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## **Elon University Celebrates Pride Week**

*[SPECTRUM](#) sponsors Pride Week events April 7-11, which ends with the first ever*

*Dragstravaganza*

SPECTRUM, a club at Elon devoted to the gay-straight alliance, hosts Pride Week to show support for the [LGBTQIA](#) community at Elon University, and all Elon students are encouraged to attend and participate in the events. This event has been celebrated on Elon's campus for several years.

This year's events include 30-second marriages at College Coffee, an Ally Night, for those members of the community that are heterosexual but want to show their support for the homo/bisexual community, and Identity Workshop and a drag show, Dragstravaganza, at Taphouse. A schedule of the events is available at <https://www.facebook.com/events/496351420486917/>.

30 second marriages will be hosted at College Coffee on April 8 from 9:40-10:20 a.m. in the Phi Beta Kappa Plaza. These marriages last 30 minutes but are called "30 second marriages" because it takes that amount of time for the vows to be said. These marriages allow individuals to get married to their best friend, their boyfriend, their girlfriend, or their dog. People that oppose gay marriage are worried that if homosexual couples are

allowed to get married people will start marrying inanimate objects, and that is exactly what the 30-second marriages event allows people to do.

“If gays get married, what’s next? You’re going to get married to a tree?” Rebecca Nipper, an Elon University freshman, said of the purpose of the mock marriages. “It’s kind of a big joke against the people who oppose gay marriage.”

Another event is the Ally Night and Identity Workshop, which will be held in Lindner 102 on April 10 at 7 p.m. This workshop will bring together heterosexuals and homo/bisexuals to help everyone understand sexuality.

This leads up to the Drag Show on April 11 at Taphouse, which is now a part of Elon’s campus, at 8:30 p.m. There will be performances by SPECTRUM members as spoof characters of One Direction and Justin Bieber.

“We try and make it really funny and outrageous with wigs and make-up so people feel more comfortable in what could be an uncomfortable situation,” Robert Linklater, an Elon University sophomore, said.

People have participated in Pride Week since 1969 because of the Stonewall riots. These were violent demonstrations by the gay community in New York City against the police.

SPECTRUM hosts forums, protests and events to raise awareness for the LGBTQIA community as well as helping students cope with sexual identity and homophobia on a personal level. Pride Week is a way for the entire Elon community to come out and support this group of people in a fun and educational way.

-2014; Kimberly Honiball