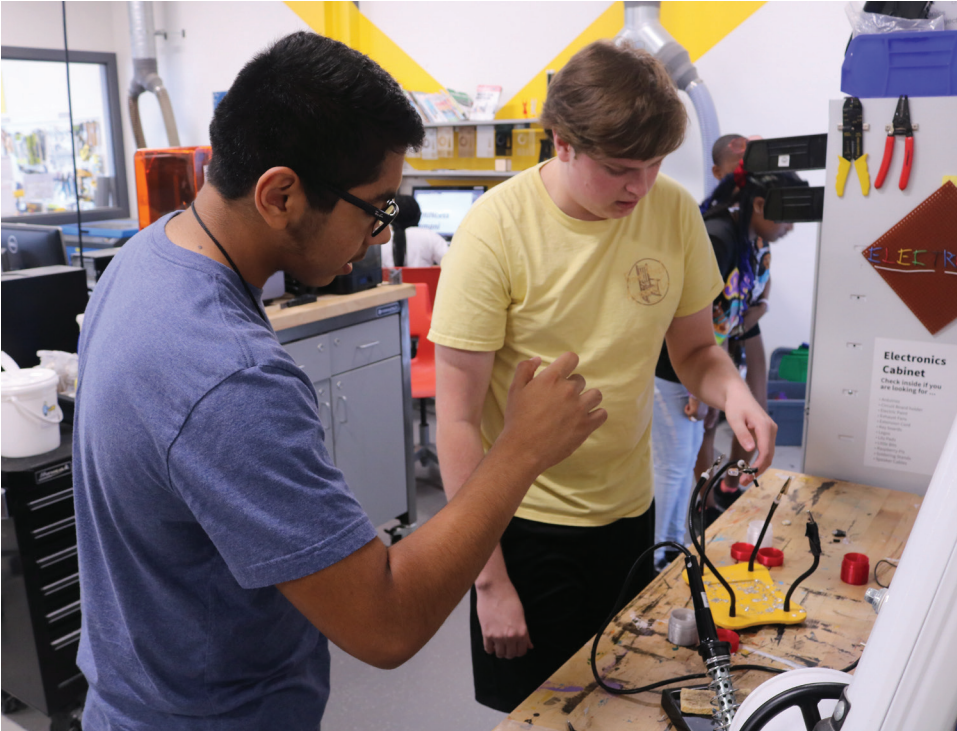


PHOTO BY NAAMAH SILCOTT

An Elon Academy student works with a Maker Hub employee to create a lightbulb.



# Showcasing patriotism



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MESSELE

Assistant Librarian Randall Bowman explaining the significance of perserving the plane artificats in telling Dewey Hooper's story.

## Elon class ring draws archivist to WWII pilot

Liv Frey, Chloe Kiser  
& Michael Messele  
EJP.NEWS

Dewey Hooper, Elon graduate and bomber pilot, died in 1942. Eighty years later, the resurfacing of his 1940 class ring compelled archivist and assistant librarian Randall Bowman to share Hooper's story.

Bowman initially planned to conduct research tying Elon University and World War II together to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

"I stumbled across the Dewey Hooper collection, and I started digging into it and got fascinated with not only what happened to him in his very brief time in the war, before he was killed, but also what happened 50 years later," Bowman said.

While visiting family in Australia, Ron Deering discovered the wreckage from Hooper's flight. Bowman said Deering simply happened to be up on the mountain exploring the wreckage when he found Hooper's belongings. He traveled back to his home, where he got in touch with Elon. From there, Hooper's family was contacted and his belongings were returned, but later, the objects were donated back to the university to be stored in the archives.

Hooper's class ring from then-Elon College serves as the centerpiece of the exhibit.

"The first time I actually looked at that I really got quite a thrill," Bowman said.

He described the gold alloy band with a garnet gemstone as "probably not worth a whole lot of money as far as the materials," but rather rich in school pride. Bowman said he believes that Hooper saw the ring as



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Class of 1940 ring discovered by Ron Deering. The band is comprised of gold and alloy material, enclosing a garnet gemstone.

a memento or "something to look at or remind him where he came from because he's far away from home."

