



IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 2025 Sustainability Master Plan
- 2 Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Lauren Guilmette
- 3 Staff Spotlight: Wendy Williams, Terry Rogers
- 5 Student Spotlight: Chloe Stuart '24
- 7 Resources

As part of the listening sessions, we asked if participants agreed or disagreed with the below statement:

"It is important for Elon University to be a leader in sustainability."

91% agreed or strongly agreed*

*Based on responses from 81 students, faculty, and staff.

ELON SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

Elon begins developing next campus wide Sustainability Master Plan

BY: SOPHIE ESKENAZI

Elon University has started the development process for the next campus wide Sustainability Master Plan (SMP). This plan is directly connected to the Boldly Elon strategic plan, which calls on the university to "Engage the campus in sustainable practices to become carbon neutral by 2037, [by] investing in renewable energy, reducing energy consumption and preparing students to lead lives that build a sustainable future." The next SMP will be released in spring 2025 and will identify strategies to achieve Elon's goal of carbon neutrality by 2037. The plan will also include goals and strategies for a more sustainable campus as well as an implementation plan and metrics or key performance indicators (KPIs).

In September, listening sessions were held to provide campus community members with the opportunity to contribute ideas for the next plan. Topic-specific working groups have been formed to develop the goals and strategies of the plan on the following topics: academics, administrative services, engagement, facilities, transportation and waste reduction. The input gathered during the listening sessions will be shared with the working groups to inform their work. Throughout the plan development process, updates will be posted on the [SMP website](#).



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. LAUREN GUILMETTE

BY: ELIANA OLIVIER

Dr. Lauren Guilmette is an associate professor in the philosophy department. She joined the Elon community in 2019 and is also the co-coordinator of the women's gender and sexuality studies department. Dr. Guilmette will be teaching courses in environmental ethics and environmental justice in the future.

Living in south Florida sparked her interest in sustainability, as the effects of climate change were very present and apparent. Evacuating for two hurricanes and seeing the algal blooms in the ocean were very distinct representations of how climate change can severely impact communities. Dr. Guilmette has been involved in community gardening since coming to Elon and also encourages students in her courses to join her in this endeavor. She has even taken up composting at home, learning from her new

neighbor who has many years of experience composting. In her Introduction to Ethics class, she takes her students to the Common Ground Eco Village that Dr. Anthony Weston, a retired Elon professor, is helping to build.

Dr. Guilmette is passionate about the importance of including sustainability in conversations about ethics and philosophy, as well as fostering connections with the community outside of our campus. She works with Alamance Food Collaborative, a local organization dedicated to supporting local farmers and providing access to healthy food and education. If any students are interested in getting involved with the Alamance Food Collaborative, Dr. Guilmette would love for them to reach out to her!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: WENDY WILLIAMS AND TERRY ROGERS

BY: MATTHEW FLACKSENBURG

From the iconic oak trees in Historic Neighborhood to the grand magnolias on Young Commons, it is safe to say that Elon would not be the same without its trees. Fortunately, two staff members are working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that the campus trees are happy and healthy.

Wendy Williams began at Elon as a gardener, where she discovered a fondness for pruning trees and shrubs. When the university began to look for a full-time arborist, she applied for the job and began the process of getting certified. Meanwhile, a young Terry Rogers was growing up in Alamance County and admiring the work done by Elon's groundskeepers, hoping one day to join them. After earning a degree in Horticulture, he too was hired as a gardener and went on to become a certified arborist.

As arborists, Wendy and Terry are tasked with maintaining the health of the trees on campus. This includes monitoring for pests and poor health, pruning trees to develop good



structure, growing hard to source tree species in the nursery at Loy Farm, updating the digital tree inventory data, installing botanical labels and planting replacement trees. While I was interviewing them, Terry received a call alerting them to the location of a hazardous dead branch that needed to be pruned before it could fall on the street. The pair quickly suited up in their safety gear and rushed to the scene to eliminate the wayward foliage. Never a dull moment in the life of an arborist!

Continue on Next Page >>>



When asked about how sustainability intersects with their work, Wendy discussed the important services provided by the trees on campus. Not only do they provide lots of shade and beauty, but they also provide carbon sequestration; habitats for insects, birds and mammals and temperature regulation through the water leaving their leaves. In addition, Elon and the arborists are always looking for new ways to do their work sustainably, including composting trimmings at Loy Farm and raising a diverse array of native species that may be under threat. Terry even showed me their new

electric trimmer and told me they are hoping to continue phasing out inefficient gasoline powered tools.

