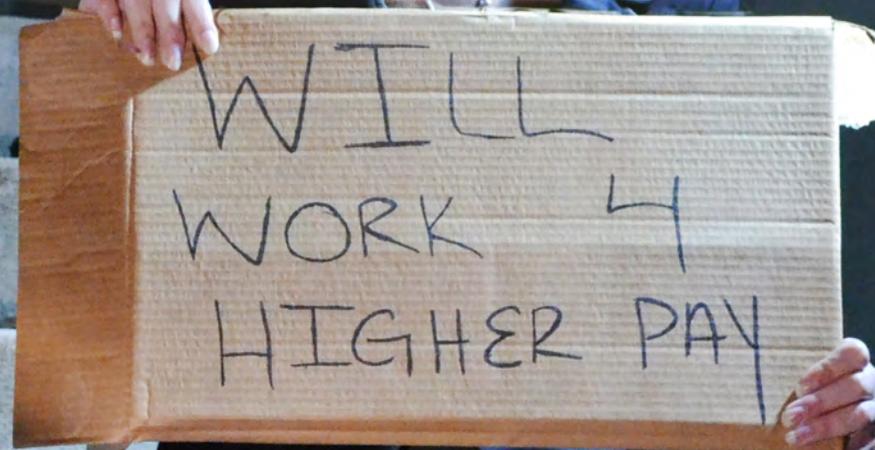


# THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2013 • VOLUME 39, EDITION 18



FAILING TO COMPENSATE

*Educators consider effects of budget cuts*

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## THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is a daily operation that includes a newspaper, website, magazine and multimedia. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) as Word documents. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned. The Pendulum is located on the third floor of the Elon Town Center on Williamson Avenue.

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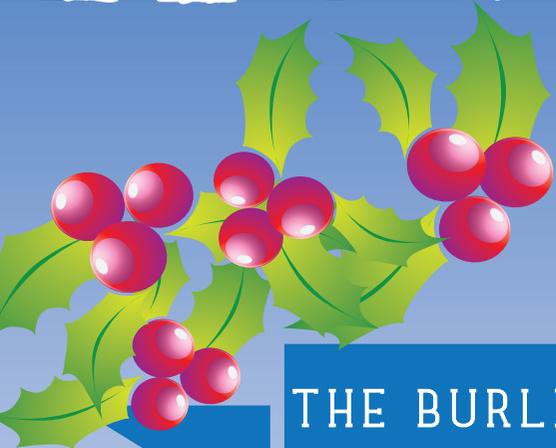
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# Student organizes protest to revive Chick-fil-A debate

**Katherine Blunt**  
News Editor

It's not over yet.

Seven months after Elon University's Board of Trustees voted to continue the university's partnership with Chick-fil-A following a campus-wide controversy, some students still regard the franchise as a potent symbol of discrimination and division on campus. In an effort to revive the movement against its presence in downstairs McEwen Dining Hall, sophomore Olivia Guerrieri plans to hold a sit-in there from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 22.

Plans for the protest began with the Nov. 15 creation of a Facebook event page titled "Still Clucking Mad!"

"The university's made their statement, and I don't think we're likely to get any change to it any time soon," Guerrieri wrote on the event page. "That said, I think it's important that we don't let this issue fade into the background. I still cringe when I see people eating Chick-fil-A. It makes me uncomfortable. And I should be comfortable on my own campus."

Guerrieri said she initiated the idea on her own.

"The idea had been bouncing around in my head for a while, and I decided that it was time to do something about it, before finals take control of everyone's lives," she said. "The response has been mixed. Some people are still against trying to get Chick-fil-A off campus at all. Others are entirely supportive of the ideas and have decided to join me."

As of Nov. 18, six people indicated their plans to attend the protest on the event page. More than 100 were invited to attend. The word is still getting out, though. Junior Josh Kaufman said he found out about the event that day.

"I am still in support of removing Chick-fil-A from Elon's campus as its presence is still doing harm to some students," he said. "I think it's about time that students are continuing to fight and spread the message that was such a prevalent part of campus last year."

Chick-fil-A's presence on campus became a divisive issue in September 2012 when Spectrum, Elon's queer-straight alliance, submitted legislation to the Student Government Association calling for the franchise's removal. Spectrum did not take issue with Chick-fil-A COO Dan Cathy's support for "the bibli-



**Sophomore Olivia Guerrieri designed several signs for use during a sit-in intended to remind the Elon community that some students oppose Chick-fil-A's presence.**

cal definition of a family unit," but rather the franchise's donations to organizations such as the Family Research Council and Exodus International through WinShape, its charitable arm. The SGA first voted on the legislation Oct. 12, 2012.

"These groups cause direct harm to LGBTQ people and contribute to an environment that is unhealthy, discriminatory, hostile and offensive to the entire LGBTQ community," said then-senior Lauren Clapp, an advocacy and education chair for Spectrum, during an SGA open forum prior to the vote. "Exodus International is an advocate of conversion therapy, despite the fact that it has been denounced by at least 15 reputable medical societies."

The legislation against Chick-fil-A passed in the SGA Senate that night in a 35-11 vote, but Darien Flowers, then SGA Executive President, vetoed the bill Oct. 21.

The SGA Senate voted 21-20 to uphold Flowers' veto Oct. 24, following a day of protests on campus. Several students organized "Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day" to show support for the veto, while other students gathered to oppose those who patronized the res-

taurant.

The university recognized the tensions caused by Chick-fil-A and announced its intention to appoint a 15-member Vendor Policy Study Committee to investigate the issue and recommend an appropriate course of action to Elon's Board of Trustees.

"This doesn't mean we're going to start running every business relationship by this committee," said President Leo Lambert at the time of the announcement. "The university already has several processes or screens in place to ensure we behave as a responsible enterprise, but there are exceptional times when someone says, 'I'm concerned about this,' and there needs to be a process by which that concern would be evaluated."

As the committee began to form, Spectrum redrafted and resubmitted legislation to the SGA as a resolution, rather than a bill. A bill encourages a specific course of action, while a resolution is an affirmation of a belief or sentiment. The revised resolution asserted Chick-fil-A had become a "symbol on Elon's campus of intolerance and discrimination towards members of the LGBTQ community" and opposed the continuation of Elon's rela-

tionship with the franchise.

The revised legislation passed in a 30-8-2 vote Nov. 30, signaling a win for Spectrum and others after nearly two months of controversy. However, the Board of Trustees was ultimately assigned to make the final decision. On April 25, the Board released its decision to keep Chick-fil-A on campus.

"Removing Chick-fil-A solely on the basis of the owners' stated views or their lawful philanthropic choices would stand in opposition to Elon's mission statement, which encourages freedom of thought and liberty of consciousness," the Board said in a statement.

Guerrieri said she realizes the sit-in may not inspire action on the part of Elon's administration or students.

"I understand that the decision made last year will stand for some time, but that doesn't mean we can't change eventually," she said. "The issue needs to remain in the public eye if we're ever going to be able to solve it with any credibility. I certainly intend to continue arguing for Chick-fil-A's removal as long as I remain on campus, but Friday's sit-in is primarily intended to remind the campus that we still care about this issue."

PHOTO COURTESY OF OLIVIA GUERRIERI

# North Carolinians feel the pangs of food stamp cuts

Michael Papich  
Senior Reporter

More than 1.7 million North Carolinians saw a reduction in federal food assistance this month, further exacerbating a problem caused by computer glitches in the state's allocation program.

The 2009 Recovery Act, also known as the stimulus act, temporarily boosted the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps.

Shannon Smith, food pantry coordinator for Allied Churches of Alamance County, said she heard from people on SNAP that the increase in benefits helped them put money toward other issues in their lives.

"They were able to put more money toward building their house or fixing their car — things they didn't have money for," Smith said.

But starting Nov. 1, that temporary increase expired, which means a family of three on SNAP saw an average decrease of \$29 in their monthly benefits. Maximum monthly benefits for a family of three, as of November 2013, are around \$500.

"I heard people talking about it beforehand saying, 'I only had this small amount to begin with and now it's really going to be cut,'" Smith said.

To qualify for SNAP assistance, families must have a gross monthly income of less than 130 percent of the poverty level.

With the amount now paid, a SNAP recipient will receive an average of \$1.40 per meal per person, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

"A lot of people are scared and nervous because they felt like they were having a hard time anyway," Smith said.

Michelle Poole, economic support program manager with the Alamance County Department of Social Services, said cuts have already taken effect in the local community.

"Our customers have seen about a 5 percent average decrease in their benefits," Poole said.

In addition to the cuts to SNAP, Poole said there are other food scarcity problems in the area.

"The biggest thing is that back a few months ago, a [Loaves & Fishes] closed, so these customers don't have that to rely on any-



The closure of the Loaves & Fishes food pantry in downtown Burlington exacerbated the effects of cuts to SNAP, which helps many Burlington residents buy food. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

more," Poole said. "We have two other food banks that have stepped up to the plate and they're trying to fill the need, but they're still struggling themselves."

On top of the closure of Loaves & Fishers and the reduction in SNAP benefits, Smith said a computer glitch has affected the functionality of electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards for a few months now. This glitch prevents the owner from receiving his or her food stamp payments for the month.

"We're seeing people everyday. They've not gotten their food stamps for months," Smith said. "You're looking at a family that only gets \$600. Two or three months in, there's not much of that left."

Smith also said she has not seen this problem before.

Of the people who come to Allied Church's food pantry, Smith estimates about 40 percent receive SNAP benefits. According to the North Carolina Department of Health

and Human Services, as of September 2013, there were 24,670 individuals involved in active food services cases.

Half of North Carolina's 1.7 million residents on SNAP are children. While kids can get lunch and breakfast through public school, Smith said kids are not always set for dinner and meals on the weekend and they can only get breakfast if they get to school early enough.

"We're looking at hungry children coming into school and not being able to focus," Smith said.

In 2012, the SNAP cost \$78.4 billion, or \$133 per person enrolled according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

SNAP is included in legislation for federal farm subsidies. During the summer, cuts to SNAP benefits in this year's farm bill were proposed and Congress is still debating further cuts, with the House proposing a \$40 billion reduction during a 10-year period. The Senate proposed a \$4 billion cut instead.

## SNAP Cuts

- 49 million Americans struggled with hunger in 2012
- 16 million of those Americans were children
- SNAP lifted 4.7 million people out of poverty in 2011
- The temporary increase that expired Nov. 1 cost a family of four \$36 of their monthly benefits
- The expiration of the temporary increase means, on average, SNAP recipients will receive \$1.40 per meal per person
- Further cuts to SNAP benefits were proposed in this summer's farm bill

## Cost of meal plans to rise in 2014 due to new taxes on system

After more than a month of debate, the North Carolina Revenue Laws Study Committee determined how to implement a sales tax on university meal plans outlined in the 2013 state budget. Next year, the price of Elon University's meal plans will increase to reflect the tax.

The committee determined that a college or university's food service provider is responsible for collecting tax on food sales and delivering it to the N.C. Department of Revenue. Beginning in January 2014, Elon will levy the combined state and local 6.75 percent sales tax on meal plans so ARAMARK, Elon's food service provider, can collect and deliver the proceeds. ARAMARK already collects taxes on meals purchased with cash and food dollars.

Universities without independent food ser-

vice providers are responsible for collecting the tax themselves.

"I predict if you look at what Duke, Wake Forest or UNC-Chapel Hill is doing, you're going to see [the tax] applied differently at each institution," said Gerald Whittington, senior vice president of business, finance and technology at Elon.

"We all had to send our food service vendor contracts to the Department of Revenue so it could determine whether we were responsible or whether the food service vendor was responsible for collecting the tax," he said.

Elon will bill for the next semester's meal plans Dec. 1, and the bills will include material explaining the price increase. The price increases will be finalized next week.



TARA WIRTH | Staff Photographer

The cost of meal plans will increase after Dec. 1 due to a new tax of 6.75 percent being placed on plans.

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## ACLU finds high number of prisoners serving life without parole for nonviolent crimes

In the first study of its kind, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) found 3,278 prisoners are currently serving lifelong prison terms as a consequence for committing non-violent crimes.

The study, titled "A Living Death: Life Without Parole for Nonviolent Offenses," provided an analysis of prisoners serving life terms for nonviolent offenses, providing individual case studies for 110 men and women currently serving these sentences. The ACLU estimates that, of the prisoners serving these terms, 65 percent are black, 18 percent are white and 16 percent are Latino.

"The punishments these people received are grotesquely out of proportion to the crimes they committed," said Jennifer Turner, ACLU human rights researcher and author of the report in a press release. "In a humane society, we can hold people accountable for drug and property crimes without throwing away the key."

Of the offenders, most were sentenced to life without parole because of mandatory sentencing policies, requiring minimum sentences and habitual offender laws that aim to incarcerate nonviolent criminals until they die.

## Cleveland Wal-Mart holds food drive for its own employees

A Wal-Mart in Cleveland gave holiday food drives a new spin by holding one for its own employees. The store displayed bins in the front of the building with a sign that read "Please Donate Food Items Here, so Associates In Need Can Enjoy Thanksgiving Dinner."

As originally reported by cleveland.com, residents who live near the Wal-Mart and shop there regularly are considering this move a "moral outrage," as one resident said the Wal-Mart is essentially asking "low-wage workers to donate to other low-wage workers."

But Wal-Mart spokesman Kory Lundberg said this food drive is proof that employees of the store care about fellow employees.

"It is for associates who have had some hardships come up," Lundberg told cleveland.com. "Maybe their spouse lost a job. This is part of the company's culture to rally around associates when they face extreme hardships."

# Elon students record high stress levels on Penn State test

**Anna Patterson**  
Reporter

College students know stress all too well. Between sports practices, jobs, volunteering, starring in the latest performances and spending time with friends, students often find themselves juggling heavy loads of academics and extracurricular activities.

But according to recent numbers from Pennsylvania State's Counseling Center Assessment of Psychological Symptoms

(CCAPS), Elon University students' average scores on several tests of psychological distress rank lower than the national average, suggesting that Elon students feel the effects of stress more acutely than others.

Compared to data collected from colleges across the country, "Elon falls below in every category except substance use and eating concerns and those are only slightly over [the national average]," said Jana Lynn Patterson, associate vice president for Student Life and dean of student health and wellness.