Bowman hoped to reach a wide array of people by launching Hooper's exhibit online. "The main thing was that I just wanted

to get the story together in one place, all the different threads of it. And I hope that people, students, will take a look at it and be interested," he said.

To learn about Dewey Hooper's life and view his class ring, visit [archives.elon.edu](https://archives.elon.edu).

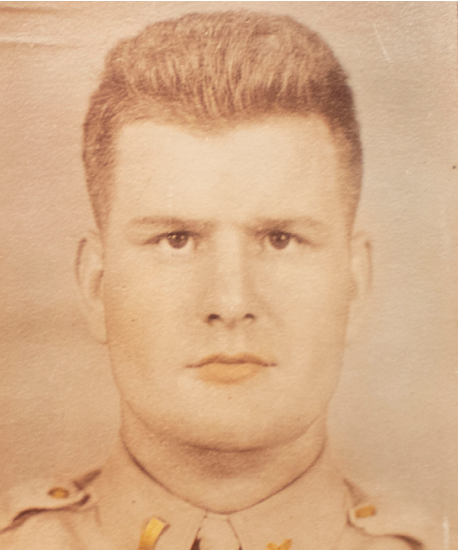


PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Photo of Dewey Hooper taken during his time spent in the Air Force.

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I JUST WANTED TO GET THE STORY TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE, ALL THE DIFFERENT THREADS OF IT.

**RANDALL BOWMAN**  
ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN



# Elon students serve local community through summer internships

While some students may leave for summer break others are staying back to work for local businesses

**Toromo Funsho & Liya Rike**  
EJP.NEWS

An eight-week paid summer internship, Campus Alamance gives Elon University students the opportunity to gain professional experience.

The program was created in 2021 and has grown from 14 students and 13 businesses to 38 students and 48 businesses this year.

In collaboration with Connie Book, the president of Elon University, Robin Kazemarek, the director of internships for the College of Arts and Sciences, created this program to provide students with internships.

“It’s helping to provide them with professional skills and being able to develop those for whatever that next step might be after Elon and then helping them to determine if that particular field is something that they’re interested in pursuing for a long term career plan as well,” said Kazemarek.

Campus Alamance is a partnership between Elon University and local organizations including, but not limited to, Benevolence Farm, Burlington Sock Puppets and All That Jas. Kazemarek said she hopes this program will grow more competitive as participants increase in number.

“It’s not a competitive program where we’re cutting people in the process but there might not necessarily be an opportunity for everyone,” said Kazemarek.

Employees work 20-30 hours per week, which for some businesses is helpful because it’s an exchange between intern and employer.

“We gain being able to help them learn, but also they can then help us with our workflow and our efficiency,” said Alli Hall, the practice manager of the Elon Veterinary



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MESSELE

Town of Elon sign in front of the Elon Oaks Veterinary Hospital.

Hospital “As they learn more skills, they get to do more things. We wanted to educate the interns so that they had a good knowledge base about the procedures that we do and the protocols that we do about basic veterinary care.”

In the past two years, Campus Alamance participants have continued to increase in number and so have the partnerships with the businesses.

“I work with the town, with the different departments of the government,” Elon University Student Avery Sloan said. “This week I was working with the planning department and the town clerk, previously I worked with the recreation and parks

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IT’S A GOOD THING TO DO, ESPECIALLY IF YOU DON’T HAVE SOMETHING OVER THE SUMMER.

**AVERY SLOAN**  
SOPHOMORE

department.”

Sloan, a rising sophomore, is working at the Town of Elon in a political internship. Sloan said she believes that the Campus Alamance program would be a good opportunity for interns to partake in.

“It’s a good thing to do, especially if you don’t have something over the summer, it’s nice. If it’s something you’re interested in,” said Sloan

More information can be found on the Elon Job Network. Applications begin in December and end in February, the program takes place from June 1st to July 27th.

