

Diversity in culture in the North and South

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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 Civil War from 1861 to 1865. It borders Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

After Pennsylvania began abolishing slavery within the Commonwealth in 1781, this line, along with the Ohio River, became most of the border between 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, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee and Arkansas.

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

Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Missouri are border states that have divided loyalties between the North and the South. Occasionally, the loyalties 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 44 states. In the class of 2009, the top 10 states that students came to Elon from

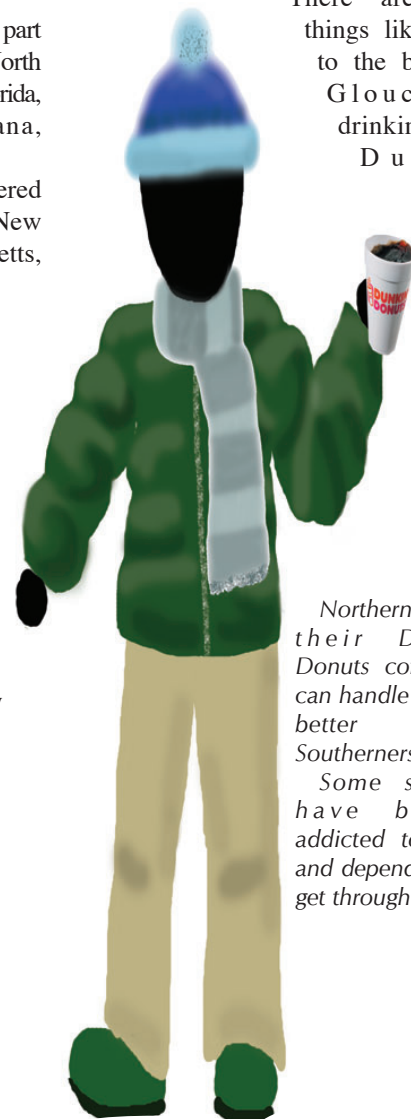
were: North Carolina (27 percent), Maryland (10 percent), Virginia (9 percent), Pennsylvania (8 percent), Ohio (8 percent), New Jersey (7 percent), Massachusetts (5 percent), Florida (5 percent), Connecticut (4 percent) and Georgia (4 percent).

Naturally, for those who are not from the South, coming to Elon can be a bit of a culture shock. The South is known for its slowness, home-cooked meals, weather, southern twang and heritage. The South also has many different restaurants than the North, but the choices of food doesn't take too long to get used to.

Junior Shannon Keane misses home in Massachusetts when she comes to Elon.

"I think it is true for anyone living away from home or their families that they will be homesick," Keane said.

"There are some things like going to the beach in Gloucester, drinking a Dunkin



Northerners love their Dunkin' Donuts coffee and can handle the cold better than Southerners.

Some students have become addicted to coffee and depend on it to get through the day.

Top Northern and Southern Stereotypes

Northern:

- 1- Aggressive
- 2- Fast-paced lifestyle
- 3- Enjoy coffee
- 4- Speak quickly
- 5- Interesting accents

Southern:

- 1- Always kind
- 2- Move slowly
- 3- Enjoy sweet tea
- 4- Speak slowly
- 5- Major twangs

Donuts coffee or watching a (Red) Sox game at Fenway that you just can't replace."

Junior Ricky Durham, from Norfolk, Va., has a different opinion about Elon and the North.

"I consider Norfolk as a part of the South," Durham said. "After attending Elon for two years and especially after living in Daniele Apartments, I consider Elon my home. I know that I would have never gone to a school in the North, nor have I really visited the North and I don't particularly want to. I'm satisfied with the South and the sweet tea."

Senior Sarah Crockett reminisces about her decision to come to Elon four years ago.

"I'm from Maryland and I consider Maryland a mid-Atlantic state," Crockett said. "Most of the schools I was looking at were in the North, and at first I wasn't sure if I wanted to go South, but I decided to check Elon out. When I visited Elon, I thought the campus was beautiful, and I enjoyed the tour and knew Elon had a lot of the

majors I was considering."

Those from the South know that Elon is no big deal. It is very similar to where they came from—for some, it may even be a short drive.

Junior Rachel Stroud knew she did not want to travel outside of the South.

"I am all about the South; I wanted to stay close to my family," Stroud said. "The only two states that I looked at for schools were Georgia and North Carolina. I love being able to call my parents, who live outside Charlotte, from the interstate to tell them I decided to come home for the weekend, and I'll see them in about two hours."