The CCAPS survey is not representative of the entire student body population. The 62-item assessment only uses self-reported data from students who are seeking counseling services. Patterson said this assessment measures the extent of students' symptoms on a Likert scale, not the frequency of their occurrence in the general campus population.

Elon has seen a 25 percent increase in students seeking counseling services since this time last year. Patterson attributes the increase to a number of factors, including heavy marketing of services offered since the move of the R.N. Ellington Center for Health and Wellness last summer. Additionally, she said she believes seeking psychological help is becoming less stigmatized through information provided in Elon 101 classes, Fellows cohorts and faculty members.

Some dimensions of distress measured were up this year from years past.

"Anecdotally, we seem to be seeing more students presented with [social, academic and performance] anxiety this year than in past years," Patterson said.

Elon will not jump to make changes immediately in response to the recent report's

findings. At the end of the year, Patterson and her colleagues will look at trends over the past few years and use this information to guide programs such as SPARKS Peer Education, in addition to services offered. Plans are already in the works to extend services.

"We are hoping to expand to an additional psychiatrist and a certified substance abuse specialist and a nutritionist," Patterson said.

Patterson encourages students experiencing anxiety or distress to seek help. Counseling services operate on a brief solution-focused model for students experiencing short-term difficulties. Students are also encouraged to participate in support groups such as "Soft Landings," a program designed to support students experiencing anxiety and distress in their first year of college. Students with more specialized needs or long-term therapy needs are linked with a provider in the community.

Whether students are concerned about their own situations or those of other Elon students, Patterson said students should take a proactive approach to mental health.

"Don't wait for a situation to escalate," she said.

## Attended counseling for mental health concerns

	Overall (%) n=75,383	Male (%) n=26,913	Female (%) n=47,782
Never	52.4	56.6	50.3
Prior to college	18.6	16.9	19.5
After starting college	16.1	15.9	16.2
Both	12.9	10.6	14.0

PHOTO COURTESY OF CCAPS

The CCAPS Annual Report intends to provide public information about college student's mental health. Elon University recorded scores lower than the national average in the psychological distress category.

# North Carolina politician accepting, holding same-sex marriage licenses

**Nathan Smith**  
Senior Reporter

Once again, the debate regarding same-sex marriage has placed North Carolina in the national spotlight.

Drew Reisinger, Buncombe County register of deeds, is seeking approval from North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper to grant same-sex marriage licenses. He is the first government official in North Carolina to do so. Although Cooper has said he will not grant his approval, Reisinger is accepting applications from same-sex couples.

"North Carolina, along with the rest of the South, has been wrong on a handful of issues," Reisinger said. "I don't think we should be involved in [legislating same-sex marriage], in telling folks what is right and what is wrong. It seems to me that we are allowing church and state to be too close."

While Reisinger is the only government official who is currently accepting same-sex marriage licenses in his office in Buncombe County,

he said he believes other registers agree with his opinion, even as they continue to deny the approval of marriage licenses.

In 2012, North Carolina added an amendment to its constitution — Amendment One — that bans same-sex couples from getting married. The most recent U.S. Census in 2010 reported that the number of same-sex couples in North Carolina increased 68 percent from 2000. In Buncombe County, the census reported that the population of same-sex couples jumped 110 percent.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of North Carolina is an activist group that actively promotes the acceptance of same-sex marriage. Most recently, it formally amended a lawsuit from 2012 that banned second parent adoption in North Carolina and challenged the state's ban on same-sex marriage on the behalf of six same-sex couples and their children.

"We were looking to make sure that these parents were raising their children together and have all the legal rights and protections that they and their children deserve," said Mike Meno,

the communications director for the ACLU.

Under current North Carolina law, same-sex couples may have children, but only one parent is allowed to have legal custody of them. Meno said this setup can complicate something as simple as writing their child a note for school and something as intricate as custody in the



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS  
N.C. Attorney General Roy Cooper has condemned his state's amendment to ban same-sex marriage.

event of their partner's death.

"We are seeking to overturn North Carolina's ban on second parent adoption to make sure that these children who are being raised by caring, loving parents have equal rights to other children and they are not discriminated against simply because their parents are gay or lesbian," Meno said.

In the summer of 2013, the United States Supreme Court struck down a provision of a federal law preventing same-sex couples from receiving the same benefits provided to straight, married couples, but the ruling has not yet affected North Carolina in any way. The provision was part of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

Both Reisinger and Meno said North Carolina's ban on same-sex marriage isn't stopping a statewide movement to promote marriage equality.

"We're not going to stop until we see full equality," Meno said. "There's no reason the law should treat them separately just because they're gay or lesbian."

# North Carolina teachers predict

Kate Riley  
Reporter

This past summer, the North Carolina General Assembly altered the face of public education through various budget cuts, program changes and salary adjustments. The new budget, passed in 2013, eliminated supplemental pay for advanced degrees, bonuses based on student gains and experience-based raises.

The budget also ended teacher tenure, which is, at its core, job security for experienced teachers.

“One of the problems will be recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers for us in the school system because salaries have been pretty much frozen,” said Christine Kushner, vice chair of the Wake County Board of Education in Raleigh.

Legislators who approved the changes said the old system rewarded the wrong things, such as credentials and longevity, rather than rewarding teachers for classroom results. While this describes what was written in the changes, the budget includes only small steps toward performance-based pay.

“We have done so much good work to be 25th in the nation and we could really recruit top students to teach here,” Kushner said. “Teachers don’t go into teaching for the money, but at the same time, it is a profession. So that is a grave concern.”

North Carolina, while it was 21st to 25th in the nation for education in the 1990s, is now among the lowest five states in the nation.

According to the Raleigh News & Observer, school districts are now authorized to give 25 percent of teachers four-year contracts that include \$500-a-year raises. The extra \$500

has been interpreted as a bonus, not a raise in salary, so it may be taxed at a higher rate. The 2013-2014 budget does not include any other raises for teachers or other state employees, and new teachers must teach for five years before they will receive a pay raise. Currently, there is a statewide task force to create a more comprehensive plan.

“In many ways, teaching is like missionary work because it’s something you do because you’re called to do it,” said Deborah Long, interim dean of the School of Education and

professor of education at Elon University. “You believe that it’s important work and you want your life to matter and you want to make a difference in the world. But sadly, we also have a lot of people who feel as though they can’t afford to go into teaching because they want to have a family. They want to send their families to college, and it’s unfortunate that people have to opt out of teaching for that reason.”

Experienced teachers left North Carolina because of recent changes and new teachers were not receiving pay raises, which resulted in

## NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY EDUCATION CHANGES

*Elon education students: what do you think about the legislative changes in North Carolina's public education system? Responses based on 55 Elon education majors surveyed via Survey Monkey*

2011-12
Sandy Ridge Elementary

---

**Sandy Ridge Elementary**

**John Colclough, Principal**  
John Colclough, Prior Principal  
1417 Old Oxford Highway  
Durham, NC 27704

N/A  
Grades K-5  
Magnet School  
Traditional Calendar

Durham Public Schools

### HIGH STUDENT PERFORMANCE

**Performance of Students in Each Grade on the ABCs End-of-Grade Tests**  
Percentage of Students' Scores At or Above Grade Level

	Grade 3		Grade 4		Grade 5		OVERALL	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
<b>Our School</b>	56.7%	77.3%	67.7%	87.9%	64.8%	68.2%	62.8%	78.5%
<b>District</b>	57.6%	77.3%	60.8%	78.9%	61.4%	75.0%	58.5%	74.4%
<b>State</b>	68.8%	82.8%	71.6%	85.1%	72.3%	82.1%	71.2%	82.8%

N/A = Fewer than five students

### Performance of Each Student Group on the ABCs End-of-Grade Tests

Percentage of Students, Grouped by Gender, Ethnicity, and Other Factors, Who Passed BOTH the Reading and Math Tests

	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Amer. Indian	Asian	Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	E.D.	N.E.D.	L.E.P.	Migrant Students	Students with Disabilities
<b>Our School</b>	56.2%	61.5%	82.2%	51.1%	64.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	80.0%	45.9%	77.0%	66.7%	N/A	29.4%
<b># of tests taken</b>	105	156	45	176	25	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	148	113	12	N/A	34
<b>District</b>	51.2%	58.7%	82.5%	47.3%	46.2%	62.9%	79.3%	53.3%	68.0%	43.8%	76.9%	28.6%	N/A	21.8%
<b>State</b>	65.0%	70.1%	79.3%	49.4%	55.1%	55.3%	79.1%	64.1%	69.7%	54.2%	84.1%	31.7%	42.8%	33.8%

E.D. = Economically Disadvantaged    N.E.D. = Not Economically Disadvantaged    L.E.P. = Limited English Proficiency  
N/A = Fewer than five students

### Three-Year Trend of Student Performance on the ABCs End-of-Grade Reading and Math Tests

Percentage of students at or above grade level for the past three years.

2011-12

**SCHOOL PROFILE**

**School Size**

The total number of students in this school and the average number of students in schools with similar grade ranges at the district and state levels.

	OUR SCHOOL	DISTRICT	STATE
	575	526	499

**Average Class Size**

The average number of students enrolled in a "typical" K-8 classroom.

\* Legislation mandates that class sizes for grades 4-12 are not restricted for 2011-12.

\* Due to data entry issues, some class sizes in select schools are unavailable for 2011-12.

	OUR SCHOOL	DISTRICT	STATE
Kindergarten	20	22	19
Grade 1	20	21	20
Grade 2	20	21	19
Grade 3	19	20	20
Grade 4	24	21	21
Grade 5	21	21	21

For information about the ABCs of Public Education and Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs), visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/eaccountability/>

# future of public education in state

North Carolina's average teacher pay decreasing from \$47,354 in 2008 to \$45,947 in 2013, according to the National Education Association. This resulted in North Carolina becoming 46th in the nation for average teacher pay.

Nevertheless, N.C. Gov. Pat McCrory said he does want to see changes made in the education system since the legislature's decision. McCrory and his administration were contacted for comment, but did not respond.

"When employers are begging for qualified applicants in a state with the fifth-highest unemployment rate in the nation...that tells me we have a disconnect between commerce and education," McCrory said to a crowd in August, just days after teachers marched in the state's capital to protest the changes. "All of us need to come together and eliminate this gap."

After the July 2013 budget was approved, Governor McCrory created a \$30 million in-

novation fund to provide \$10,000 stipends to the top 1,000 teachers — about 1 percent of the state's educators.

This does provide some additional pay for teachers, but many believe the biggest benefit in a change from the government would come from the reinstatement of a supplement for advanced degrees.

Amy Daughtridge, the AIG facilitator at Sandy Ridge Elementary School in Durham, said she feels much more prepared now to be a gifted child teacher, as she is in the middle of getting her master's in gifted education through Meredith College in Raleigh. Daughtridge is in the last group of master's students who will receive their degree with the supplement provided by the state.

"It has made me think, reflect, forced me to a higher level of thinking about my position that I don't think undergrad would have ever

done," Daughtridge said. "Not only because I was undergrad, but because I was so much younger and I didn't have the experience I have now."

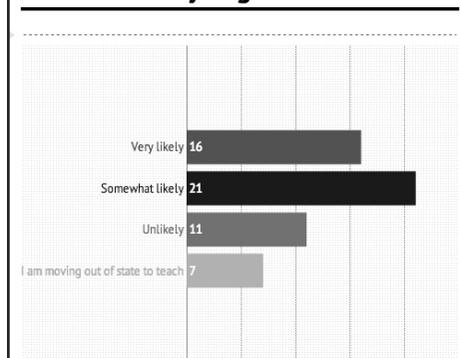
Daughtridge said the pulling of funding for higher degrees is a "slap in the face," demonstrating to educators that the legislature does not care if teachers get any further education because "anybody can do your job."

Lauren Kepke, a senior elementary and special education double major at Elon, is in one of the last groups of North Carolina Teaching Fellows, a group that is required to teach in the state for four years after graduation.

Kepke said that while she is going to teach in North Carolina because she loves it, she wants to see improvements in the state regarding education if the state wants to bring in qualified teachers.

"I would like to see them value the furthering of education," Kepke said. "If we want to see our education system improve, we need

How likely are you to teach in North Carolina after you graduate?



GRAPHIC BY KATE RILEY | Senior Reporter

SUMMARY TABLE K. ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 2012-13

REGION AND STATE	TOTAL CURRENT EXPENDITURES FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY DAY SCHOOLS			CURRENT EXPENDITURE OTHER PROGRAMS	CAPITAL OUTLAY ('000s)	INTEREST ON SCHOOL DEBT ('000s)	TOTAL OF COLUMNS 2, 5, 6, & 7 ('000s)
	AMOUNT ('000s)	PER STUDENT					
		IN ADA	IN ENR				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>	<b>115,512,802</b>	<b>10,334</b>	<b>9,959</b>	<b>2,317,979</b>	<b>7,001,645</b>	<b>3,519,907</b>	<b>128,352,333</b>
ALABAMA	6,458,200 *	9,547 *	8,779 *	129,103 *	519,019 *	134,602 *	7,240,925 *
ARKANSAS	6,247,276 *	12,960 *	13,215 *	31,208 *	686,472 *	136,339 *	7,101,295 *
FLORIDA	22,894,208	8,797 *	8,637 *	760,493	1,421,286	718,872	25,794,859
GEORGIA	16,439,002 *	10,004 *	9,654 *	33,181 *	82,244 *	264,776 *	16,819,203 *
KENTUCKY	6,551,319	10,257 *	9,891 *	63,380	545,542	181,286	7,341,527
LOUISIANA	7,302,349 *	10,955 *	10,310 *	29,695 *	1,063,759 *	122,819 *	8,518,621 *
MISSISSIPPI	4,612,173 *	10,283 *	9,427 *	11,076 *	0 *	74,910 *	4,698,159 *
NORTH CAROLINA	12,105,598	8,878 *	8,433 *	0	480,806	0	12,586,404
SOUTH CAROLINA	6,441,807	9,607 *	8,898 *	96,625	986,476	440,550	7,965,458
TENNESSEE	8,519,030 *	9,291 *	8,695 *	182,636 *	83,700 *	266,373 *	9,051,740 *
VIRGINIA	14,522,578 *	12,418 *	11,457 *	933,617 *	939,897 *	653,408 *	17,049,500 *
WEST VIRGINIA	3,419,263 *	11,006 *	12,116 *	46,966 *	192,443 *	525,971 *	4,184,643 *

NOTE: ADM = AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP; ADA = AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE; ENR = ENROLLMENT.

to have the smartest teachers and we need to encourage furthering education. This could be through master's programs and professional development. That's where a lot of our cuts are taking place, therefore putting less qualified teachers in situations with more students they are in charge of."