If you are looking to better appreciate the trees on campus, the arborists recommend taking time to read the species labels and learn more about them. By seeing the trees as individuals, you may be encouraged to learn more and become a good steward of the land.

DID YOU KNOW? Elon's botanical garden earned an accreditation in 2019! [Read more here.](#)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: CHLOE STUART '24

BY: LAUREN HILL

Chloe Stuart is a double major in environmental and ecological science and outdoor leadership and education, and a double minor in environmental education and geographic information systems.

Growing up in New Jersey, she attended a sustainable, Jewish sleepaway camp where she spent five summers deeply connected to the natural world. While her family wasn't necessarily outdoorsy growing up, Chloe's experiences at camp and a transformative high school trip in Napa Valley, California helped her be most present and calm in nature.

Initially envisioning herself becoming a computer scientist, it was leading her first backpacking trip in high school that Chloe realized all she wanted to do was be in nature for the rest of her life. This adventure, taking ten of her peers to Pinnacles National Park in Napa Valley, California, was one of the most exciting experiences of her life, truly marking the beginning of the environmental journey she finds herself on now.

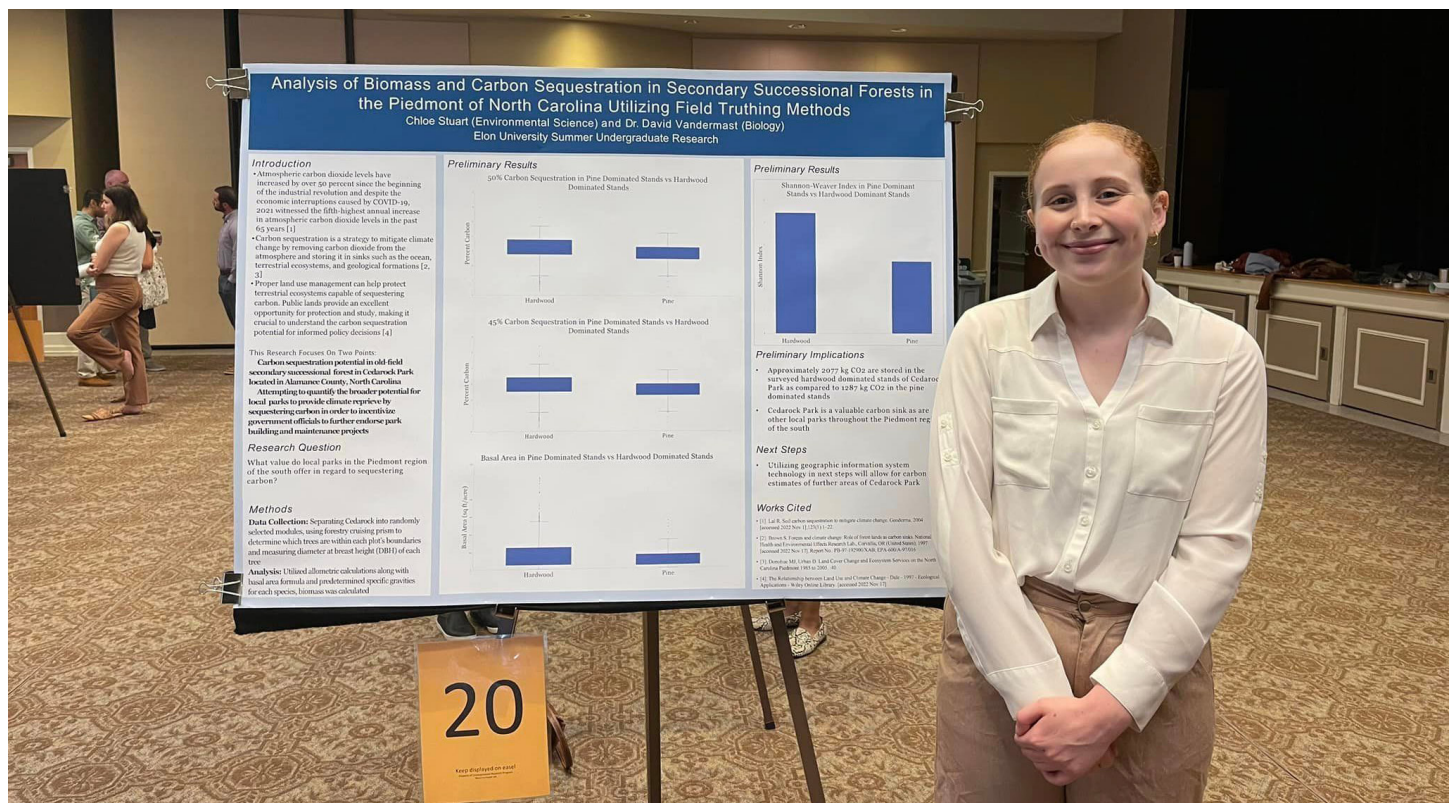
**READ ABOUT CHLOE'S RESEARCH
ON THE NEXT PAGE**



