

THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2012 • VOLUME 38, EDITION 23

Buying experience

Business students cash in on endowment opportunity.

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Make 'em laugh

Elon Tonight members prepare for Season Four.

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Fall Sports Recap

Review the top moments of the 2012 fall season.

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Good eats

Lakeside Dining Hall nears completion

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THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum news organization is a daily operation that includes a newspaper, website, magazine and web show. Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to pendulum@elon.edu as Word documents. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns 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.

Editor-in-Chief
Caitlin O'Donnell

Managing Editor
Natalie Allison

Online Managing Editor
Jeff Stern

News Editor
Katherine Blunt

News Editor
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International Editor
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Opinions Editor
Daniel Quackenbush

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Cover: The Lakeside Dining Hall, scheduled to open Spring 2013, will serve as a center for student dining and activities. In addition to offering a multitude of food options, the new dining location will also house the on-campus catering services formerly located in Harden Dining Hall.

MORE online

For more exclusive online content, visit elonpendulum.com



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KELSEY HIGGINS

Virginia Novine-Whittaker, adjunct instructor of music, conducts the Elon Music Ambassadors during a recent rehearsal. The group's concert, "One World, One Voice," will take place at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 3 in McCrary Theatre and will feature musical selections from various countries around the world.

Nov. 28 - Dec. 7

<p>Wed., Nov. 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punjabi festival commemorating Guru Nanak Dev Sahib's birthday • Q&A with Pete Ustach of Pandora's Pies: 7 p.m., KOBC 244 	<p>Thurs., Nov. 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elon's annual Festival of Holiday Lights: 6 p.m. in front of Alamance • Midnight Meals: Sweet Signatures: 11 p.m., Irazu • "How to Find an Internship": 4:30 p.m., Moseley Center Room 140 	<p>Fri., Nov. 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ultimate Fitness Challenge: 3:30 p.m., Harden Clubhouse • Gospel Choir presents Rejoice!: 7:30 p.m., McKinnon Hall • Elon Electric Ensemble 7 p.m., McCrary Theatre 	<p>Sat., Dec. 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Experience students host meal-packing event • Kopper Top Life Learning Center's Christmas Hayride and Bonfire: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., 6657 Kimesville Rd., Liberty 	<p>Sun., Dec. 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moravian Christmas Love Feast and Candle Service: 5 p.m., Elon Community Church • Department of Music presents 'A Celebration of Light': 7:30 p.m., Whitley Auditorium
<p>Mon., Dec. 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Wonderland Dinner: 4 - 9 p.m. Colonnades Dining Hall • One World, One Voice: 7:30 p.m., McCrary Theatre • "How to Find an Internship" 7 p.m., Moseley Center Room 140 	<p>Tues., Dec. 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday Reception: 6 - 9 p.m., Maynard House. Use the shuttles provided from Boney Fountain at Moseley Center • "How to Find an Internship": 4:30 p.m., Moseley Center, Room 140 	<p>Wed., Dec. 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Day 	<p>Thurs., Dec. 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exams 	<p>Fri., Dec. 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exams

Elon Academy Mentor

SGA

one on one Sports

Athletics Marketing Intern

OSSI Fellow

Executive Intern

Public Administration Major

S.M.A.R.T. Mentor

Multicultural Ambassador

Resident Assistant

Elon Network

PPIA Fellow

Greek Life supports my: Engagement

Construction of new dining hall reveals new retail outlets, food options

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

Construction of the new Lakeside Dining Hall at Elon University is nearing completion. Scheduled to open in spring 2013, the building will house several retail vendors as well as a dining hall serving both local and international cuisine.

The retail dining area will include Freshii, a vendor offering fast, fresh food such as salads, wraps and soups, as well as several other grab-and-go options.

There is space in the retail area for a full-scale Chick-fil-A, but construction of the restaurant has been paused until a university-appointed study committee examines Elon's partnership with the franchise. Until the committee determines whether the partnership aligns with Elon's vendor policy, Chick-fil-A will remain open in Octagon Cafe alongside Topio's Pizza and Grille Works.

The dining hall will provide three distinct dining experiences. An international station will feature foods and recipes from different countries and regions around the world.

"More so than ever, we're trying to align with the goals of The Elon Commitment," said Jeff Gazda, resident district manager for Elon Dining Services. "If Elon is preparing global leaders, we want to expose them to international cuisine."

The international menu will change every week to ensure students are exposed to a wide

variety of cuisines.

"We want to offer an educational experience, too," said Kate Nelson, marketing manager for Elon Dining Services. "We plan to reach out to international studies students and see if they want to coordinate any kind of programming with the menus."

Another station will offer traditional homestyle meals, such as chicken and pasta.

"It's comfort food," Nelson said. "It's similar to what Isabella's serves."

A local foods station will feature seasonal produce, as well as vegan and organic options. Dining Services will consider partnerships with local farms after ensuring the farms meet Elon's health and safety criteria.

A large food preparation and storage area will support the Lakeside Dining Hall, as well as several other dining facilities on campus. The space will also support Elon's catering services.

"This space will support the university for a good decade as it renovates and builds," Gazda said.