The North Carolina pay scale ranges from about \$30,800 per year for new teachers with bachelor's degrees to \$65,520 for those with maximum experience and credentials. The UNC system research on North Carolina teachers found those who had graduate degrees when they started teaching had a large impact on student scores in high school math and English.

For many professors, students and current teachers, the lack of supplement provided by the state for an advanced degree was a big change that many, including Long, would like to see reversed.

Long said she wonders how many teachers can afford to get a master's degree when they know they are not going to get compensated for it.

"We're concerned about our numbers in the Master's of Education program," she said. "They are grandfathering in the students who just graduated and they are setting a May 7 deadline for the next cohort that will be grad-

uating. What we have to do because our students don't graduate until August is to accelerate their graduation so that they will graduate before the end of January so that they will come in under the deadline. We're hoping that the legislature and the governor will see the error of their ways and decide that they are going to reinstate that supplement."

McCrory asked the state board of education in September if it could guarantee extra pay for all teachers now enrolled in master's degree programs, regardless of when they were planning to graduate. The board, however, said it was not possible.

"Master's pay for teachers is one education policy I think we can change now," McCrory told the board, as reported in the News & Observer. "I've worked with my budget office, the Office of Management and Budget. I've talked to our budget director, asking, 'Is there any way we can find sufficient revenue, to find money and give them the dollars they deserve?' My budget director said absolutely."

Board of Education chairman Bill Cobey said the board could not adopt a policy, but McCrory's spokeswoman Kim Genardo and senior education adviser Eric Guckian said the state school board could adopt a policy to extend the pay to all students currently in master's programs.



**Amy Daughtridge is the AIG facilitator at Sandy Ridge Elementary School in Durham, N.C., and will suffer from the budget cuts to the education system. She is one of many educators in the state upset with the legislature.**

While this does not extend to all future master's students, it does fit some of the demands from disgruntled citizens and educators.

"It makes me consider how much professional development is available and how I will continue my education after college," Kepke said. "It makes me consider if I will continue teaching in North Carolina after I receive higher education and teach for the Teaching Fellows four years. I am afraid that nobody is going to move to North Carolina to teach

anymore unless they are moving here for other reasons."

Daughtridge said she believes increased respect for teachers is the biggest need that would prompt the most change.

"I think if we were treated a little more like professionals, including our pay but not just through pay, that perhaps the public would see us a critical," she said. "We are the reason for all of the other professions, and you would think that would carry a little bit more weight and respect." §

## SUMMARY TABLE G. ESTIMATED AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARIES OF TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF AND OF CLASSROOM TEACHERS, 2011-12 (REVISED) AND 2012-13

REGION AND STATE	INSTR. STAFF	2011-12 (REVISED) AVERAGE SALARY FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS			INSTR. STAFF	2012-13 AVERAGE SALARY FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS			ALL TEACHERS % CHANGE VERSUS		
		ELEM.	SEC.	ALL TEACHERS		ELEM.	SEC.	ALL TEACHERS	2011-12	2002-03	
									(CURRENT \$)	(CURRENT \$)	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>	<b>49,822</b>	<b>47,730</b>	<b>47,998</b>	<b>47,933</b>	<b>50,435</b>	<b>48,408</b>	<b>48,504</b>	<b>48,446</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>20.0</b>	
ALABAMA	50,039	47,472	48,601	48,003	49,875	47,362	48,598	47,949	-0.11	25.4	
ARKANSAS	49,927	44,961	47,417	46,314	50,950 *	46,632 *	46,632 *	46,632 *	0.69 *	22.2	
FLORIDA	47,785	46,479	46,479	46,479	48,262	46,944	46,944	46,944	1.00	16.5	
GEORGIA	55,409	52,605	53,450	52,938	55,383	52,533	53,414	52,880	-0.11	16.1	
KENTUCKY	51,959	49,564	50,135	49,730	52,498	50,160	50,735	50,326	1.20	29.4	
LOUISIANA	52,611 *	50,179 *	50,179 *	50,179 *	53,960 *	51,381 *	51,381 *	51,381 *	2.39 *	38.2 *	
MISSISSIPPI	44,651 *	41,646 *	41,646 *	41,646 *	45,519 *	41,994 *	41,994 *	41,994 *	0.84 *	19.5 *	
NORTH CAROLINA	45,947	45,947	45,947	45,947	45,947	45,947	45,947	45,947	0.00	8.3	
SOUTH CAROLINA	49,769	45,659	45,921	47,428	50,598 *	47,924 *	47,924 *	47,924 *	1.05	18.7	
TENNESSEE	49,342	47,082	47,082	47,082	50,607 *	48,289 *	48,289 *	48,289 *	2.56	23.2	
VIRGINIA	50,574 *	48,703 *	48,703 *	48,703 *	51,785 *	49,869 *	49,869 *	49,869 *	2.39 *	23.5 *	
WEST VIRGINIA	47,321 *	45,320 *	45,320 *	45,320 *	48,507 *	46,405 *	46,405 *	46,405 *	2.39 *	20.6 *	

# Subjected to satellite

*Rural North Carolina communities lag behind developed broadband speeds against their will*

**Michael Bodley**  
Assistant News Editor

A landscaper by trade, one of Christopher Carrie's greatest joys is blogging about his beloved callias and crocuses, two types of flowers he tends to in the shadows of the Great Smoky Mountains outside Clyde, N.C. But Carrie's home lies past the end of the broadband line, so the quality of his blogging hinges on a series of satellites suspended thousands of feet above his cabin in the woods.

It's a gamble that often makes blogging more difficult than it should be, Carrie said. His frustration is shared by many who call rural regions of the state home.

In the wake of the Internet's 50th birthday, the democratic principles it was founded on are being called into question, said Steve Wozniak, Apple co-founder and Fusion-io chief scientist.

"I'm very worried about the rather few gatekeepers altering our Internet experience from the egalitarian ideal of equal access to everything," Wozniak said. "For any person,

there are only one or two choices for broadband, and regulation is appropriate in cases of monopolies or oligopolies. Otherwise, it is too easy for them to abuse their monopoly position."

With few other choices, Carrie said, he's given up on using the Internet for much else other than loading text and small photos. Video and multimedia elements aren't an option.

"I'm not able to literally join in the conversation that people are having about these things like 'The Daily Show' or clips from CNN, because I can't watch them with my Internet speed," Carrie said. "I'm not the type of person who would say something about something I haven't seen. It does put me at a disadvantage in terms of being connected and having conversations with other people online."

But a breakthrough for Carrie and the millions of others affected by rural broadband connectivity may be lurking just around the corner, according to leading telecommunications policy expert Susan Crawford.

"We're entering into an era that can really

reshape the conditions under which high-speed Internet access is offered in America," Crawford said. "It's a critical time."

**Geography's grip defines broadband's breadth**

In the mountains of western North Carolina, broadband access is often a pipe dream for people who count their blessings for half-decent radio reception, electricity that flickers at the slightest provocation and phone lines that weather winter storms only most of the time.

The Mountain Area Information Network (MAIN), a nonprofit organization for the advancement of rural broadband, is striving to make that dream an affordable reality.

According to Mark West, a member of MAIN's seven-person board of directors and professor of mass communication at the University of North Carolina at Asheville, there is a relatively simple solution: Create wireless access points at the end of existing wired infrastructure.

"It's possible to provide a one-to-many

service," he said. "You can install an antenna on a high point in a community at the end of the line and then equip each house with a small antenna. You can drive, with relatively low cost, access to a large number of households."

The Microelectronics Center of North Carolina (MCNC) this year completed a 2,600-mile fiber-based network connecting 82 of North Carolina's 100 counties at broadband speeds around 100 megabytes per second (mbps). The network was made possible by a combination of private donations, state funding and federal grants.

Christened the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN), the network links K-12 school systems, private and public higher-education institutions, academic research facilities and hospitals. Like a beltway, data traveling within the network is not charged a toll, allowing students in western Cherokee County to access Duke University's massive online research resources for free from across the state.

Reaching resources hosted outside the state, what most people think of as the Web, requires another provider to couple with

NCREN.

## Slow Internet speeds widen educational gap

After the bell rings, Benny Hendrix, Rutherford County School's chief operating and technology officer, estimates one-third of students, faculty and staff return home to slower satellite speeds. One of the providers of satellite service in the county, HughesNet, advertises download speeds of 5 mbps in its basic "Connect" package for \$39.99 per month. In exchange, subscribers acquire speeds only 5 percent as powerful as the district's network.

Through a combination of NCREN and Pangaea, a nonprofit Internet Service Provider (ISP), the district's connection produces download speeds of up to 100 mbps, according to Hendrix.

Service in more remote areas, Hendrix said, may lag even more. To bridge the connectivity gap between school and home, the district provides a laptop for each student in grades 6-12.

Rutherford County School's teachers are encouraged to post assignments, quizzes and tests on Blackboard, an online educational portal. But after the bus drops many students off at home at the end of the day, they enter a world where Blackboard might as well not exist.

"To go from very high speeds at school to home where some students may struggle to load a basic web page is difficult," Hendrix said. "We're trying to compensate for that by allowing students to stay before or after school to

download assignments when they can."

The district is not alone. For counties to the west, 14 to 20 percent of the families of Clay County Schools can't receive broadband at home, said Andy Gibson, technology director for the school district. Like Rutherford County, the district has a high-speed Internet connection. Bandwidth is split between NCREN and Blue Ridge Communications, a smaller ISP.

Compared to Rutherford County, far fewer Clay County students go home to slow or non-existent Internet. But that's not exactly comforting for the one-in-five minority who does, Gibson said.

"The good news is we have a lot of our kids on broadband at home," he said. "The bad news is that the ones who aren't going to get it are at a significant educational disadvantage. Satellite, these other options, they just don't compare to truly high-speed options."

Gibson's district opens earlier and closes later for the benefit of the minority of students who often can't complete homework when and where it's supposed to be done: at home.

The district was recently awarded a \$750,000 grant from the Golden Leaf Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in North Carolina aiming to advance the social welfare of state residents. The money supports a one-to-one initiative to equip each student and teacher with a wireless device.

## MCNC's offer is on the table

NCREN's outer edges only stretch so far,

leaving what MCNC President and CEO Joe Freddoso calls the "last mile." And even within the network, consumers and businesses can't access NCREN because the organization has not and will not enter the private sector.

The \$750,000 grant covers a fraction of the cost required to extend wired broadband to just a portion of rural homes in the state, said Dan Gerlach, president of the Golden Leaf Foundation.

"NCREN does not in any way provide broadband to every house and every company, everybody who wants it in these rural counties," he said. "It just provides the interstate highway to get there. By MCNC taking much of the risk out of it, local providers and those who serve individual consumers could lease lines from MCNC and run new lines out into these communities."

The lines Gerlach referred to are known as dark fiber, or fiber-optic cable unused by the existing network. MCNC offers strands of dark fiber for lease to ISPs at 2 to 5 percent of market value.

Freddoso echoed Gerlach's interstate highway analogy.

"NCREN is like a highway, an interstate highway," Freddoso said. "It builds directly into some of these anchoring institutions we have always supported, but it's never going to build into a neighborhood to give folks broadband. It's going to take that last wired investment to build off this network to take true advantage of what we've done."

But the largest ISPs in North Carolina have

yet to take MCNC up on its offer. Time Warner Cable hasn't strayed outside its existing wired infrastructure. Though AT&T was selected by MCNC last April to design and deploy two NCREN access sites in Charlotte and Raleigh, the points didn't affect private consumers.

## Majority of ISPs shun the last mile

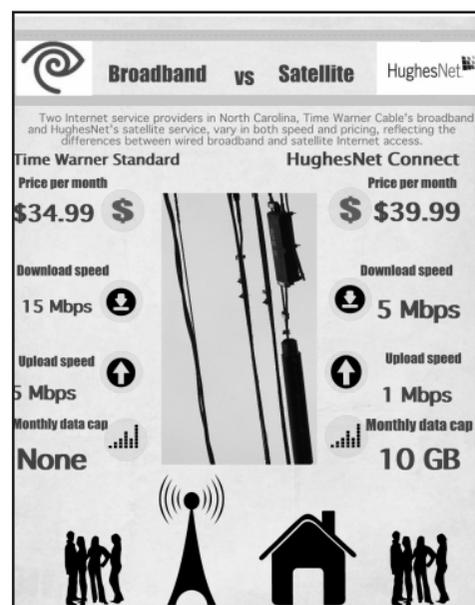
Even with state and federal funds and MCNC's discounted leasing of portions of NCREN, most ISPs in the state have not deemed rural broadband financially feasible, West said. As of publication, MCNC has completed only six network deals with regional providers and none with larger national ones.

That may not be changing anytime soon.

Since 2010, AT&T has invested \$1.75 billion within its existing infrastructure throughout its 22 markets capable of Long Term Evolution technology (LTE) at 4G speeds throughout North Carolina. The LTE network's coverage in the rural town of Sanford, N.C., boasts download speeds up to 10 mbps.

"Our vast network across North Carolina includes some very rural markets," said Josh Gelinas, AT&T senior public relations manager. "Increasingly, our customer base is accessing the Internet via mobile broadband, and in providing mobile coverage it's actually going to some places where there may be, in some cases, no current broadband provider."

The treacherous terrain of western North Carolina — the mountains, the rivers, the valleys — often makes wireless Internet a more at-



GRAPHIC BY MICHAEL BODLEY | Assistant News Editor

Some rural regions can't access more than one ISP.



In the mountains of North Carolina, the last mile awaits the infrastructure capable of supporting broadband. Internet access is a precious commodity in rural areas.

MICHAEL BODLEY | Assistant News Editor

tractive and cheaper option for ISPs, Gerlach said.

“One of the challenges of creating the infrastructure in rural North Carolina is the sparse population, troubling financially for any private provider,” he said. “With the geography the way it is, it’s difficult to serve these areas for broadband, because there’s just not enough people, and it’s expensive just to reach them. It’s not easy to justify the cost if you’re a private sector.”