## Service Fellows program gives back to Alamance County

Directly after graduation students at Elon are staying to help the community that helped them

**Florencia Olivera & Chloe Kiser**  
EJP.NEWS

Not everyone who graduates spends their first year chasing a paycheck – some choose to give back to their community instead. For those students, The Elon Service Fellows program is an opportunity to expand their horizons while honoring Alamance County.

Former university president, Leo Lambert, established a program in 2014 to serve Alamance County. The Service Fellowship is aimed at recent alumni in an effort to aid their community. Today, Laurie Judge is head of the program.

The Service Fellows program was inspired by the Service Year Alliance, which allows recent graduates to give back to their communities nationally. The primary difference between the two programs is their target location – focusing on local rather than national.

The Alamance Community Assessment, conducted by Impact Alamance, Alamance Regional Medical Center, the United Way of Alamance County, Healthy Alamance and the Health Department, works to identify focus areas around the county that would benefit from assistance.

“They [Healthy Alamance] identified areas of concern in areas that needed focus. Access to health care, education and



PHOTO COURTESY ELON UNIVERSITY

Members of the new cohort of year Service Graduate Feellows are, from left, Isabella DeLaGarza, Taylor Russ, Sarah Peake, Jazmin Campbell, Grace Holmes and Toni Parker.

economic development in this county were the three legs to a stool that were identified,” said Judge.

The Service Fellowship is able to maintain stability through partnerships with organizations within Alamance County such as the Health Department, Healthy Alamance, Impact Alamance and the City of Burlington’s Economic Development.

The application process consists of an online form and an in-person interview. About 20 applications are submitted

annually in competition for six slots. “We look for initiative,” said Judge. “The Fellows are brought on and they hit the ground running from day one. They all are doing really important work.”

While immersed in Alamance County, the Fellows deal with issues that require quick and effective solutions and are encouraged to identify areas that could benefit from their assistance. Dedication to the program is evident through 12 months of 40 hour weeks for the graduates.

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THE FELLOWS ARE BROUGHT ON AND THEY HIT THE GROUND RUNNING FROM DAY ONE. THEY ALL ARE DOING REALLY IMPORTANT WORK.

**LAURIE JUDGE**  
SENIOR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CAREER SERVICES FOR ELON COLLEGE, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The Service Fellows program has ambitious goals, including a plan to double the program by 2030. Many who have served as a fellow stay in Alamance county. “It’s really kind of a sweet spot,” Judge said. “We’re looking for things that they want to stay in Alamance County– continue the work they’ve been doing, because they really become ingrained in the community.”





Rep. Ricky Hurtado said he believes the bill will allow for easier access to education funds in North Carolina schools.

PHOTO BY EJP STAFF

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“Investing in our youngest prepares them for the rest of the education pipeline going through K-12, to college, to career,” Hurtado said.

This fight against disparity in the education system is nothing recent, with the issue dating all the way back to the 1990s with the Leandro vs. State of North Carolina case.

“The Leandro case, for those that are familiar with it, is a case that’s been running for over 25 years. And in those 25 years have constantly found that our state of North Carolina is not doing their constitutional duty of providing a sound basic education for every child,” Rep. Hurtado said. “And so all this bill does is rectify that problem in North Carolina and make sure that we as a state, as a legislature, is providing the resources. We need to make sure that every child succeeds here in North Carolina.”

Improving the education pipeline would win the battle, but not the war. The true victory, Hurtado says, would

be to prepare children for a successful career, and ultimately, a successful adulthood.

“If we are doing our job here in North Carolina, here as lawmakers in the General Assembly, that regardless of where you’re born, what ZIP code you’re in, or what community, whether it’s in eastern or western North Carolina, we need to make sure that we’re building an education system that creates a strong workforce for North Carolina,” Hurtado said.

But a bill cannot pass itself - this is why both politicians and advocacy groups stress the importance of collective work done by local communities in their own backyards.

“I think everybody should be calling their representatives in state government and federal government and local government,” Zuckerman said. “If there’s an issue that matters to you, pick up the phone, send an email, go find them. Go find them at a town hall, go find them when they’re home during breaks.”

