**Diversity in culture in the North and South**

Colby Pierce, Appello Sports Editor

The majority of students know what the Mason-Dixon Line is, or at least know what it stands for. For those who have no idea, the line stands as a separation between Northern and Southern states who fought on the Confederate or Yankee side during the War from 1861 to 1865. It borders Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. After Pennsylvania began abolishing slavery within the Commonwealth in 1838, along with the Ohio River, became one of the factors between the border of the free and slave states.

Popular speech uses the Mason-Dixon Line symbolically as a supposed cultural boundary between the Northern U.S. and the Southern U.S. The name was coined after Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon surveyed where the land would fall.

States that are typically considered part of the South include: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. The region also includes Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

States that are usually considered part of the North include: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, New England, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

Delaware, a two-stated that is located between the Northern and Southern United States. Delawares, West Virginia, Kentucky, of Ohio and Missouri are border states that have developed a culture of own.

The states vary greatly within the state. For example, people from northern Missouri consider themselves Northern, while people from southern Missouri consider themselves Southern. Self-identification may be based on lifestyle as well.

Elon draws students from across the country and the globe. In the class of 2009, the top 10 states that students come from Elon from were: North Carolina (27 percent), Maryland (10 percent), Virginia (9 percent), Pennsylvania (8 percent), Ohio (8 percent), New Jersey (7 percent), Massachusetts (5 percent), Florida (5 percent), Connecticut (4 percent), and Georgia (4 percent).

Northern students.

So far, the end of the line is the border of Delaware and Pennsylvania. Some students have become addicted to coffee and appreciate its end.

Some students have never been to the South and wonder if they can get through the day.

Dunkin' donuts coffee or a Red Bull, coffee and can handle the cold better than Southerners, some students have never been to the South and wonder if they can get through the day.

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Where are you from and what do you think of the Northerner and Southerner stereotypes?

I'm from Newport News, Va. Both of my parents were in the military, so I lived in the North and South. I think stereotypes are old-fashioned. I think there are differences between the North and the South, but through technology and media the North and South cultures are assimilating making it harder to differentiate the two.

Thomas Blair, junior

I'm from Montgomery, Ala. And I think some of what stereotypes are based on are true. I don't think the whole picture. Some stereotypes bother me. I think stereotypes are overly perpetuated; I think some stereotypes are old-fashioned. I think some of what stereotypes are true because some Southerners hang onto their values of who they are.

Lauren Tilly, sophomore

I'm from Knoxville, Tn. I think stereotypes are overly perpetuated; the South is not as bad as it seems. I think the North and South are different, and I think people who think, though I think some stereotypes are true because some Southerners hang onto their values of who they are.

Peyton Hairyson, sophomore

Top Northern and Southern Stereotypes

**Northern:**

- Aggressive
- Fast-paced lifestyle
- Enjoy coffee
- Speak quickly
- Interesting accents

**Southern:**

- Always kind
- Move slowly
- Enjoy sweet tea
- Speak slowly
- Major twangs

The overall majority of students who travel a long distance to come to Elon find that they love the decision they made to go to school here. Elon provides students with many opportunities to learn about the culture involved, whether it is working on campus, joining Greek life or a club, or even playing a sport, students have many ways to get involved. Many students come to Elon for many reasons, but it is not until you have lived on campus, joining Greek life or a club, or even playing a sport, students have many ways to get involved.

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