For reasons undisclosed, AT&T has no plans in the works to expand its wired Internet service outside its existing wired infrastructure, according to Gelin. AT&T will instead continue improving existing lines by investing in fiber-optic technology in established markets.

“As far as expanding the last mile, I’m not aware of any plans right now,” Gelin said. “Our expansions where we’re going to go are where customers are demanding the service, where there is a profit to be made. In larger markets, we know that we’ll get a return on our investment.”

### The economics behind rural broadband

Without much competition among providers to choose from, the average rural North Carolinian’s voice can only ring so loud in the marketplace, said Jason Husser, assistant professor of political science at Elon University and assistant director of the Elon University Poll.

“The interests of the big power players dominate,” he said. “Those who stand the most to gain and the most to lose are probably not you or me.”

Until wired broadband decreases in cost, though, major ISPs will continue to dominate the market and largely eclipse regional providers and prevent newcomers, according to Husser.

“Anything that increases the cost of doing business will discourage startup companies,” he said. “I think any time you privilege larger companies over smaller companies, fewer ideas can emerge because it decreases competition. If there were tons of competition and thousands of firms competing at a major level in the Internet industry, you probably wouldn’t see this occur.”

As the industry stands, companies don’t need thousands or even millions to connect rural areas through wired infrastructure. They need billions, said Colin Collins, executive director of Rural Broadband Connect, a nonprofit in the process of connecting 26 rural counties to

broadband across the triangle of Tennessee, Arkansas and Missouri.

“In our part of the world we have 2.6 households per square mile, and there is no way you can make any kind of a financial business plan that will support the expense to get fiber to those 2.6 households,” Collins said. “Even if you did, the cost which you would be asking consumers to shoulder in rural areas, some of the most impoverished areas in the country, very few people are going to be able to pay the \$150-200 it would take.”

While some have suggested high-speed Internet access for all should be a moral imperative for ISPs, Gerlach disagreed.

“I understand that private sector companies exist to benefit the shareholder,” he said. “I think what we have done with our investment here in MCNC is reduce the risk to private sector companies to provide access to these last miles.”

Situational pity has never been the goal, Collins said.

“I’m a capitalist from beginning to end,” he said. “We’re not looking for a handout. We’re looking to work through nonprofits and government grants to distribute broadband that isn’t so capital-intensive. If people aren’t willing to work to help themselves, why should they benefit from high-speed Internet?”

### The future of rural broadband connectivity

The average person, Freddoso said, doesn’t consider broadband access a critical part of educational literacy in the same way as school textbooks or a library card. That may explain why popular opinion takes little issue with light regulation of the Internet compared to acceptance of heavily-regulated “necessities” like water and electricity.

In the event of the continued absence of regulation forcing ISPs to expand broadband access, West’s gaze is locked on nonprofits as the sole savior of rural broadband.

“The future of Internet in North Carolina under the status quo is that populous areas will be well served by commercial entities, and that poor and lonely rural places will continue to fall behind,” West said. “Poor and lonely places will only be served if nonprofits secure the funding and step up and do it. The rich always have friends, and the poor and lonely seldom have advocates.”

Though nonprofits may be rural broadband’s last hope in a bleak landscape, MCNC and its peers can’t do it by themselves. Private

ISPs are going to have to play a role, according to Freddoso.

“We will never play in the commercial market,” Freddoso said. “We won’t service homes and businesses, but we will build as close as we can. The rest is up to ISPs. I think what’s happening is that the market’s finding its own and regulation is never going to keep up with it. Let’s make a good amount of fiber available to a whole bunch of different business models that can get you access to the Internet, and the market will flesh out the winners and losers.”

As public awareness of its necessity increases

with time, Freddoso said, the future of rural broadband is only going to get brighter.

“We’re just now moving into a phase where people think about broadband as a critical utility,” he said. “When you think about other infrastructure we deem critical, there’s either a strong public-private relationship, heavy government regulation or the public has built the infrastructure themselves. We at MCNC are at the forefront of what could be emerging as a new model, where a nonprofit shares a pretty significant share of the infrastructure and splits the playing field with private companies.” §



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CHRISTOPHER CARRIE

Carrie likes to joke that his closest neighbor is a cow — not the most attractive market for ISPs.

## Defining the Internet

In 2002, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) effectively deregulated the Internet by categorizing it as an information service, instead of a regulated telecommunication service like radio.

In 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court confirmed the FCC’s declaratory ruling in *NCTA v. Brand X*. The ruling still stands.

Toward the end of the 19th century, giant companies like U.S. Steel developed vertically-integrated monopolies.

Now ISPs may be the next great trusts in need of busting, said Mitch Stoltz, staff attorney for the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), a nonprofit defending the rights of

digital consumers.

The federal Sherman Antitrust Act prevents companies from engaging in coercive monopoly practices. But to be considered coercive, companies must be found to have intentionally dominated the marketplace as a result of misconduct, which is also outlawed by the federal Clayton Act and the N.C. Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act (UDTPA).

But the regulation may not be enough.

“I support more regulation,” Carrie said. “There wouldn’t be electricity out here if the government didn’t make the electric companies run the lights. The only reason we have the lights on up here is government supervision and funding.”

# Search for Sections

**No classes meeting the search criteria have been found.**

Term

Starting On/After Date

Ending By Date

Subjects	Course Levels	Course Number	Section
<input type="text" value="English"/>	<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value="110"/>	<input type="text" value=""/>

## *When Elon registration kicks you in the class*

Laptops slamming closed in disgust, incessant complaining between friends, frantic emails to teachers and department heads and swear words ringing out across dorms are some of the side effects of class registration at Elon University. Whether it's not getting into a much-needed class or having a less-than-ideal schedule, most every student at Elon has felt the downsides of the current registration process.

What should seemingly only be a problem for underclassmen — not getting into all desired classes — now affects students of all classes in all majors. The student body is outgrowing the current academic infrastructure, and nothing remains more important to our education than that we can actually attend the classes we pay \$40,000 a year to take.

Every class registration inevitably brings a struggle to find spots in certain classes for the next semester. But increasingly, many students are having trouble getting into the classes they really need — ones that only meet on alternating semesters, or with very few sections, or those that are necessary for graduating on time. For a school so geared toward

growth, a contingency plan needs to be in place to address the increasing number of students. As the school increases the student body, it must appropriately adjust the number of courses and sections offered.

The current registration process is not only stressful for students, but for professors and department heads as well. Students are frustrated when they are forced to spend an entire semester taking classes they don't need or sit idly by and watch their required classes fill up. The process is taxing on teachers who feel pressure to enroll additional students in their classes, often well above their actual capacity. There are not enough sections of core-major classes, and that places an unfair burden on those unlucky or unfortunate enough not to have one of the early registration periods, a burden received freshman year that is almost impossible to escape.

One of the most concerning aspects of the entire process stems from the importance of prerequisite classes within a major that must be completed in order to even have a chance of graduating in four years. Students unable to register for

the foundational classes of their major often have to scramble and plead to be placed in a closed class. The problem then compounds when all flexibility in future scheduling for a student is lost. In some cases, freshmen are not even able to register for their first-year core curriculum classes like College Writing.

Much has been said about the expansion of Elon's physical infrastructure, and the school has made its intention to grow even more over the next few years very clear. Since that is the case, the university must make proper accommodations so students can register for, and actually take, the classes they need in order to graduate on time.

But altering the registration process as a whole exemplifies a sort of identity crisis that could plague Elon in the coming years: expanding into a larger university while still trying to stay true to its small-school roots. Elon touts its small classroom sizes as a sign of its commitment to providing an education in which students and teachers can get to know each other, a place where a student is more than just a number and discussion is open and inclusive. If Elon wants

to keep class sizes small, they must start offering significantly more sections of classes or overhaul the entire registration process to ensure that each student gets the classes needed.

Offering a greater number of sections would simply allow for more students to take classes at a variety of times and would not actually alter the small class sizes. But emphasis on section creation falls on the final classes of each major, when getting into a class next semester can be the difference between graduating on time and graduating next year. When only one section exists for an entire major, it's no surprise students are scrambling and complaining when they can't get in. For seniors, these classes are non-negotiable.

Although a problem with the current class registration system exists, Elon should not sacrifice the quality of time in the classroom. Expansion cannot be allowed to occur so rapidly that Elon loses the teacher-student interaction that makes class time so rewarding. Elon has its classrooms staffed by the best, but that doesn't matter if students can never actually learn from them at all.

# No selfies in Sochi: So close, yet so far

Brace yourself: The following news is definitely, seriously important.

Last week, Russian officials declared that any journalists found taking pictures or recording video to share via social media will have their accreditation stripped, their device taken and be forced to leave the 2014 Olympics. On the Internet, there was only outrage.

BuzzFeed, always on the pulse of breaking news, was one of the first to report the story, and users responded perfectly rationally. User breakinthemix was one of the first to respond, commenting, "Russia has absolutely lost it. I don't know why anyone is abiding by this bullsh\*t and competing or attending!" No

doubt future competitors are rethinking their enrollment in the Olympics until iPhones are once again allowed into the event. User litper commented, "If anti-gay laws weren't enough..." correctly identifying the similarities between human rights violations and people having to log onto Instagram in their hotel rooms.

Russia will be monitoring the events with drones, but that's not the point.

Of course, more information has since surfaced refuting these claims entirely. Reporters are allowed and even encouraged to use social media to take and post pictures of the events. Videos are still forbidden, but that's a rule made by the Olympic committee to protect the media outlets broadcasting the events. These rules, however, do not apply to other audience members. Ordinary attendees may Vine, tweet, Instagram, Facebook and Snapchat to their heart's content.

While many are relieved at the clarification, for me, the idea of an event where amateur "photography" was banned was a dream come true. An event where, just once, the audience is watching what they paid for. An event where the people taking pictures and videos are using real cameras, not cell phones. An event where the pictures and videos taken will actually be viewed more than once, captured only by those skilled enough to be entrusted with their capture. The 2014 Olympics could have been a groundbreaking social experiment, conducted by a country that truly could not care less about guests' feelings.

We accept smartphones and the fauxtography they encourage as a given today, but they shouldn't be. Smartphones give every person holding one the false perception that the trained photographer holding a \$10,000 camera is no better than they are. They distract the person taking the picture and they distract

the people around them, and they encourage the idea that the only reason to take a picture is to get attention for it later.

For a moment, consider an Olympics without cell phones, without personal cameras and without iPads masquerading as a legitimate way to take pictures in public. Imagine two weeks where the audience is paying attention to the games and not imagining how many likes the pictures they're taking will get on Facebook later.

The Olympics are already a brief period in which every nation finds time to put aside their differences and compete as equals. Couldn't the audience use this two-week period to leave the photography to the professionals and just enjoy witnessing history? For just two weeks, sign off Facebook, put away your smartphones and keep the selfies in the hotel bathroom.

Besides, I'm sure the drones will get plenty of pictures of you anyway.

# Americans need more movies like '12 Years a Slave'

Imagine you decide to skip today's obligations, procrastinate on that work due tomorrow and goof off with your friends late into the night. These may not be the best life choices, but you can make them because you are free to make your own decisions.

Now imagine you're out on the town drinking with two friends. You're celebrating a new job with drink after drink as your friends egg

you on.

You wake up the next morning in a damp, dark cell. Suddenly you realize last night's drinks didn't taste quite right. Chains hold your wrists and ankles to the floor. Later that day, you are sold and transported as someone else's property and put to work in deplorable conditions.

Your freedom has been taken from you. You have become a slave.

This is what actually happened to Solomon Northup, the central character of the movie "12 Years a Slave." In 1841, Northup, a free

black man from Saratoga, N.Y., was abducted and sold into slavery in Louisiana. The movie is based on Northup's 1853 memoir of the same name and stars Chiwetel Ejiofor in the lead role.

Critics have almost universally lauded "12 Years a Slave" as one of the best movies of the year and a serious contender at the upcoming Academy Awards. Northup's emotional journey and Ejiofor's fearless performance make slavery a personal issue for the audience in an unprecedented way. Brutally honest in its depiction of America's most notorious atrocity, it is among the most impactful movies ever made.

"12 Years a Slave" evokes deep feelings in viewers. We feel Northup's pain as he is beaten and berated by slave owners on a daily basis. It makes us question human nature and ponder our country's history. We can relate to Northup's struggles at being separated from his family and the life he knows as well as the triumph at the movie's end, which I won't spoil for you.

Can the same things be said of this summer's blockbusters? Big-budget popcorn movies like "The Hangover: Part III," "Pacific Rim" and "Fast & Furious 6" (yes, you read that

correctly, it's the sixth one) certainly didn't invite critical thinking about humanity. Nor did "Man of Steel" or "Grown Ups 2." Definitely not the latter. That was just awful. But it made more than \$225 million in ticket sales.

Ryan Coogler's "Fruitvale Station" was another 2013 movie with emotional impact and thought-provoking themes. It, too, was based on a true story. Movies like this might be unsettling, but they challenge our beliefs and emotions.

American society needs more deeply affecting movies like "12 Years a Slave" and "Fruitvale Station." It's certainly more difficult to make movies with emotional value, but filmmakers need to put forth the extra effort and distributors need to fight to get them out to the public. These "smaller" movies don't wow us with explosions and superheroes and giant robots fighting giant sea creatures — they wow us with the human condition, which is much more powerful in the end.



Ian Luther  
Columnist



Tyler Oberle  
Columnist



Chiwetel Ejiofor is Solomon Northup in "12 Years a Slave," based on Northup's 1858 autobiography.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

# Saudi Arabian women hold protest to defy driving ban

**Brianna Plahn**  
Reporter

As the only country in the world that bans women from driving, Saudi Arabia may need to reconsider its driving laws.

On Oct. 26, women in Saudi Arabia made a risky decision to defy their country's driving ban by driving their cars in protest. An estimated 40 to 60 women participated, with some posting their exploits on YouTube. The women called the protest the "October 26 Campaign."

The driving ban in Saudi Arabia is considered a "de facto ban" as it has no legitimate legal backing. But women are not allowed to get driver's licenses, which effectively makes driving as a woman illegal.

Shereen Elgamal is the Arabic professor at Elon University. Elgamal said Saudi Arabian traditions typically favor male family members. Under Shariah Law, the moral code of Islam, women are required to have a male guardian who gives them permission to leave the house. Many religious figures believe women would be given too much freedom if given the right to drive.