According to Zuckerman, working class mothers are some of the least

represented people in government. This is not by choice, but because of the exhausting demands of being a parent. Nonetheless, she urges parents to get out and make their voices heard so politicians understand the importance of making education more accessible to all.

“They need to know what those [demands] are, and that means telling them using your own voice, sharing your own story. That is the most effective way to communicate with legislators,” Zuckerman said. “You don’t have to be an expert on the subject, you just need to be an expert on your own family, and what’s happening in your household or in your community. But all of those things matter.”

With midterms on the horizon, Hurtado said, it is essential to keep up these conversations. Whether it be at the next town hall meeting or the dinner table, he urged people to keep talking about inequitable access to education, to keep advocating for those voices who cannot be heard, so children can be set up for success in the future.



PHOTO BY EJP STAFF

Rep. Hurtado speaks at a press conference on June 23 to advocate for a bill he’s introduced that would improve financing for education.

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AND SO ALL THIS BILL DOES IS RECTIFY THAT PROBLEM IN NORTH CAROLINA AND MAKE SURE THAT WE AS A STATE, AS A LEGISLATURE, IS PROVIDING THE RESOURCES. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERY CHILD SUCCEEDS HERE IN NORTH CAROLINA.

**REP. RICKY HURTADO**  
NC DISTRICT 63



# Elon aims to continue previously implemented sustainable practices

Elon, continuing to build on its 2015 Sustainability Master Plan, proposes goal of being carbon neutral by 2037

Olivia Ruiz, Toromo Funsho & Keely Garcia  
EJP.NEWS

As numerous colleges in recent years have pledged to increase sustainability on campus, Elon University, has worked on implementing and maintaining sustainability efforts since as early as 2004.

Former Elon President Leo Lambert appointed The Environmental Advisory Council, composed of Elon faculty, staff and students who are dedicated to maintaining and promoting sustainability on campus. Lambert said the decision to fill the board with individuals affiliated with the university was purposeful.

“The advisory council is composed of people who have other jobs at the institutions,” Lambert said. “The professors, the students, the staff members are part of this council because they want to be part of the dialogue on campus about shaping environmental policy.”

According to Elon’s website, the Office of Sustainability’s mission is “to advance sustainability at Elon by helping to streamline and improve university operations and developing and fostering educational programs.” This initiative is demonstrated through the educational offerings at Loy Farm, which Lambert said was one of his starting initiatives to promote sustainability.

“The institution was able to acquire Loy Farm, which is out on Front Street next to Magnolia Cemetery,” Lambert said. “We decided to devote a significant



TOROMO FUNSHO / PHOTOGRAPHER

Students have access to the greenhouse at Loy Farm in order to do research or attend a class. There are two other greenhouses at the farm.

amount of land up there for a solar farm and another kind of environmental teaching laboratory out there, as well, so that solar farm produces enough solar energy for hundreds and hundreds of homes each year.”

Following Lambert’s presidency, Elon has continued to expand on its sustainability efforts, recently launching Boldly Elon, a strategic plan ending in 2030 that encourages students to learn, thrive, connect and rise. Boldly Elon was inspired by UNICEF’s Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals that aim to eliminate poverty, implement affordable and clean energy, and embrace global equality.

Elon has continually shown its desire and ability to follow through on its sustainability ini-

tiatives, which Lambert said is what has allowed Elon to make such notable progress.

“I think what has allowed the university to make so much progress over the last many decades is that not only do we have a plan, but then we actually do the plan, we execute on the plan,” Lambert said.

In the 2015 Sustainability Master Plan, Elon announced its goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2037. Although travel associated with study abroad contribute to 20% of Elon’s greenhouse gas emissions, the Office of Sustainability still believes this goal can be achieved. Elaine Durr, the first full-time sustainability coordinator and now sustainability director, said she believes that the

university will eventually reach carbon neutrality.

“We have made progress,” Durr said. “We definitely have more work to do by 2037, but we are on the right track.”