Second semester sophomore year, Chloe sought out Dr. David Vandermast, associate professor of biology and resident tree guy on campus, for a meeting about joining his research. He pitched a project to her, now titled “Dual Analysis of Biomass and Carbon Sequestration in Secondary Successional Forests in the Piedmont of North Carolina Utilizing Geographic Information Systems and Field Truthing Methods,” and they’ve been working together on it since. This research explores the carbon storage capacity of local parks, with a special focus on Cedar Rock Park in Alamance County. By studying the carbon sequestration potential of trees, Stuart aims to highlight the value of local parks as carbon sinks and emphasize the importance of local sustainability initiatives. She spent this past summer collecting data and personally acquainting herself with the trees of Cedar Rock.

While Chloe’s research keeps her deeply connected to the environment and her tree friends, she finds ways to practice sustainability in her daily life and on campus jobs as an Elon Outdoors trip leader and former Eco-Rep with the Office of Sustainability. Additionally, Chloe recently joined the **Loy Farm Living Learning Community** construction project, which aligns with her broader interest in sustainability’s interdisciplinary aspects.

Chloe Stuart is an inspiring example of how passion, dedication and the drive to make a difference can shape a sustainable future for us all. Her research and commitment to sustainability at Elon are creating hope in the midst of climate crisis and global boiling. Stuart noted how important it has been in both her academic and personal life to ask questions along the way. “Most of the time people want to help,” she commented. “You really just have to ask.”



RESOURCES

SHARE THE RIDE

What is it?

STRNC is a free, secure and user-friendly online tool that helps find ridesharing options for commuting or single trips to the airport, beach or wherever else you travel. It also allows users to log their trip to learn about dollars saved and emissions reduced. Sign up [here](#)!

How to Join:

REGISTER: There is an Elon-specific program for students, faculty and staff. Using your Elon email, register for a free account and create a profile!

FIND A RIDE! Enter some info about where you want to go so you can view and communicate with potential matches through the system.

EMERGENCY RIDE HOME PROGRAM

This program reimburses eligible faculty/staff commuters for a qualified emergency ride home a maximum of 4 times in a fiscal year.

To be eligible, participants must:

1. Be a part-time or full-time employee *and*
2. Have carpooled, biked, walked, taken the train or a bus to work on the day a ride is needed.

It's available for commuters when:

1. They or an immediate family member gets sick or has a crisis
2. Their carpool driver has to unexpectedly leave early or stay late OR
3. They must work unscheduled overtime

Learn more [online](#)!

SUBMIT TO THE DATABASE!

What is it?

Online platform of past or current student projects related to sustainability

SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS DATABASE
STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABILITY AT ELON



Why submit?

This is an opportunity to showcase your work and offer research ideas to interested undergraduates

How to submit:

1. Go to [“The Sustainability Projects Database”](#)
2. Log in with Elon username & password
3. Click “To add a project click here”

UCAPTURE

SAVE MONEY. SAVE THE PLANET.

Elon has partnered with UCapture, a green-tech company that funds environmental projects and applies coupon codes, at no cost to you, when you shop with online partners.

How Does It Work?

When you shop using UCapture, partner stores pay commissions. UCapture uses 66% of these commissions toward high-quality, third-party verified carbon offset projects, which are then retired on Elon's behalf, reducing Elon's carbon footprint.

Follow These Steps to Utilize UCapture:

Step 1: Visit www.ucapture.com/elon

Step 2: Click 'Add UCapture' to install the browser extension and set-up your account

Step 3: Activate UCapture when you visit online partner stores

CONTRIBUTORS

Elaine Durr
Senior Director of Sustainability

Kelly Harer
Associate Director of Sustainability
for Education and Outreach

Hannah Miller '24
Communications Intern

Matthew Flacksenburg '24
Sustainability Intern

Eliana Olivier '24
Environmental Justice Intern

Sophie Eskenazi '24
Outreach Intern

Lauren Hill '24
Volunteer Intern