An additional reason for the driving ban is that driving can supposedly have a negative "effect [on the] ovaries" and "roll up the pelvis," according to Saudi Arabia's Sheikh Saleh bin Saad al-Luhaydan in a Reuters article.

Elon freshman Johanna Krygsman spent most of her life in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where the driving ban was something her family had to cope with regularly.

"Imagine if a woman had to get to the hospital, but she couldn't drive so she has to wait on her husband or a taxi to take her," Krygsman said. "It's pointless."

In Dhahran, Krygsman and her family lived in an American compound large enough to house her school, owned by a Saudi oil company. Many women, including Krygsman's mother, applied for licenses from other countries so they could drive but only within the confines of the compound.

Life in the compound was fairly routine. Krygsman said she dressed normally



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS  
This sign exemplifies just one of Saudi Arabia's conservative laws, effectively separating men and women. Females have very few freedoms in Saudi Arabia.

and participated on the swim team, and her mother was even allowed to drive. She described life in Saudi Arabia outside of the compound as a completely different world.

As a lactation consultant, Krygsman's mother often needed to meet with local women, but the driving ban limited her opportunities to do so, making her job difficult.

For Elgamal, the driving ban is unreasonable. Although Elgamal is from Egypt, she is familiar with Saudi Arabia's driving ban.

"Female members of society should be entitled to driving privileges that are equal to that of their male counterparts," Elgamal said.

Unlike in Saudi Arabia, women in Egypt are given the freedom to drive. Fortunately, Egypt has never had such bans with government backing, but El-

gamal was still no stranger to similar discriminatory acts. Elgamal said Saudi Arabian women should express their demands through media outlets, peaceful public demonstrations and sit-ins.

Several women who participated in the Oct. 26 protest said they felt their act of defiance was the only way their demands would be noticed. A minimal number of women were stopped while participating in the protest, and although no harsh punishments were administered, the women were forced to sign a petition stating they would never drive again.

Although women are the predominant activists fighting for this equality, men are slowly beginning to show their support, as well. A YouTube video recently went viral called "No Woman, No Drive." A young Saudi, Hisham Fageeh, uploaded the video of himself singing a mock version of Bob Marley's "No Woman, No

Cry" with modified lyrics.

Currently, Fageeh's video has more than 10 million views, which has brought more publicity to the Oct. 26 campaign.



ARTWORK BY CARLOS LATUFF  
The #Women2Drive campaign is an effort on behalf of Saudi Arabian women for their right to drive.



PHOTO COURTESY MCT CAMPUS

Super Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines Nov. 8 and has displaced about 4.4 million people. With winds reaching 195 miles per hour and waves topping 20 feet, the typhoon has left the country in a complete state of disaster.

## Super Typhoon Haiyan breaks records, wreaks havoc on the Philippines

Morgan Abate  
Reporter

Super Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most powerful storms to ever make land-fall, slammed into the Philippines Nov. 8, leaving the country in a state of disaster and initiating aid efforts by the rest of the world.

Yolanda, as the storm was known in the Philippines, reached sustained winds of 195 miles per hour and gusts up to 235 miles per hour — three times stronger than those of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The highest waves measured 20 feet, equivalent to a tsunami.

Manuel Roxas, the Interior Secretary in the Philippines, was in one of the hardest-hit areas hours before the typhoon struck.

“From a helicopter, you can see the extent of devastation,” said Roxas as reported by United Kingdom Reuters. “From the shore and moving a kilometer inland, there are no structures standing. It was like a tsunami.”

Tacloban, a once-thriving port city of Leyte Province in the eastern Philippines, saw the worst of Haiyan and has experienced

severe destruction. Photographs from the BBC show a decimated coastline, steamships washed ashore and infrastructure demolished.

The northern area of Cebu Province, located west of Leyte, lost about 90 percent of its infrastructure, according to USA Today. While its death toll is not near the predicted numbers in Tacloban, the province has just as many humanitarian needs.

Marella Gungob is a freshman at Elon University whose family resides in Cebu, Philippines.

“A lot of people don’t have access to medicine, food or clean water, and that’s a big issue,” Gungob said.

But since Tacloban bore the brunt of the storm, many aid efforts have been focused on reaching this coastal city in particular. Other badly hit areas worry they may never see aid.

In fact most cities, including Tacloban, didn’t start receiving any form of aid until a week after Haiyan hit the Philippines. Inaccessible roads and demolished airports have prevented medical supplies, international organizations, military aid, food and water from reaching their destinations. In

addition, the Philippines is not one solid land mass. There are many islands that need to be reached, making it far more difficult logistically to deliver aid.

The United Nations, Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States and Japan have all contributed hefty amounts of monetary and material aid that is just now reaching affected areas.

Just as aid distribution has been difficult, so has calculating the death toll, which remains uncertain because of the widespread devastation.

According to The Philippine Star, local officials had put the death toll at 10,000, but President Benigno Aquino III dismissed this number. Recent estimates put the number around 4,000. The 25,000 still missing has raised fears that the death toll could in fact be closer to the original 10,000, according to United Kingdom Reuters.

Vigils and masses have been held across the United States and in the remains of churches in the Philippines. Elon held its own vigil Nov. 14 to remember the lives lost and to pray for the continued efforts to help the country get back on its feet.

In a statement the same day, President Obama reassured the Philippines of the U.S. commitment to helping rebuild the flattened communities and to take care of the suffering.

“As you rebuild from this terrible storm, you will continue to have a friend and partner in the United States of America,” Obama said.

Other than monetary donations, though, it is hard for U.S. citizens to get involved in the rebuilding process, which is particularly frustrating for Gungob.

She said her biggest worry is that people will forget about the storm, the destruction and the humanitarian efforts in the Philippines. She expressed hope that the media will continue to provide updates on the country’s revival, especially with millions of lives affected and poverty intensified.

“I feel helpless. And I don’t like it,” Gungob said. “It’s my country, and I feel like I’m a part of them when they’re suffering.”

*Anyone looking to help humanitarian efforts can visit [whitehouse.gov/typhoon](http://whitehouse.gov/typhoon) to donate to organizations currently on the ground in the ravaged country.*

# Fighting for freedom

## *Elon professor internationally split over crisis in Syria*

Abby Franklin  
Senior Reporter

President Assad is president forever. We believe in one Middle East.” This phrase was repeated every morning by elementary to high school-age students across Syria to mark the start of a typical school day. Haya Ajjan, assistant professor of management information systems at Elon University, began school reciting this phrase and marching for Assad alongside her peers when she was 6 years old.

“I had to memorize [Assad’s] sayings and the religious book we had to study,” Ajjan said. “So I had to memorize religious phrases and his phrases and sometimes I would mix them up — which one is Assad and which one is God.”

During this time, Ajjan marched for Hafez al-Assad, the first of two Assads to rule Syria.

She couldn’t miss a letter when being quizzed on the pledge to Assad in school. She couldn’t talk about lions because “Assad” also means lion in Arabic. Any single instance of misspeaking was taken as a slight on the regime, even from a young child. These restrictions were enforced everywhere, even by her parents at home.

When Hafez al-Assad died in 2000, Ajjan said she was surprised.

“When he died, I remember thinking, ‘Oh my God, that’s impossible. How could he die?’” she said. “I had a struggle with myself because it’s been implanted in me since I was a child.”

Since then, the second Assad — Bashar al-Assad — has been dictator. Ajjan left to live in the United States at age 19, one year before the second regime, but she would never forget her childhood in Syria.

### Remembering her home sentimentally

Continuous demonstrations by opposition armies and protestors, chemical bombings and a public lineup of dead bodies define the conflict in Syria throughout the past few years. The death toll has surpassed 120,000 people. The

number of displaced Syrians surpasses 2 million. Bashar al-Assad and his regime control the majority of the country and exercise their power by waging internal war. It is almost 2014, and mass murder is occurring on the other side of the world — the United Nations is at a loss as to how to put an end to a violent modern dictatorship.

Despite political turmoil, Ajjan knew a beautiful Syria, one so picturesque that she proudly shows photos to her son, Alexander, and says, “Look, it’s Syria.”

“Something I always dream about, and I remember all the time, is my grandmother’s house,” Ajjan said. “The house was in Damascus. When you walked in, there was a courtyard and a fountain and there were rooms around the courtyard. It was Spanish style ... well actually, it was Damascene because the Spanish adopted [Damascene architectural styles].”

Ajjan said she remembers this image with vivid detail even today, through the eyes of a younger self.

“I’d see all of my uncles and aunts sitting around with my grandmother and everybody’s chatting,” she said. “You’d have 35 people there on an average day when it’s not a holiday or anything. Then you have kids of all ages — I always had my cousins to play with.”

Ajjan’s cousins have since spread out across the country. Some have come to the United States, but each family member experiences trauma alongside their Syrian countrymen fighting against an oppressive regime back in their once-beautiful birthplace.

The tranquil scene Ajjan described, however, is safe for her in the recesses of her mind’s eye. She’s in her own Syria — the one she shows to her son, the one where she spent summer days at her grandmother’s house.

“They had jasmine in the yard,” Ajjan said. “Damascene jasmine you don’t find here — it has a very strong fragrance. And then there was the fountain. They used to take watermelon and put it in the fountain to keep it cold over the summer. Everyone’s happy, everyone’s playing.”



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY HAYA AJJAN

An infant Haya Ajjan (being held, left) spends time with her mother, older brother and father at her grandmother’s house in Damascus, where Ajjan spent many summers during her time growing up in Syria.

The beloved house where her entire family gathered is no more. It was eventually knocked down and turned into an apartment complex.

### Daring to be different

The house is not the only thing Ajjan would lose after coming to the United States. When she made the decision to leave Syria to pursue an education, her parents took her and her brother to an airport in London. Leaving Syria was one of the hardest decisions she would make, she said.

Ajjan didn’t catch any flak from her parents, but her female relatives didn’t let her leave without chiming in, she said.

“We needed a better education than what Syria could offer, but my relatives said, ‘You can get married and have a good husband,’” Ajjan said as she recalled traditional Damascene values. “I have cousins that got married at 18. You hit 20 and they’re like, ‘Oh my God, she’s never

going to get married.’ Now when I say I have a doctorate, they’re like, ‘What do you mean?’”

Ajjan’s father, who advocated for opportunity over tradition, supported her decision to leave.

“When he let us go, I remember in the airport I looked back at him,” she said. “My mom was holding onto him, and he was crying. That was the last time I saw him.”

Ajjan’s father died during final exams in her first year of college.

Elon student Maria Brown\*, Ajjan’s mentee and fellow Damascene, said she understands the struggle of leaving home for education.

“Syrian education does not raise leaders purposefully,” Brown said. “If you meet a lot of Syrian women especially, the education doesn’t raise leaders. We don’t learn how to speak in public, give presentations or present ourselves. I think Haya has been able to be a leader against all odds and not let her [past Syrian] education define her.”

Ajjan received her undergraduate degree, an



TIM DEWITT | Staff Photographer

Haya Ajjan, assistant professor of management information systems, is originally from Syria. She has spoken at panels on the crisis in Syria and started the Speak Out for Syria (SOS) organization at Elon University.

MBA and her doctorate at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where she lives with her husband, Mahdi Ajjan, and their 4-year-old son.

Mahdi is also from Syria, but the couple met in the United States. He came here more than a decade after Ajjan and it became a running joke, according to her, to decide which one of them was 'more American.'

"You're so Syrian," she'd say to him.

She worked in information technology (IT) with Trans-America Insurance before coming into her current position at Elon. She said she is enthusiastic about teaching in a field she de-

scribes as dynamic.

"She commutes from Charlotte," said Elon senior Kelly Smith, one of Ajjan's advisees. "That's a one-and-a-half-hour drive, three or four times a week. She's definitely much different than professors my friends have at big schools. She really gave me the opportunity to think deeper about things."

### Combatting apathy, ignorance about crisis

Although she said she enjoys the position she holds at Elon, Ajjan said there's a place in her mind always processing the conflict in



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Three weeks after the Syrian military was driven out of the eastern city of Raqqa, Syria, in February 2013, residents still come to pose for photos on a toppled statue of former Syrian ruler Hafez Assad.

Syria. It is, after all, where most of her extended family lives.

"I have a cousin who actually fled the country because he was called for military service," Ajjan said. "Mandatory military service means you have to hold a weapon, and if you're asked to kill demonstrators, you have to. So he fled the country and now lives in Turkey."

Ajjan said she sees the Facebook posts of her family and friends in Syria between the classes she teaches every day. She sees posts about children who have died and their families, then goes to teach another class.

"It's strange — you immerse yourself in those stories and you feel like you're with them," Ajjan said. "It makes me cry, it makes me scream, I feel helpless and I turn around and I'm like, 'I have to go teach my class now.' It's like living dual lives. What's harder is you look at people here and you see that they don't know anything about what's happening."

For this reason, Ajjan has spoken at multiple panels on the crisis in Syria and started the Speak Out for Syria (SOS) organization at Elon along with Brown. SOS is a small group of about 15 students, but Ajjan said she wants to build it into a campus-wide force.

To Ajjan, even these efforts are not enough. For Brown, though, it may be too much.

"She is against the president and the regime 100 percent," Brown said. "My only issue with that is that I still have family in

Syria and I go back to Syria. Haya doesn't go to Syria anymore because if she does she'll be captured for all of the things she's been saying and doing. I need to be extra careful. That's something that she and I had to work out with this group."

Ajjan is constantly torn in half — her mind thinking freely in the United States, her heart with the people of Syria. She said she is dedicated to making both vital organs function in sync but must figure out how to help her home country in a limited window of action.

"My husband comes home, we talk about what happened in Syria that day, our frustrations and how the world just doesn't care," she said. "We eat dinner, put our son to sleep then we just sit and talk more about politics."

Ajjan has done more than converse about the crisis in Syria. She embodies the empowering message of a philosophy many women in Syria can't even imagine — the people who give up their power most easily are people who don't think they have any.

"I wish I could go and do as much as she does for the Syrian people," said Brown, who looks up to Ajjan as a role model. "She believes in that and she has a great drive for it. She wants to make a difference and I think she will." §

*\*Name has been changed for confidentiality purposes.*

## West Residence Hall celebrates big 1-0-8 with formal birthday party

**Tony Weaver, Jr.**  
Senior Reporter

It may be Elon University's 125th anniversary, but West Residence Hall is commemorating its own landmark this year.