Students also play a large role in maintaining and promoting sustainability. According to Kelly Harer, the assistant director of sustainability for education and outreach, many students are involved and supportive of the sustainability initiative on campus.

“I also run our Eco-Reps program, which are eight students who are peer educators who promote sustainability here on campus via the neighborhoods we have around Elon,” Harer said. “So they work with community directors, resident assistants and other

people who are planning events in the neighborhoods.

“I think it’s really important that we get students from every major interested in sustainability because it takes all of us to be sustainable.”

She added that sustainability requires the support of all students, regardless of their major.

Elon is a leading example of a university that has embraced sustainability on campus and in the classroom. The support of this initiative from the faculty, staff and students demonstrates why sustainability is important not just on Elon’s campus but on a global scale.

“Because I think about our future,” Durr said, “we all need to work together in harmony.”

Thank You

EMERGING JOURNALISTS PROGRAM

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# Pandora's Pies commemorates 10 years with family-focused celebration



PHOTO BY MONIKA JUREVICIUS

Pandora's Pies, a restaurant in downtown Elon, celebrated its anniversary earlier this year. Owner Kimberly Holt said the pizza place's sense of community is what brings customers back.

Elon's local pizza shop celebrates a decade of providing food and service to the community

Liv Frey, Monika Jurevicius  
& Florencia Olivera  
EJP.NEWS

Pandora's Pies, located on the main strip through downtown Elon, is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this year by continuing to bring joy to the table.

The restaurant has managed to stay in business for the past decade because of its commitment to quality customer service and its tight knit staff. Owner Kimberly Holt attributed the hotspot's success to its atmosphere.

"Its felt like home," Holt said. "If I was at a place for two years or five years, I get that itch that I kind of want to move on and do something different. And for some reason here, it felt like home."

Holt said she believes a connected staff within the restaurant is vital to its success, and she has witnessed all of the changes and developments the restaurant has gone through. Staff members said they believe Pandora's provides a sense of family, rather than it feeling strictly like a work environment.

"When you come into Pandora's, it's like coming into family because everybody cares about each other and we try to take care of each other," Chef Charisma Workman said. "This is the only place I have ever worked in my whole entire life that, actually, the front of the house, the waitresses and all them, and the kitchen and the back of the house are just so close. We all just work so perfect."

As an initiative to support local businesses within Alamance County, Pandora's partners with local farms and vendors to source its products.

"If you don't support them, who's going to?" Holt said. "And it's all about just supporting each other and helping each other grow because the more restaurants support



PHOTO BY MONIKA JUREVICIUS

Pandora's Pies is right across the street from Elon University, making it easily accessible — and a popular spot — for students.

our local farmers, the bigger that they can get."

Former owners Peter Ustach and Jeff MacKenzie opened Pandora's together on Jan. 7, 2012, eventually passing the business on to Holt and chef Lincoln Frenchall in 2017.

A large part of Pandora's history involves Frenchall, the former head chef and co-owner, who suddenly passed away in 2021.

The staff had to continue running a successful business while dealing with the loss of a crucial staff member.

"Lincoln was the best," Holt said. "He was the best boss, he was easy to talk to. He not only cared about this place and loved this place, he cared about his family deeply, he cared about every single person that was working here."

The restaurant is continuing Frenchall's legacy with references of him scattered throughout the restaurant: Lincoln's vision

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WHEN YOU COME INTO PANDORA'S, IT'S LIKE COMING INTO FAMILY BECAUSE EVERYBODY CARES ABOUT EACH OTHER AND WE TRY TO TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER. THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE I HAVE EVER WORKED IN MY WHOLE ENTIRE LIFE THAT ACTUALLY THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE, THE WAITRESSES AND ALL THEM, AND THE KITCHEN AND THE BACK OF THE HOUSE ARE JUST SO CLOSE.

CHARISMA WORKMAN  
CHEF

of a "family" tree is painted on the wall with photos hanging from it, a mushroom showcasing his times foraging for them and a flying disc from the Lincoln Farchell Me-

morial Tournament held last year in honor of his memory.

"He'll always be alive in this place," Holt said.



