

NC

Name and Year: Ellis Chandler, Junior

Home Address:

774 LedgeStone Court  
Tega Cay, SC, 29708  
864-238-3771

School Address:

15405 Campus Box  
Elon, NC, 27244  
864-238-3771

College Major: Journalism

College: Elon University (2019-2023)

Honors, Offices, Activities:

Honors: Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society, Omicron Delta Kappa Honors Society, Order of Omega, President's List, Dean's List, Elon Engagement Scholarship

Offices: Elon News Network News Director of Elon Local News, Elon News Network Social Media Manager, Delta Delta Delta (Epsilon Delta chapter) Director of Academic Excellence, Delta Delta Delta Director of Lifetime Membership, Order of Omega Director of Community Outreach, Elon 101 Peer Educator

Activities: Elon News Network, Society of Professional Journalists, Delta Delta Delta, Order of Omega

High School: Fort Mill High School (2015-2019)

Honors, Offices, Activities:

Honors: 2019 Broadcast Pacemaker, 2019 National Emmy- Magazine Program, 2019 Regional Emmy- Magazine Program, 2019 Student Television Network Best Weekly Broadcast in the Nation, 2019 Student Television Network "Tell the Story" Editing Contest Winner, AP Scholar with Honor, Honor Roll

Activities: The Buzz TV, Student Council, National Beta Club

Other: Elon Global Pathfinders: I was chosen as one of 10 students from Elon University's 2023 freshman class of 1,675 first-year students to begin their freshman year abroad and represent the university in Dublin, Ireland.

Statement:

My name is Ellis Chandler and I am writing to apply for the 2022 Summer News Intern position at WSOC-TV. I am a junior at Elon University studying journalism and serving as the News Director of Elon Local News at Elon News Network.

As a student reporter and leader in my community, I believe that this scholarship would be an ideal supplement in my journey to graduation and it would help me build off of my current skill set. Journalism isn't an industry known for the income it brings its reporters, which is where the scholarship would come into play, but the industry isn't about the money for me. I consider local news to be a vital tool for building community, increasing political participation and introducing our neighbors and their concerns.

I found my love for broadcast news during my sophomore year of high school and I'm thankful I did because it gave me such an early start and clear focus of what I want to do during my undergraduate years. Now, I take journalism courses every semester and I'm supplementing those skills with cinema and television arts, public relations and psychology courses.

Being a news director in an area that is considered a 'news desert' is a rewarding experience, but I want to start actively working in the field I want to pursue and work in a larger market. I consider myself a leader and a creative person, and working as a producer and with social media is appealing to me because it marries creativity with real-world relevance.

At its purest form, producing is about delivering a product and serving the audience. It's about being on time, on budget and on message all while making a broadcast a quality product and missing none of the details. It's about adding depth a viewer may not know they needed to a story and having a hand and a say in everything.

I love the Carolinas because there's always something happening there, which means there's always stories to tell, and I work best in the kind of dynamic environment like that where I can do so. I've lived in different parts of North and South Carolina my whole life and love the geography, college football season and the people more than anything. It's where I want to be long-term after graduation and it's where I'm looking to make more of an impact this summer because I know the area so well.

Receiving a scholarship from an organization that stems from the area I call home and is for my future career would mean everything. I believe my education and credentials align with the scholarship requirements, and I am certain that this scholarship will make a significant contribution to my continuing education. Thank you for taking the time to consider my application, I look forward to hearing from you soon.



March 9, 2022

Pete Poore  
SCDOT Office of Communications  
RTDNAC Scholarship Chair  
955 Park Street, P. O. Box 191  
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Chairman Poore,

I am honored to write to you and the RTDNAC Scholarship Committee on behalf of my former student, Ellis Chandler, and her candidacy for this scholarship opportunity. Ellis enrolled in my January 2022 Capstone Seminar at Elon University this past winter. This was a writing and research-intensive course requiring the active application of critical thinking skills, the ability to do original research, and the ability to express oneself both orally and in writing. The challenge for students was exacerbated by the short duration of the course, 3 and a half weeks. I am pleased to write that Ellis exceeded expectations in all these areas. Indeed, she was an active contributor to class discussions and showed a facility and ease with nuanced and sometimes ambiguous concepts.

Each student was required to submit a substantial research paper with primary source materials cited and integrated into the final written product. Ellis took on a comparative study of Study Abroad programs specifically for first year students. She participated as a first-year student at Elon in a pilot program in this area that had traveled to Ireland. Bringing together her own experience with a deep dive into analogous programs at other universities and incorporating interviews with students and faculty, Ellis produced insightful work that combined scholarly work with the daily experience of students abroad. Her work was thoughtful, well-organized and meticulously documented. I would also add that Ellis was one of the students who asked for out of class time to meet with me to go over expectations for the assignment and to ask for directions when needed.

Based on my interaction with Ellis, I can confirm that this is a student who strives for excellence in all that she does, who finishes tasks well and on time, and who exhibits personal qualities that make her great company for her peers and teachers. Indeed, in many ways I found Ellis to be a team builder in our class. She writes well, is succinct and on point in her professional verbal communication, and distinguished herself in my class. Having interacted with some of Ellis' other instructors at Elon, I am happy to also confirm that she brings these same qualities to her academic endeavors.

I urge you and your colleagues to give Ellis every consideration for this scholarship opportunity. She will represent the SCDOT well and will be an exemplary ambassador for your office. Ellis Chandler is worthy in every way for consideration for this honor.

Sincerely,

Mark T. Dalhouse, Ph.D.  
Academic Dean, Trinity College of Arts and Science  
Duke University



## School of Communications

Richard Landesberg, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Journalism  
McEwen Communications 203-C  
Office: 336-278-5112  
Email: rlandesberg@elon.edu

March 9, 2022

Dear Scholarship Committee:

Please consider this a strong recommendation for Ellis Chandler, who is applying for the RTDNAC Scholarship. I have known Ellis since she started at Elon and I have been her academic adviser as well as her adviser at our student television newscast, Elon Local News. I have also taught her in a few courses. Ellis is bright, talented, and engaged. She has the respect of her peers and professors. Ellis has a very bright future.

Ellis is a Journalism major, and Psychology and Professional Writing minor. As a student journalist, Ellis understands the need to inform our community while also trying to do no harm. She is a storyteller and people want to tell her their stories, sensing her empathy and compassion as well as her hard-nosed journalism. She does not treat people as "subjects", "characters" or "stories." Even those who would rather she not report a story have respect for the fairness with which she makes sure the news is presented.

Ellis works hard. No job is ever "beneath" her. She does what is required, goes beyond that, and then asks what else needs to be done. All that with no whining. In addition to being bright and talented, Ellis is a delight to have in the classroom and the newsroom.

Ellis has always achieved high marks in my courses, well above the class average. She does well in all her studies and is currently on track to graduate with honors. Ellis not only works hard but she is mature and engaged. She is the type of student professors look forward to seeing in their classrooms. Ellis always works to the best industry practices and the highest industry ethical standards. She will be the type of broadcast journalism professional we all want to see in the industry, and I would have loved to have seen in my newsroom. She is very worthy of the RTDNAC Scholarship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Landesberg".

Richard Landesberg, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Elon University Journalism Department