Elon students, faculty and staff gathered in the West Hall Common Room for a formal celebration of the momentous occasion Nov. 14: the 108th birthday of West.

Many Elon students know West as the location for Convocation and Commencement, but this birthday party served as a lesson for those unaware of its significant history on Elon's campus.

Monet Thomas, assistant director of Residence Life for the Historic Neighborhood, collaborated with Residence Life's student workers to create an event that would showcase West, and from there, the birthday party was born.

"We wanted an event that helped students connect with living in the oldest place on campus," Thomas said.

Though new to her position, Thomas is no stranger to Elon. She graduated from Elon in 2007 and served as a resident director for East Area from 2008 to 2010.

Thomas and her staff addressed approximately 700 invitations by hand to students, faculty and staff with ties to the Historic Neighborhood.

The party was a formal occasion and featured a short program in which members of Elon's administration spoke.

Executive Vice President Gerry Francis was the first speaker, and he passionately discussed what Elon had accomplished during its 125 years. He also mentioned special initiatives Elon is participating in, such as its plan to plant 125 trees and the series of 25 trading cards distributed at College Coffee.

Smith Jackson, vice president for Student Life, spoke on the university's plans to create a four-year living experience where students would be encouraged to utilize campus housing for their entire college career.

President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley, the final speaker, entertained the

**"We wanted an event that helped students connect with living in the oldest place on campus."**

*- Monet Thomas, assistant director of Residence Life for the Historic Neighborhood*

crowd with his personal knowledge of West. Danieley started by discussing the founding of Elon and spoke about past Elon presidents after whom many campus buildings are named, such as Emmett Leonidas Moffitt, William Allen Harper and Leon Edgar Smith.

Then, he began to reminisce on his days in West.

Though he didn't live in West, a person very special to him did. According to Danieley, his then-girlfriend, Verona Annie Daniels, lived in West, and he would often sneak by after curfew to see her. Danieley pointed out places in the common room where they would meet.

"There wasn't much power so of course I turned off the lights," he said.

Danieley and Daniels were married in 1948 until her passing in 2011.

Through a variety of quirky stories, birthday party attendees learned a great deal about West and its history.

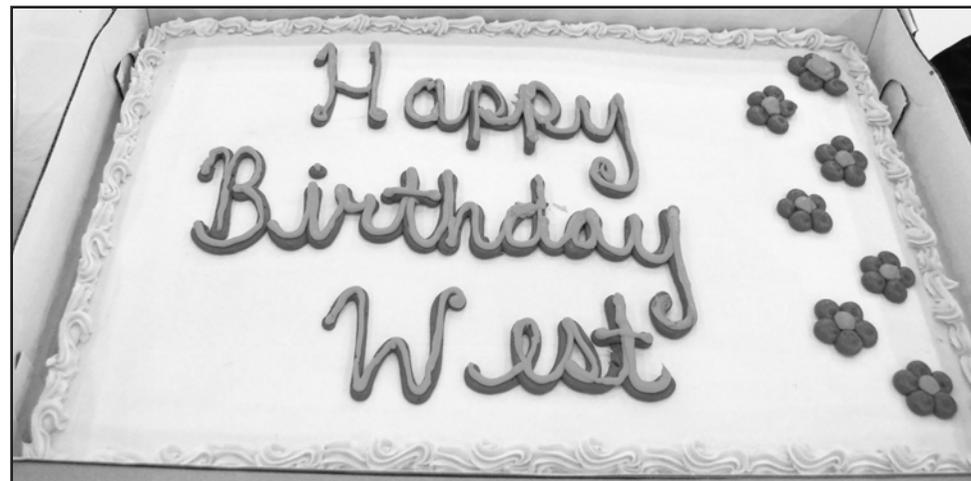
Freshman Doug Del Pizzo attended after receiving his invitation in the mail.

"I didn't think it was going to be as nice as it was," he said. "It was interesting to hear the history of the building."

According to Thomas, the event was a success. She said she intends to host this event every year and also plans to create more events to showcase the rich history of the Historic Neighborhood on Elon's campus.



TARA WIRTH | Staff Photographer  
Smith Jackson (left), vice president for Student Life, and President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley (back right) converse over hors d'oeuvres at West Residence Hall's formal 108th birthday celebration Nov. 14.



TARA WIRTH | Staff Photographer  
Elon students, faculty and staff enjoyed cake and fellowship in the West Hall Common Room.

# Student-run 'Interaction' displays art students' best work

Casey Brown  
Senior Reporter

Nov. 14 marked a momentous occasion for students in Elon University's ART 380: Professional Practices course. After a semester of hard work, collaboration and planning, students finally debuted a completely student-run art exhibition to the Elon community.

ART 380 is a required course for all art majors and strives to teach them some of the professional aspects of careers in the field. The students worked together to create and advertise a show and chose artwork to highlight it.

The students also had to name their show. Senior Kaitlyn Palumbo said they chose the exhibit's name to be "Interaction."

"We named the show 'Interaction' because we wanted to pick a theme that was broad enough for all the art," Palumbo said. "We wanted it to be interpreted a number of ways. We also wanted to promote artistic thinking."

To decide which pieces would be displayed in the show, the ART 380 students opted to elect an impartial expert to judge the various works. They chose Stacy Bloom Rexrode, who recently completed a graduate program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Choosing Rexrode was not a quick or easy decision. The group put a lot of thought into who they wanted to judge their works.

"We chose Stacy Bloom Rexrode because of her general style and technique, but also because we all agreed she seemed to be open to all types of media in art," said senior Kiley Brandt. "That's important when you're collecting works from so many different people."

Rexrode's openness to a variety of art types was apparent throughout the exhibition. The collection represented a vast array of media and themes. It included photographs, such as senior Noelle Casimo's award-winning photograph "Reclaimed," as well as paintings, sculptures and digital art.

There were also untraditional artistic representations, like senior Arielle Weil's booklet titled, "Will you follow me on Twitter? #oomf." Weil illustrated the tweets of one particular Twitter user in an artistic fashion for this piece.

Palumbo was proud of the collection of work the exhibition featured this year. Of 91 submissions, 37 works were chosen, and Palumbo said she believes those 37 works were a solid representation of the student art community at Elon.

"I was blown away by the talent, and it's



RUTH GRAY | Staff Photographer

"Religious War" by Nada Azem was one of many art pieces in "Interaction," a student-run art exhibit.

been cool to watch the show come together," Palumbo said. "It's like a puzzle — the works stand out but are cohesive. It is also really relatable work, because it's work made by your peers."

For those in ART 380, the exhibition acts as a real world taste of what they could be doing after they graduate. But through their project, they have created a student-friendly environment for their peers to have their first experiences submitting and showing their work.

For senior Brittany Graham, it is important

to have a show that is not only made for students, but is run by the students of Elon.

"I think it's important for students to have an avenue to show their work," Graham said. "While the work mostly remains in the classroom walls, it's an exciting opportunity to show their peers all the work they are putting into their art. It creates a sense of confidence in the students and a sense of community within our art department."

"Interaction" will be on display in the Performing Arts Center's Isabella Cannon room until Dec. 3.

## Exploring life after college: Elon acting students participate in web series, learn about filmmaking

Jessica Petrocchi  
Senior Reporter

Elon University cinema and acting students explored the idea of friendships through a web series titled "The Forum." Written by Alamance County natives Matthew Willets and Michael Hall, this series has nine parts and follows a group of friends finding their way through the post-graduate world.

"[The series] is about four guy friends as they navigate the post-college real world of finding jobs and forming, breaking and maintaining relationships," said senior acting major Emily Tryon.

Willets and Hall decided to make this project so they could have quality film work and experience to show when they transitioned to life in Los Angeles.

"A lot of this business is about creating your own work if you can't find anything so that's the idea behind this project," said senior acting major Caroline Klidonas.

The web series' casting director and Class of 2012 alum, Luke Gunn, was the one to bring Elon students into the mix. Once all the roles were filled, the group started filming. The series started Nov. 10 on YouTube, and every Sunday there will be a new addition until the end of the year.

The main character, Mack, is seeking purpose and thinks he will achieve this normal life by getting a steady job and a perfect girlfriend. But it's not exactly how he imagines, according to the description on "The Forum"'s Tumblr.

Not only did the writers gain valuable experience, but the Elon students involved learned the true process of creating their own film from start to finish.

"I learned that creating your own work is very doable," Tryon said. "It is so important today for actors to make their own opportunities. If you sit around waiting for someone to give you an opportunity, it'll never happen. Web series are becoming very popular now, and it was great to be a part of the pro-



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ROBERT GUNN

"The Forum," a new web series featuring Elon alumni, focuses on four friends taking on life after college.

cess and learn what goes into making one."

Junior Sam Jones said he loved the freedom he was given in bringing his character to life.

"You have to bring yourself to the character and have fun with it," Jones said. "The director let me improv a lot during the process, which was really fun and we had some

neat discoveries."

Besides Klidonas, Jones and Tryon, the cast consisted of alumni Mack Callahan, Ben Morris and Michael Bethea, as well as Fred Rubeck, chair of the Department of Performing Arts.

Graham Cinemas will premiere the series at 9:30 p.m. Nov. 20 for a \$2 admission.

# Four years in the making: Senior

**Dalton Cox**  
Senior Reporter

Elon University's Black Box Theatre was unadorned with the exception of a few turquoise crates, matching chairs and two twin beds that were cast haphazardly around the stage.

If someone had wandered in too early, he may have assumed the theater was vacant during the weekend of Nov. 15. But, as the audience entered, they noticed three tripods around their seats, all of which held a camera aimed toward the stage.

This year marked Elon's Bachelor of Fine Arts Acting program's first Senior Showcase, which took the place of traditional full-length senior shows.

"We saved a lot of time, money and energy by going this route," said senior Emily Guernsey. "We thought it was more important to showcase our talents, no fluff."

These students focused on the fundamental goal of the piece: to showcase the acting majors of 2014. Four years of training culminated in a one-hour composition.

Each performer delivered a monologue and engaged in a two-person scene. The evening included varied material from plays like "The Importance of Being Earnest" and "Everything Will Be Different" to films like "Before Sunrise."

Beginning last spring, the Class of 2014 brought in potential pieces for the showcase, and professors decided which monologues and scenes could best exemplify the individual's talents, type and look in a matter of minutes.

"I think of our program as 'the island of misfit toys' because we are all so different and quirky, and that is celebrated by our faculty," said senior Chet Norment. "They want to mold us into the best version of ourselves, not someone else."

These November performances are more of a practice round aimed to raise funds in an effort to bring in casting agents and directors from Los Angeles and New York. These professionals will



Seniors Kate Conway (left) and Jared Allen perform a scene in the first BFA Acting Senior Showcase Nov. 15 in the Black Box Theatre.

TIM DEWITT | Staff Photographer

observe when the seniors revive the showcase for private showings in the spring.

The experience gives the students a chance to establish relationships and contacts that may prove useful if they move to those parts of the country. Because professionals work with hundreds of actors on a daily basis, it is also a rare op-

portunity to establish recognition.

The expense of hosting such professionals is high, so the Class of 2014 has established an Indiegogo campaign in order to meet the costs. The goal is to raise \$8,000 to bring in four selected agents and casting directors from diverse regions around the country.

The site reads, "This unique experience will allow us to have face time with, work with and perform for industry professionals who can help us obtain jobs following graduation. In other words, you are helping out the future Hollywood and Broadway stars of the next generation."

The acting majors of the Class of 2014

# actors perform in first showcase



TIM DEWITT | Staff Photographer

Seniors Emily Merlin (left) and Tyler Alverson act out a dynamic scene for their time on stage.

will sponsor other fundraisers throughout the year like profit shares, car washes, bake sales and merchandise sales including tumblers, T-shirts and sunglasses that have “DRAMA” along the sides.

“We work in a highly competitive industry,” Guernsey said. “We learn a lot here, not just about acting methods, but the business side of it, too. There are a lot of programs that focus too little on what the real world is like, and I am thankful that we are prepared for what we are entering into.”

Recently, Brandon Curry from the Class of 2011 visited his alma mater to speak with students in the program. Curry is currently touring in “Ghost: The Musical,” and he also noted Elon’s well-maintained nationwide network.

“He was telling us how Elon students have a reputation of being hardworking and have an established community of

friends and alumni,” said senior Keith Hale. “That’s how he’s gotten a lot of his survival jobs. It’s really a network we’ll never lose.”

As these seniors enter the real world, many of them reflect back on their past four years and admit this was a bittersweet transition.

“For the most part, we take all of our classes together five days a week, so we know each other very, very well,” Norment said.

He said the group has become as close as his family.

“I couldn’t imagine myself anywhere else,” Guernsey said. “It did what it was supposed to do. It’s made me a better person, a better actor, a more professional actor. We learn a lot here, and these people ... sometimes you want to strangle each other, but you love each other unconditionally at the end of the day.” §



(Left) TIM DEWITT | Staff Photographer

(Left to right) Seniors Emily Tryon, Keith Hale and Tyler Alverson stand for applause after their performances. With the help of supporters, the group was able to bring in casting agents and directors.



TIM DEWITT | Staff Photographer

Seniors Caroline Klidonas (left) and Katherine Jones give a comical performance during the showcase. The casting agents and directors who attended the Senior Showcase were from Los Angeles and New York.

# Elon men's soccer draws Clemson in NCAA Tournament first round

Andrew Wilson  
Sports Editor

After winning the Southern Conference Tournament on a goal in double overtime from junior forward Jason Waterman on Sunday against Wofford College, the Elon University men's soccer team will host Clemson University of the Atlantic Coast Conference Nov. 21, in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The match between the Phoenix and the Tigers is set for 7 p.m. on Rudd Field. It's the first time Elon has hosted a first round matchup.

"We've seen Clemson a couple times this year, but we haven't watched them in detail," said Elon head coach Darren Powell. "We'll prepare the team like we would for any other game. We are very fortunate that we can sleep in our own beds so we can prepare ourselves at home for Thursday night."

## Phoenix in familiar position after winning conference tournament once again

Kyle Maher  
Senior Reporter

The Elon University men's soccer team traveled to Greenville, S.C., last week for the Southern Conference Tournament having escaped an upset bid from Appalachian State University in the first round on penalty kicks. They hoped to win a third-straight SoCon championship and take the conference's automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament that came with it.