# Striving for change



PHOTO BY LIV FREY

Freedom Scholars director Prudence Layne leads her students in discussion. The inaugural cohort comprises 15 rising high school seniors from throughout Alamance County.

## Elon launches new college access program for local high schoolers

Freedom Scholars put democracy and leadership into practice

Omar Kayali & Michael Messele  
EJP.NEWS

This year marks the first year of Freedom Scholars, Elon University’s new program for high schoolers in the Alamance-Burlington school system.

From June 19 to July 2, rising high school seniors in the area are attending classes focused on philosophy, democracy and leadership. The goal of the program is to help the students impact their local communities.

“I really kept it rooted and centered in the local area,” said Prudence Layne, an Elon associate professor of English and director of Freedom Scholars. “Elon already occupies a really important space in the K-12 educational system in the Alamance-Burlington area.”

Layne said that seeing some of her colleagues explain classical texts on philosophy and democracy in a contemporary context inspired her to attempt the same with the program. She said she hopes that students will add some of those values to their personal experiences and try to make change in their communities.

“For one of my mentees, she’s really focusing on making sure that there’s centers for queer youth in their area and thinking about how they can bring an

“  
I’M REALLY ALONG FOR  
THE RIDE. I’M OPEN TO  
WHEREVER THIS PATH AND  
THIS COMMITMENT TAKES  
US.  
PRUDENCE LAYNE  
DIRECTOR OF THE FREEDOM  
SCHOLARS

organization to their area that would help to uplift and protect queer youth,” student mentor Christina Stafford said.

The program also looks to aid students financially. The program was free to attend, and after completing the summer program, participants will receive an \$800 honorarium to cover any income lost from their household during the two weeks they attended Elon.

“Dr. Layne was really focused on making sure they would be prepared for college, not only mentally and academically, but physically and financially,” Stafford said. “That’s one thing that defines this program against others — it doesn’t focus on just, ‘What do you need to know?’ It focused on, ‘What do you need?’”

After the summer program ends, students will meet with their mentors throughout the school year to help track the progress of their civic engagement projects. At the end of the year, they will be hosting a symposium to present their projects and welcome the next cohort of Freedom Scholars.

The symposium will be completely student organized and hosted. Though the program is only in its inaugural year, it hopes to expand its impact and looks to grow as it moves forward.

“I’m really along for the ride,” Layne said. “I’m open to wherever this path and this commitment takes us.”



# Eating well, getting sleep important factors for transition to college

By Gabrielle Lashley, Jashiya Maynard & Adwoa Serebour  
EJP.NEWS

Transitioning from high school to college brings many challenges: what to eat, when to sleep, how to study. And any incoming freshman's response to those needs might determine how they perform in the classroom.

"It's definitely hard going into any new environment," Elon University student and rising sophomore Addie Holden said. "Especially going into a space where you're sleeping in a room with a stranger. It's very tough."

With new factors such as an unfamiliar location and an altered workload, many students' lifestyles change, as well. According to the Austin Journal of sleep disorders, food choice and physical activity are closely related to quantity and quality of sleep. The recommended amount of sleep for younger adults is between seven to nine hours each night, but because of the relentlessness of a college schedule, shut eye can be hard to come by.

"I need to delegate my sleep well, or else I'm gonna start failing my classes," rising sophomore Clay Burns said. "So I found it much easier to find time to just either take naps throughout the day or go to bed earlier."

Food consumption is also heavily affected by college life. According to ScienceDirect, many students adapt unhealthy diets, eating a lot of fast food and fewer fruits and vegetables. Stress has been connected to these dietary habits. But still, the change in schedule, resources and general routine actually forced some new college freshmen to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

"I find it easier, as well," Burns said. "If you have a good schedule that you're sticking to and if you have healthy foods, it's going to be a big improvement from high



PHOTO BY GABRIELLE LASHLEY

Students enjoy a meal at Lakeside Dining Hall. High schoolers must track their food consumption when they get to college.

school, waking up, barely having breakfast, having a cup of coffee."