Keane has mixed feelings about the "Southern-ness" of Elon.

"I don't consider North Carolina to be far south, it's not the Deep South as far as I know," Keane said. "It is weird to see the different kinds of people who live around Elon and how they behave. It was especially weird my first year, but I have to say it has been an eye-opening experience living down South, noticing and learning about so many differences between the

North and South."

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 become involved, whether it is working on campus, joining Greek life or a club, or even playing a sport, students have many ways of becoming involved in school.

Many students come to Elon not knowing anyone or only a few people and they leave Elon with many new friends and best friends who have become family.

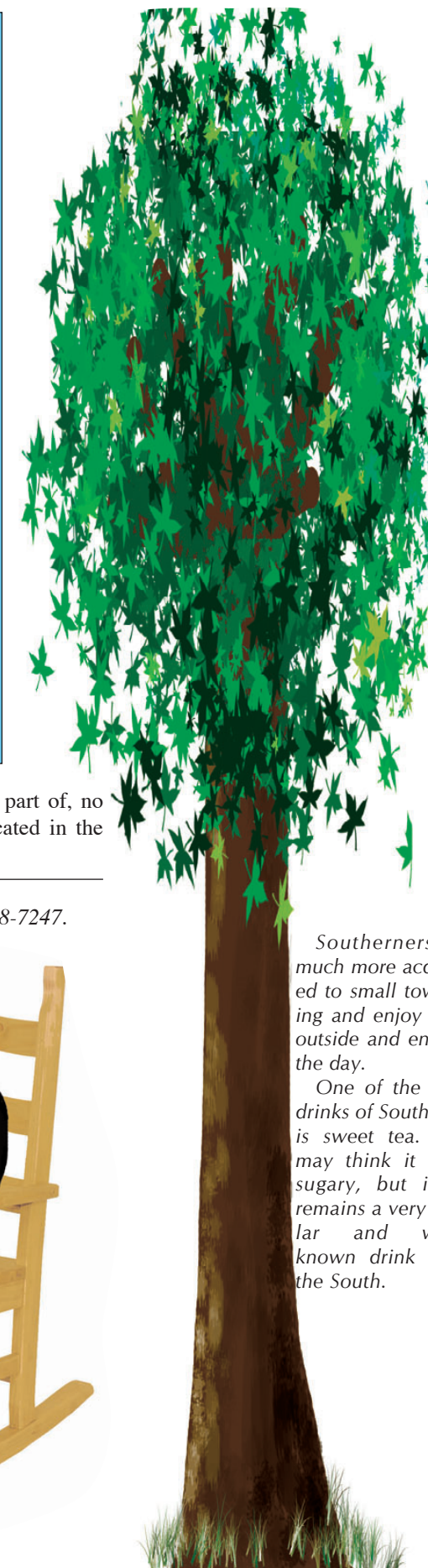
Durham has this experience with the football team.

"Football was the main reason why I chose Elon," he said. "It's more than just a team to me, it's bigger than that, we're a family."

This is something that Northerners and Southerners can easily agree on—there is

always something to be a part of, no matter if the school is located in the north, south, east or west.

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



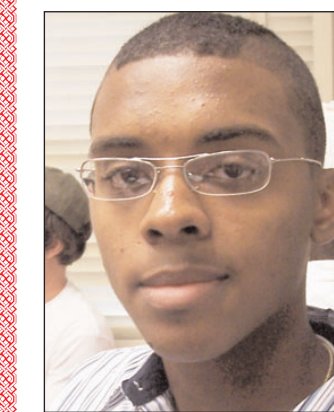
"I'm live in Newport News, Va. Both of my parents were in the military, so I lived in the North and South. I think the stereotypes are old-fashioned. I think there are differences between the North and the South, but through technology and media the North and South cultures are assimilating making it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

Thomas Blair, junior



"I'm from Montgomery, Al., and I think some of what stereotypes are based on are true, but they don't get the whole picture. Some stereotypes bother me, but I feel like some Southerners perpetuate the stereotype."

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 South is further along than what people may think, though I think some stereotypes are true because some Southerners hang onto their values of who they are."

Peyton Hairston, sophomore

Southerners are much more acquainted to small town living and enjoy sitting outside and enjoying the day.

One of the staple drinks of Southerners is sweet tea. Some may think it is too sugary, but it still remains a very popular and widely known drink across the South.