The players readied themselves for Georgia Southern University, who upset the second-seeded University of North Carolina at Greensboro in the first round. They weren't a team the Phoenix could overlook. As it turned out, there was no need for concern. Elon scored two goals in the game's first 15 minutes and never looked back, pounding the Eagles 5-1 and advancing to the championship game against Wofford College.

"We're always trying to score goals," said head coach Darren Powell. "But it's all about creating chances and executing when you have them. [Against GSU], when we had those moments, we executed well, and it's very nice when that happens early in a game."

The five goals, a season high, gave an already confident team even more reason to believe in its ability to put the ball in the back of the net.

"It gives you confidence whenever you hit

Elon has never won a NCAA Tournament game. The team's first two appearances in the tournament have come in each of the last two years. Both times, Elon has traveled to Myrtle Beach, S.C., for first round matchups with Coastal Carolina University.

"It's nice to see our name not next to theirs and knowing we don't have to go back to Myrtle Beach," said senior midfielder Daniel Lovitz.

Dating back to 1998, Elon and Clemson have matched up six times with the Phoenix leading the series 3-2-1. Overall, Elon has won the last three contests in the series. Most recently, Elon topped the Tigers in 2011 by a score of 1-0 in Rhodes Stadium.

This season, Elon finished with a mark of 15-4-2. The Phoenix defeated Wofford in Greenville, S.C., Sunday to earn the Southern Conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

the back of the net that often. There's no question about that," Powell said. "We wanted to get a lot of opportunities in front of the goal and we did."

After a quick celebration, the Phoenix had to regroup and refocus for the championship match against the Wofford Terriers. By then, the Phoenix had become familiar with quick turnarounds, senior midfielder Daniel Lovitz said, having played in two in-season tournaments earlier in the year with similar schedules to the conference tournament.

"Darren puts a schedule together so that we can plan out weekends like this with short turnarounds," Lovitz said. "At the Duke [University] tournament and the Wilmington [N.C.] tournament, there were quick turnarounds and we went undefeated at those tournaments. So we were confident."

The game, played in a driving rain and in front of a pro-Wofford crowd, remained scoreless until Phoenix junior forward Jason Waterman took a through pass from sophomore forward Caue Da Silva and put the ball in the back of the net in double overtime.

"To score that goal, it was an amazing feeling," Waterman said. "Holding the trophy and wearing this [championship] ring, it's amazing."

With the win, Elon became only the second team in Southern Conference history to threepeat in the league's postseason tournament.

NCAA Tournament 1 <sup>st</sup> Round	
	
When:	Thursday, Nov. 21   7:00 p.m.
Where:	Elon, N.C.

"When your name is on that board, it's special," Powell said. "It's such a difficult task to make the event, so to see our name on there fills you with pride. I'm just so happy for these guys. They've worked so hard every day for that moment and you go back to the winning goal in the SoCon Tournament and you know what it means. You see all those guys chasing each other, it's just a great feeling of pride for these boys

"It's really hard to put into words," Lovitz said. "To get the third one in a row, it's really hard to wrap your head around. But we're thrilled, we're really happy."

The Phoenix gathered for the NCAA Tournament Selection Show Monday afternoon knowing there was no way they could be left off the board.

"It definitely let us all sleep better in our beds," Powell said. "We didn't have to worry

and what they do. Now to have a home game as well, they should be very proud."

Clemson finished with a record of 11-7-2, 5-4-2 in ACC play. The Tigers fell to eventual ACC champion University of Maryland in the semifinals of the ACC Tournament.

In two games this year against ACC teams, Elon went 1-1 with a win at home against then-No. 9 Wake Forest University and a loss on the road against Duke University. The Phoenix was shut out 3-0 at Duke Oct. 22, marking the last time the Phoenix has lost a match.

The Tigers played two games this season against SoCon teams. With both contests at home, Clemson beat the UNCG Spartans 2-0, but fell to Furman, 2-1, Oct. 15.

Elon is the only SoCon team to make the tournament field of 48. The winner of the contest earns a trip to Los Angeles to take on the top seed in the tournament, UCLA.

about the what-ifs or what might happen. All we were certain of is that we're in that national tournament."

Overall, Elon went 15-4-2 this season with a 4-2 record in conference and now heads to the NCAA Tournament.

"It's incredible," Lovitz said. "We just keep setting new bars for achievement and this is something we've achieved as a team through hard work. This is all just amazing for us."



On Sunday, Elon captured its third straight SoCon Tournament title by beating Wofford in double overtime.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

# Women's soccer set for transition to CAA following SoCon finals loss

Andrew Wilson  
Sports Editor

The Colonial Athletic Association isn't anything new for Elon University women's soccer coach Chris Neal who was previously a coach at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. For the rest of the team, it's uncharted territory.

"I know the CAA like the back of my hand," Neal said. "I'm used to that grind going to the Northeast to Hofstra [University], Drexel [University], [University of] Delaware and Towson [University]. I did it for eight years. I've got that experience, which ultimately I think will help our team."

After falling in the Southern Conference Tournament finals to Furman University Nov. 10, the women's soccer team became the first Elon athletic program to set its eyes on the new conference. All Elon athletic programs are competing in the SoCon this academic year before transitioning to the CAA prior to the 2014-2015 academic year. The move was announced in May by Leo Lambert, Elon's president, and Dave Blank, the school's athletic director.

Instead of traveling to the likes of Birmingham, Ala., or Statesboro, Ga., Elon will now head for the colder air against teams like Northeastern University, located in Boston, and Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

"The weather will be a big difference. It will be a little colder in early October even," Neal said. "But we have a lot of kids from the Northeast that are used to it. They've been living the high life down here in the 70s during the season. Who knows how much of a factor it will be? For College of Charleston, it was a factor this year."

As the College of Charleston, a former SoCon member that made the transition this summer to the CAA, saw, the going was quite different as the weather got colder and the Cougars went north.

In their first season as a member of the conference, the Cougars finished with an overall record of 2-14-1, 0-7-1 in conference play. In the College of Charleston's last season in the Southern Conference in 2012, the Cougars went 7-12-1 overall, 5-5-1 in conference.

"Colonial is a different style of play and

different teams are going to play with different tactics," said senior forward Jennifer McGorty. "I'm kind of excited for Elon to go into the CAA. You look at teams like Charleston and they've been a great opponent for us in the past. You see their record, but I don't think it's any reflection on how we're going to do in it. We did great in our preseason playing those other teams."

While Elon enters the CAA on a better note having gone 13-3-6 this season and reaching the SoCon Tournament championship match, Neal said there are a few factors that will play into Elon's success in 2014.

"It goes without saying it's a tougher league," Neal said. "We have to get better. We're going to let the kids enjoy the season they just had and the body of work they put in for the next week. After Thanksgiving, we're going to get back in the weight room. As soon as January gets here, we'll be right back on the field. That's how we're going to counter it. We can't get complacent. We have to make sure our team gets better."

Scoring will also be a big factor for Elon to replace. Though sophomore forward Nicole Dennion scored 15 goals this season and won SoCon Player of the Year, 27 of the team's 56 goals were scored by graduating seniors.

In order to succeed in the challenging new conference, other members of the team, as well as any of the 10 incoming freshmen, will have to step up to help Dennion on the scoring front.

"McGorty had eight. [Senior forward Catherine] Brinkman had seven. [Senior forward] Kendall [Stanley] had four. [Senior forward] Chelsey [Stark] had three. With this senior class, we lose 27 goals," Neal said. "Other kids are going to get a chance on the team. Whether or not we can manufacture goals next year like we did this year, I guess we'll have to wait and see."

While Elon did not match up against any CAA teams during the regular season, the Phoenix took on UNCW in a preseason exhibition and battled the Seahawks to a 1-1 draw.

"We didn't really know who we were as a team at that point in our exhibition with UNCW and we tied them," Neal said. "UNCW finished tied for fourth in the Co-



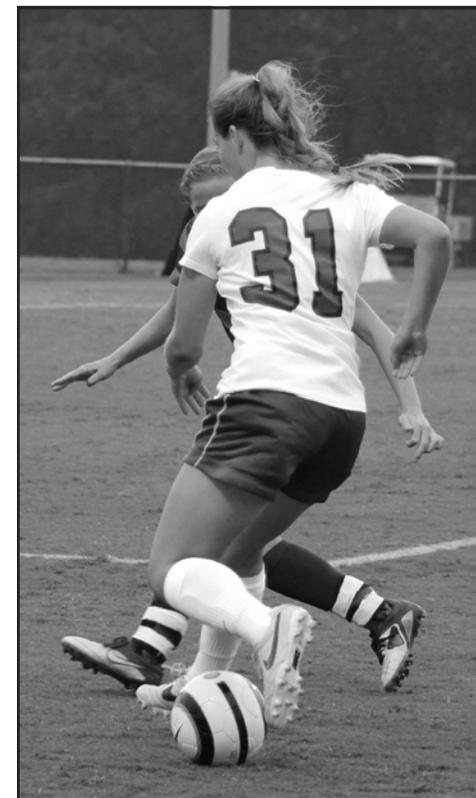
FILE PHOTO BY RACHEL INGERSOLL

Senior Olivia Mackey scored two goals and tallied eight assists for Elon from defense this season.

lonial, so there are benchmarks we can look at, but it's not going to be easy."

The depth of the conference is a draw for the Phoenix because of the NCAA Tournament possibilities. With 327 women's soccer programs, the chances of an at-large bid for teams not winning their conference tournament grows significantly. In the Southern Conference's history, one team has earned an at-large bid. Year after year, though, the CAA can send multiple teams to the NCAA Tournament because of the strength of the conference.

"You literally can beat everybody on that schedule," Neal said. "But literally everybody can beat you. There are a couple games in the Southern Conference, or at least one game every year, that you just get on top of early on for whatever reason and it just goes your way and you can rest people. You just don't have that game in the Colonial. Every game is going to be nail-biting, one- or two-goal decisions. If we thought the Southern Conference was a grind, the Colonial is going to be even worse. And it's going to be colder."



FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

Senior captain Jennifer McGorty was second on the team in goals scored this season with eight.

# IF ELON HAD BEEN IN THE COLONIAL

Compiled by Andrew Wilson  
Sports Editor

*In May 2013, Elon University President Leo Lambert and Athletic Director Dave Blank announced Elon would transition to the Colonial Athletic Association starting before the 2014-2015 academic year. If Elon had been a member of the CAA this year, below is how the Phoenix would have compared to the rest of the conference.*

## MEN'S SOCCER

The Southern Conference Tournament champions three years running, the men's soccer team will enter the CAA as what is probably the best equipped Elon athletic team from the fall season. Drexel University, the winner of both the regular season and conference titles in the CAA, finished the 2013 season with an overall record of 9-7-4 overall, 4-1-2 in conference play. Elon, who finished with a 15-4-2 overall record and a 4-2 mark in conference play — one game behind Wofford College — would have the best overall mark of any CAA team. The Phoenix finished with one more win and one more tie than the University of Delaware did on the season. The Blue Hens finished fourth in the CAA this season with a conference record of 4-3.

The College of William & Mary, to whom the Phoenix lost in double over-

time Sept. 20 for its first loss of the season, earned an NCAA Tournament bid after losing the CAA Tournament final against Drexel. The Tribe is ranked No. 21 in the country. Prior to beating Elon, William & Mary knocked off then-No. 1 seed Creighton University.

The other CAA team Elon faced during the season was Northeastern University. The Phoenix battled Northeastern to a 1-1 draw in the season opener Aug. 30 in the Duke University Classic in Durham.

Having won the SoCon Tournament, Elon, ranked No. 22 in the country, will take on Clemson University Nov. 21 at Rudd Field in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Regardless of the result Elon garners in the NCAA Tournament, the Phoenix seems to be sitting in good position entering the CAA in 2014.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

Head coach Chris Neal's squad bounced back from a sub-.500 year in 2012 to challenge for the SoCon regular season and tournament titles. With an overall record of 13-3-6, 5-1-4 in SoCon play, Elon finished as the runner-up to Furman University in both facets.

Scoring was not an issue this season for the Phoenix. Sophomore Nicole Dennion was named SoCon Player of the Year after scoring 15 goals on the year. Elon scored 56 goals on the season and scored an average of 2.55 goals per game, good for ninth in the NCAA.

With an overall 15-5-1 record and a 6-1-1 mark in the CAA, James Madison University won the regular season title but

was upended by Northeastern University in the CAA Tournament championship game. Northeastern finished third in the regular season with a 6-9-6 overall record and a 5-2-1 mark in conference.

The only team that significantly struggled in the CAA this season was former SoCon member College of Charleston. The Cougars went 2-14-1 on the year and 0-7-1 in conference. As for the rest of the conference, six of the nine teams had a conference mark of .500 or better.

A preseason matchup with the University of North Carolina at Wilmington is the only game Elon played against a CAA team this season. The Phoenix and Seahawks battled to a 1-1 draw.

# ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION THIS YEAR...



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

## FOOTBALL

Coming off a tough 3-8 season a year ago, the going only got tougher for the Phoenix this year. Sitting at 2-9 overall, 1-6 in So-Con play with one game to go this year on the road against Samford University, it's no secret the Phoenix has fallen on hard times in recent years.

Elon's two wins came against Div. III opponent West Virginia Wesleyan College Sept. 7 and a road victory against Furman University Oct. 5 in Greenville, S.C. Against the Paladins, Elon had to hold on and fight off Furman's comeback bid but ultimately came out victorious. Elon also lost to Western Carolina University this season. The Catamounts had previously dropped 33 straight Div. I games.

A transition to the CAA is not going to be easy for head coach Jason Sweption and the Phoenix. With the 2014 eight-game conference slate already released, the Phoenix doesn't play this season's bottom two teams: the University of Rhode Island and the State University of New York at Albany. Albany has not won a CAA game this season and sits at 1-10 overall.

On the other side, the University of Maine is 10-1 overall, 7-0 in the CAA. Towson University sits at 9-2 overall, 5-2 in the CAA. Both teams beat BCS programs earlier this season. In all, seven CAA teams sit with records of .500 or better while the University of Richmond sits at 5-6. It could be a rough year ahead for Elon football.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

## VOLLEYBALL

The College of Charleston dominated CAA volleyball this season to the tune of a 13-1 record in conference and a 23-5 mark overall. Entering the conference championship, the Cougars are the heavy favorites to sweep the conference titles.