According to the National Library of Medicine, some college freshmen go through drastic bodily and mental changes at the start of college. A reported quarter of freshmen gain a significant amount of weight in their first year of college and sleeping habits often worsen through this

transition and into adulthood. Students at Elon University have also experienced these changes.

"Well, for me, at least, physically, I think I got in better shape," Burns said. "And I would walk in so much. I don't know, I feel like my mental health definitely improved."

Students have said that as they've ma-

neuvered through their first year of college, they ultimately improved by the end and hope they can continue to progress in the future.

"Later my eating habits have definitely changed," Heidenreich said. "I sort of went kind of vegan for a little bit and I was feeling amazing, like I was running every day and drinking more."

# Elon students research impact of mentorship on Black college athletes

Danielle Dyer, along with faculty, secured grant funding from the Knight Commission

By Omar Kayali  
EJP.NEWS

An Elon student is studying the effects of mentorship on Black student-athletes and how it impacts their lives, both academically and personally.

Rising junior Danielle Dyer, a sprinter on the Elon women's track and field team, dug into the research after being told about the study by Elon University exercise science professors Eric Hall and Caroline Ketcham. The project relates to a grant from the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics meant to help advance racial equity in college sports.

"I've been doing literature reviews, so just reading a lot of existing research and existing studies that are on mentoring within athletic programs," said Dyer, the



PHOTO BY OMAR KAYALI

The Elon Phoenix statue in front of the Alumni Field House located next to Rhodes Stadium.

study's lead researcher. "We also have a survey that's going out within the Elon Black student-athlete population."

Hall sent the survey to 100 Black Elon athletes. Results from are being compared to the previously existing research in order to identify trends present within the Elon community.

As a Black athlete herself, Dyer greatly prioritizes being able to find someone she can identify with, something that some students may struggle with at a predominantly white institution. While this struggle differs from sport to sport, Dyer hopes that this research will help students become more aware that they can

reach out to different people to establish a "constellation" of mentors.

"The mentor constellation is being able to reach out to more than one person, more like three to four people, but all of them provide different needs for you," Dyer said. "One could be for athletic support, one could be for

academic support, one could be emotional, and one could just be a friend."

Dyer said she believes Elon does a good job of being welcoming, but for her, the biggest problem is that incoming athletes are not aware that they can reach out beyond their sport to find someone to connect with on a more personal level.

"I think having a mentor, especially outside of athletics, can help you remember that you have an identity outside of being athletes," Dyer said. "Say you have a mentor within your school or your department within the university. That's going to help you be able to form relationships outside of athletics."

According to Ketcham, Dyer's presence in the research added a voice that brought variety and nuance to the study. Her voice and insight as a Black student athlete herself provided valuable information to the research team, which helped better inform their study.

The results of the study have yet to be published and organized, but according to Dyer, the data will soon be scanned over and arranged.



# Energy at ballpark keeps Greensboro Grasshoppers fans coming back



Greensboro Grasshoppers infielder Yoyner Fajardo warms up before his first at-bat of the game against the Asheville Tourists. Fajardo has been with the Grasshoppers since August of 2021. PHOTO BY JASHIYA MAYNARD

Forget the record. It's the fan experience that matters.

Olivia Ruiz  
EJP.NEWS

The Greensboro Grasshoppers currently sport a losing record. The high single-A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates are fifth in the South Division of the South Atlantic League and sport a 5.70 team ERA. But those stats don't matter to the fans, who continue to show up because of the atmosphere the gameday atmosphere at First National Bank Field.

Sarah Hancock, a longtime fan, said she has supported the team for years before they were noted as the Grasshoppers.

"I've been coming to Grasshoppers games since before they were Grasshoppers," Hancock said. "I went to see the Bats (1979-1993) and the Hornets (1994-2004). I've been watching them for years."

Hancock also said her favorite memory while supporting the Grasshoppers was watching the team win the playoffs.

"At the end of the game, it was a walk-off home run and the last of the night that won the game, and everybody went crazy," she said.

