

LOVED ONES LOST

remembering sharon paylor and l.m. wood

Coming to Elon can mean many different things for different people. For a lot of students, entering Elon is a transition into a life of beautiful scenery, intimate classes, bustling social involvement and a comfortable routine. We find the professors who teach to our learning styles and the staff members who smile back when we say "thank you" at the dining halls. We find our place within that infamous "Elon bubble", and that often means finding our people.

For many students and staff, the people that became a part of their comfortable daily routines included **Sharon Paylor**, a staff member at the Fountain Market, and **L.M. Wood**, an art professor. Both women unfortunately passed away this year, leaving behind legacies of kindness and support with the people who knew them.

Sharon Paylor passed away on January 2 on her way to work. One of Paylor's coworkers, **Sheena Thomas**, said that her death was a great loss to the community.

"She brightened everybody's day," Thomas said. "She did a lot of talking to the students. She made them feel good, and that made us feel good." Paylor's upbeat energy,

which often included trying to sing and make people happy, will be missed by the entire Elon Dining community and the Elon community at large.

L.M. Wood passed away in her sleep March 9, leaving her husband, colleagues, and students grieving. Having been an advisor for multiple clubs, including Creative Resolution and The Edge magazine, it was evident to many that Wood was a dedicated teacher and mentor. One student even credited her with her career choice.

"She is the reason I became an art student, and if there is anything I will graduate with, it is the confidence knowing that I have nothing to regret," said senior **Kerry Sheehan-Delany**. "Because of her, I chose to pursue the things that I love to do. That is something I can't thank her enough for." (Photos courtesy of Elon University, Facebook, and Elon News Network.)

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"[Paylor] will be extremely missed by the whole Elon Dining community."

Casey Clafin, Elon Dining guest experiences manager

"[Wood] came into the class with no expectations and just wanted everybody to succeed no matter where you were at."

Junior **Hailey Burkett**

"[Paylor] would always try to sing to try to make us happy, lift our spirits."

Sheena Thomas, Elon Dining employee

"Our students flooded to her. [Wood] swelled the enrollments of her classes because students followed her, and it's a testament to how much she cared for them and they cared for her."

Michael Fels, Art and Art History Department Chair