With an overall mark of 16-16, the same record Elon finished with in 2012, head coach Mary Tendler's team snuck into the SoCon Tournament as the No. 8 and final seed in the tournament. They'll enter as the underdogs against the back-to-back SoCon regular season champion Georgia Southern University Eagles. Elon has lost four straight matches entering the SoCon

Tournament.

Finishing with a 7-9 conference record, Elon's record regressed from last year and as it enters the CAA, the Phoenix will find the competition tougher. Four of the eight teams this season in the CAA finished above .500, with two more finishing 6-8. No CAA team lost less than 10 games overall this season. The bottom two SoCon teams — The Citadel and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga — combined for nine wins all year. The Citadel went 0-16 in SoCon play this season.

Elon's 16 overall wins would tie for fourth in the CAA with Hofstra University.

# Elon moves on from SoCon with 'hole in program'

**Matt Krause**  
Assistant Sports Editor

Few moments in Elon University athletic history have drawn as much excitement as the 2009 Southern Conference "de facto football championship game" between the Phoenix and the Appalachian State Mountaineers at Rhodes Stadium. Though Elon came up short of a conference title in that 2009 season, the year, along



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Elon closes the regular season Nov. 23 against Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

with an eight-win 2008 campaign, was the high mark of Elon's football membership in the Southern Conference.

In May 2013, it was announced that Elon would be moving its entire athletic program to the Colonial Athletic Association beginning with the 2014-15 school year. This meant the "SoCon farewell tour" was underway for 2013.

Needless to say, the tour has had its bumps for Elon football. With one game remaining against Samford University Nov. 23, Elon sits at 2-9 overall, 1-6 in SoCon play.

"We do have talent on the team, but I think at this point we just don't have enough," said head coach Jason Swepson. "That's something we're going to address in recruiting."

Elon has competed in games in 2013, dropping four games by 10 or fewer points. On two occasions, Elon has blown double-digit halftime leads. Each time, Swepson is quick to point out how his team is "a year away in the weight room" from being legitimate contenders.

The problem is, the caliber of the 2013 Southern Conference is a far cry from the CAA any year. SoCon members have won a total of five non-conference games this season, and no team has lost fewer than two conference games in 2013. Those close to the league predict the SoCon might not send more than one team to the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs come the end of November.

"The league was down this year," said se-

nior safety Chandler Wrightenberry. "You've got Appalachian State and Georgia Southern [University] leaving, so their minds were on other things. Same with us. But the past four years playing in the SoCon, the SoCon was one of the best conferences in the nation."

Swepson pointed out Elon's record has suffered in the last two seasons, and the reasons are visible on film and are not mysteries.

"If you look at just wins and losses, we've struggled," he said. "I felt like this year we were playing right there with everyone for about 30 to 40 minutes."

Swepson went on to add that his team is in need of "perfection" on offense.

"It's tough to do in football," he said. "We only lost three guys on offense from last year. [Redshirt freshman wide receiver] Justin Osborne's going to be a playmaker. He's just got to get a little more confidence. [Freshman] Demetri Allison, he's a playmaker out there at the wide receiver position. It's all there. We just have to be getting those guys another year in the weight room."

While Swepson argues the team is in need of more work in the weight room, his players do not believe they are getting beat physically.

"I don't think we're being physically out-matched," said junior wide receiver Kierre Brown. "Size-wise, we're a little undersized, but as far as athletic ability goes, we're a lot more athletic than most teams. It's more heart than

being physically outplayed, so everyone has to play harder at the end of the day."

Junior quarterback Mike Quinn agreed with both Swepson and Brown, saying the Phoenix is on the cusp of success as the team enters the CAA.

"Some of the teams do look bigger than us," Quinn said. "With this new weight coach [Ted Perlak], we have something special with him. Our weight coach is going to get us ready to be in the CAA."

In comparison to the SoCon, the CAA has routinely had as many as five teams ranked in the top 25 of the FCS each week. Two CAA teams — Towson University and the University of Maine — have defeated Football Bowl Subdivision teams this year, and the CAA has sent three teams to National Championship games in the last five years.

"CAA is tough," Quinn said. "There's a bunch of good teams in the CAA. It's definitely a tough conference that we've got to be prepared for."

With eight starters returning on offense, Brown said he believes this offseason is the perfect chance to bury what went wrong this season and re-invent Elon.

"We're ready to attack the CAA," Brown said. "We're ready to finish this season up, hit the offseason hard and come back next season in a new attitude. New Elon, new conference, new face, new everything."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

FOOTBALL	MEN'S BASKETBALL	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	VOLLEYBALL	MEN'S SOCCER
Samford 7 p.m., Sat., Nov. 23 Birmingham, Ala.	NIT Season Tip-Off TBD* TBD, Mon., Nov. 25-Fri. Nov. 29 Location TBD*  *Opponents and locations are based on results of the first week of the NIT Season Tip-Off.	East Carolina 2 p.m., Sat., Nov. 23 Elon, N.C.  Vanderbilt 5 p.m., Fri., Nov. 29 Nashville, Tenn.	SoCon Tournament Georgia Southern 12:30 p.m., Fri., Nov. 22 Greenville, S.C.  *If Elon wins vs. Georgia Southern: UNCG/Appalachian State 5 p.m., Sat., Nov. 23 Greenville, S.C.	NCAA Tournament Clemson 7 p.m., Thurs., Nov. 21 Elon, N.C.  *If Elon wins vs. Clemson: UCLA 11 p.m., Sun., Nov. 24 Los Angeles, Calif.

# THE LAST WORD: Ain't nuthin' but a G thing

Since coming out to my friends freshman year, I have been fortunate enough to never have faced adversity for my sexuality.



**Jonathan Black**  
Managing Editor

I've led as normal a life as any struggling journalism major can lead, and I have never been called the F-word, "queer," "limp wrists" or any other derogatory name. Nor have I ever had to remind any of my friends not to call me something like that at any point since.

However, there was one term I felt the need to distance myself from the moment I came out: "gay best friend."

This past week, I have unfortunately found myself overhearing the term being

thrown around in two different conversations.

One girl, oblivious to how loudly she was speaking, was telling a story to another classmate — a gay man — how she used to get wasted all the time with her gay best friend in high school.

Classy.

Another spent 20 minutes telling one of my friends how she hoped to marry her gay best friend.

"Whatever, he's still my gay best friend. But he's gay."

In case you couldn't decipher this sentence of Shakespearean quality, her gay best friend is, indeed, gay.

I'm not saying being called a gay best friend is anything close to being called the F-word or has anything to do with my acceptance of my sexuality. But if I spent my day identifying my friends by traits

they can't help, I'd come across as a racist, a misogynist and a zealot.

By calling me or anyone else who identifies as gay, a "gay best friend," you're devaluing any sort of relationship I could have with you. You're refusing to identify us as multi-dimensional human beings.

Yes, I'm snarky, quick to judge and love "Chelsea Lately," but I also don't have limp wrists, speak in a high-pitched voice or particularly like Lady Gaga — all things deemed "stereotypical." Being gay didn't determine those characteristics. I knew all of those traits about myself before I even realized I was attracted to men. Just like when I talk, I'm not sounding "gay," I'm sounding like myself.

These stereotypes don't stem from nothing. While television and other media have recently been great about introducing gay-friendly entertainment into

mainstream pop culture, they have done a horrible job of fighting the gay stereotype instilled by shows like "Will & Grace," "Glee" and, to some extent, "Modern Family."

I'm more than happy to be someone's friend who happens to be gay. I'm not OK being your sassy sidekick who you like to drunkenly try to make out with or propose marriage to.

I'm not saying every gay man should avoid this friendship. If that's what you want, more power to you. But I refuse to have this shoved onto me.

I am a friend, son, brother, journalist, "Game of Thrones" fan, connoisseur of The Root and a gay man, among many other things.

And if you think I'm your "gay best friend," then you will be no "straight friend" of mine.

## Top Tweets

### @HeadPhoenix

Congratulations @ElonMensSoccer! Conference Champions! You make us all proud!

### @ElonConfessions

It's impossible to inconspicuously walk across the grass when the leaves are frozen and crunchy

### @andrewhopun

Great friends, great memories at Elon's homecoming. A true reminder of how fortunate I am to have the friends I have.

#ElonHome

### @ballerhollister

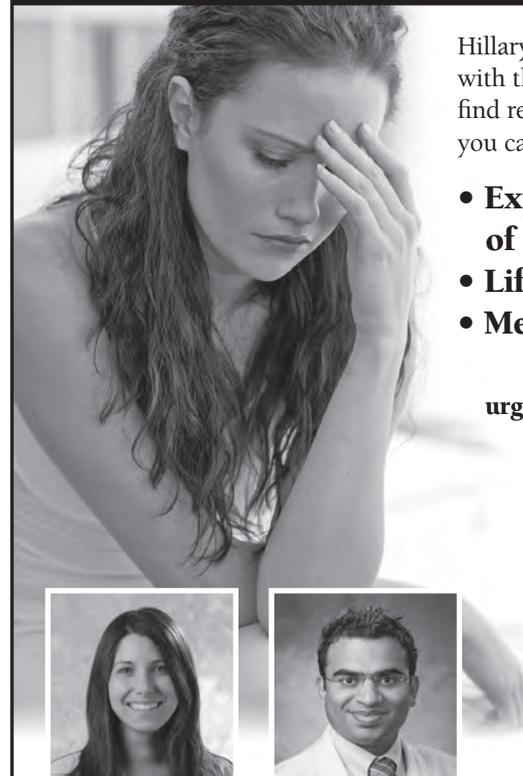
I'm surprised more Elon students don't have heart attacks during registration week...

### @emmorris16

Praying the people of Elon handle snow just about as well as those in Charlottesville. #EverybodyFreakOut



## Headache Sufferers



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**Hillary Tester, PA-C**  
Duke University



**Hemang Shah, MD**  
Neurologist

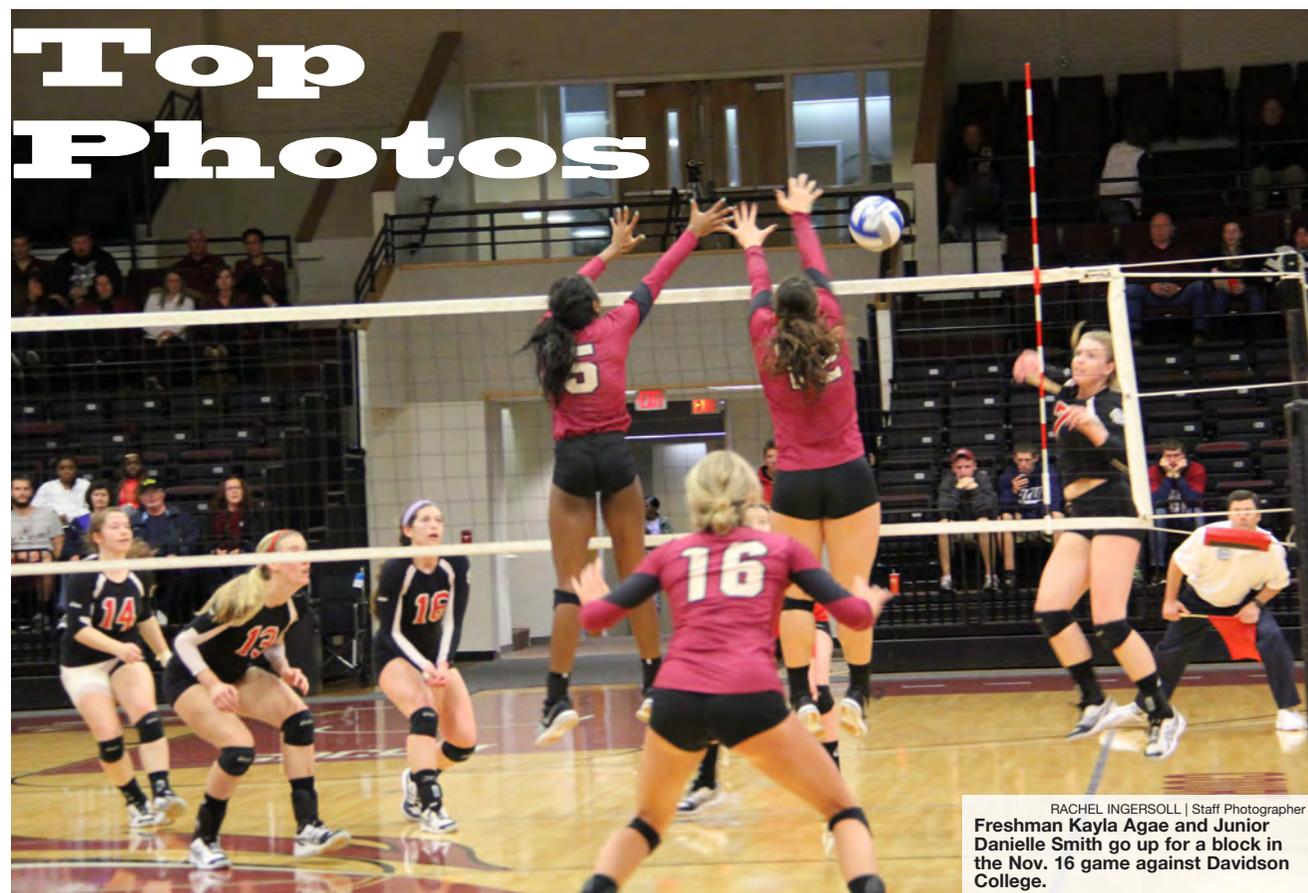


**Kernodle Clinic**

Department of the Private Diagnostic Clinic, PLLC

1234 Huffman Mill Rd., Burlington

# Top Photos



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer  
Freshman Kayla Agae and Junior Danielle Smith go up for a block in the Nov. 16 game against Davidson College.



TIM DEWITT | Staff Photographer  
Smooth Progressions serenades an audience Friday, Nov. 8 in Whitley Auditorium.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer  
Timeflies brings students to their feet at the 2013 Homecoming show.



TARA WIRTH | Staff Photographer  
The audience dissolves into spasmodic giggles during a performance of "Instant Laughter" Nov 8.

RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer  
**Elon basketball fans showed their spirit at the Nov. 8 game against Washington and Lee.**



TARA WIRTH | Staff Photographer

**The Phoenix squares off against Georgia Southern University Nov. 16, eventually falling to the Eagles 38-20.**



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