In an Aug. 25 game against the Asheville Tourists, the went the most wild when designated hitter Dariel Lopez hit a grand slam in the bottom of the first to put the Grasshoppers in the lead for good.

“ I’VE BEEN COMING TO GRASSHOPPERS GAMES SINCE BEFORE THEY WERE GRASSHOPPERS. I WENT TO SEE THE BATS (1979-1993) AND THE HORNETS (1994-2004). SARAH HANCOCK GRASSHOPPERS FAN

Greensboro added another home run in the same inning for good measure. The Tourists never really threatened the rest of the way, and Greensboro won 14-10.

Pitcher Domingo Gonzalez struck out six batters in 2½ innings, and Eddy Yean pitched the last three innings to close out the game.

After, the Grasshoppers teated fans to an explosive fireworks show, and infielder Jackson Glenn came back onto the field to talk to young fans and sign memorabilia. As the Grasshoppers head into the rest of their season, it is clear fans will continue to show up and endlessly give their support.

Bella Pelini and Jashiya Maynard also contributed to this story.



The Grasshoppers beat the Tourists 14-10 and never trailed in the game. They hit two home runs, one a grand slam. PHOTO BY JASHIYA MAYNARD



Jackson Glenn (27) and Rhett Kouba (31) watch the post-game fireworks together in the Grasshoppers dugout. PHOTO BY BELLA PELINI



# Elon’s annual tennis camp serves up summer fun with lessons for kids



Tennis camp counselor helps a camper perfect her backhand.

PHOTO BY BELLA PELINI

Lilliana Molina  
EJP.NEWS

Nina Brasington has been participating in Elon University’s tennis camp since she was 11 years old. Brasington is homeschooled, so one of the ways she can socialize with other children is through tennis.

“I love coming here and being on the courts again,” Brasington said.

The annual tennis summer camp is open to all children, no matter the level of expertise they might have. It was established by Elizabeth Anderson, head coach of Elon’s women’s tennis, team six years ago. Tennis camps existed previously at Elon. There are options for kids to participate for half a day, full day, or residentially.

“I just was really inspired and excited about leading a camp,” Anderson said. “That is I think where it kind of started and then it just sort of developed over the years.”

With the help of former assistant coach of Elon’s men’s tennis team, Bob Owens, Anderson said returning players and incoming freshmen help the camp run smoothly.

Counselors divide the students into different groups based on experience and help them improve their technique. In addition, the players also learn lessons that will help them beyond the court.

Anderson said that she has a degree in sports psychology, so she likes to teach children leadership skills based on what they did in the camp.

“I’ve learned independence, especially when you are playing in singles,” Brasington said. “You have to learn to just be dependent on yourself.”

Owens said he and the other coaches all want the kids have an enjoyable experience.

“We want the kids to have a good time,” Owens said. “Obviously we want to improve their skill level while they are here and do it in a way that they have a lot of fun.”

For Olivia Leonard, a camp counselor,

the staff is not only focused on perfecting the players’ techniques. Counselors also want the kids to find a new love for tennis. The kids get to meet other children their age who have a similar passion for the sport. Some children, like Brasington, continue to return because they love the camp’s environment.

And for Owens, the camp has become a part of his life.

“My best memory is knowing that Elon’s tennis camp helped raise our children,” Owens said. “It gave them the kind of values we want them to have and understand the importance of making connections.”

The Tennis Academy is more than just giving children their daily dose of Vitamin D. Instead, children can make friends, practice their passion and learn values that will last a lifetime.

“Hopefully they can enjoy it when they are young and then it continues on for the rest of their lives,” Leonard said.



Camper practices her forehand against another player.

PHOTO BY BELLA PELINI



A camp participant practices his tennis skills.

PHOTO BY BELLA PELINI

“WE WANT THE KIDS TO HAVE A GOOD TIME. OBVIOUSLY WE WANT TO IMPROVE THEIR SKILL LEVEL WHILE THEY ARE HERE AND DO IT IN A WAY THAT THEY HAVE A LOT OF FUN.”

BOB OWENS  
TENNIS COACH