A ballroom space on the second floor of the facility will provide additional space for student activities and meetings.

MORE online

Additional photos of the new Lakeside Dining Hall are available online at elonpendulum.com.



CLAIRE ESPARHOST | Photo Editor

The new facility's retail dining area will include Freshii, a vendor offering fast and fresh food options like salads, soups and wraps. This area will also provide grab-and-go options similar to those offered in Octagon Cafe.



CLAIRE ESPARHOST | Photo Editor

Lakeside Dining Hall will house three main culinary stations, providing an array of homestyle, local and international cuisine. Menus will change daily, and the theme of the international station will change weekly.

Octagon remains open until Chick-fil-A decision finalized

Michael Bodley
Senior Reporter

Originally slated for next semester, plans to remodel Elon's Moseley Center are now contingent on the resolution of the recent Chick-fil-A controversy. Under the new design, Octagon Cafe will be removed to make room for an expanded student area featuring more seating, study rooms and offices for student organizations. But, at least for the immediate future, the project is stalled while construction awaits the university's approval.

Though the university determined the logistics and designed the renovation, the inspiration came from students. According to Holly Hodge, interior designer at Elon, students who felt Moseley did not meet the needs of the student body expressed their concern to the administration.

"Students were requesting more of a student center," she said. "We want it to be more student based."

Octagon Cafe and its kitchens, along with Hearth Lounge, will be renovated to accommodate the students' requests, but the rest of the first floor of Moseley — the mailroom, Irazu Coffee and McKinnon Hall — will re-

main unchanged.

Lambert Architecture + Interiors, an architectural firm based in Salem, designed the new layout. The group has worked with the university in the past, designing the Student Professional Development Center and the renovation of the basketball locker rooms in Koury Gym.

In keeping with the focus on student affairs, the new space will attempt to consolidate the offices of eight on-campus organizations. According to Brad Moore, director of planning, design and construction, if the experiment works, other organizations may be allotted space when the second floor of Moseley is eventually renovated.

"Where Octagon is now will be a student hangout place where different student organizations can have an office," he said. "We're trying to give groups that are already there a chance to expand and grow, and make room for those without a home."

Two Octagon eateries, Topio's Pizza and, potentially, Chick-fil-A, will move to the Lakeside Dining Hall, which is currently under construction and scheduled to open in spring 2013. Freshii, a new restaurant serving wraps and salads, will share space in Lakeside. But it all hinges on the Chick-fil-A decision.



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Despite original plans, Octagon will remain open when Lakeside Dining Hall opens in 2013.

Reserving the right to remove Chick-fil-A from campus, the university has refrained from creating the new, full-service Chick-fil-A in Lakeside. Until then, the Octagon Chick-fil-

A will remain.

"Until that decision is made, nothing is going to happen in Octagon," Moore said. "We don't know when that will be."

Plans to expand McEwen rely on outside donations

Michael Bodley
Senior Reporter

Elon University plans to significantly renovate and add on to the McEwen School of Communications building in an effort to meet the needs of the 1,054 communications majors in the growing school. The new design will consolidate campus media organizations such as ESTV, Live Oak Communications and WSOE into a central location. Though the decision to expand has been affirmed by members of Elon's senior staff, Paul Parsons, dean of the School of Communications, said it requires fundraising to proceed.

"There is not a timetable," Parsons said. "It relies on the securing of private gifts. You have to raise millions and millions to do this."

The process has been lengthy, Parsons said. Students and faculty members have discussed expanding McEwen in the past, but plans were not in development until the last two years.

Two options were on the table: to expand the school at its current location, or to build a new school elsewhere, in what is now the parking lot between McMichael and Koury Business Center. The senior staff, with input from the board of trustees, decided to expand McEwen at its current location in order to proceed quickly, economically and efficiently.

"A priority has been made by the university not to touch the area under the oaks. We really want to protect that."

-Dean Parsons

Parsons said there were practical reasons for keeping the old facility.

"Our plan is to work with an architect to expand this location. We don't really want to evacuate," he said. "It would be hard to relocate the TV studios."

In an effort to minimize academic interruptions from construction, the university plans to work as much as possible during the summer, according to Parsons. Construction is projected to take 12-14 months for completion.

"The goal is to figure out some plan that, during the school year, we can continue being there," he said. "But it is going to take an academic year at some point."

The current McEwen building will remain,

but the School of Communications will expand. A new two-story building will be constructed beside the current building, replacing the parking lot. The new facility will house classrooms, faculty offices and student media organizations. A large glass lobby will connect McEwen and the new building. Though the facility will be spread out over 50,000 net sq. feet, it will not impede on the grassy area under Elon's oak trees, where events like Convocation and Commencement take place.

"A priority has been made by the university not to touch the area under the oaks," Parsons said. "We really want to protect that."

Though the design plans are set, they leave room for flexibility. Parsons said the logistics of who will occupy the new space have yet to be determined.

"Now we need to figure out what we need, where we need it and the best way to accomplish that," he said.

Some said the changes to McEwen were long overdue. Sophomore communications major Aarti Rishi expressed frustration at the current state of McEwen.

"It's too hard to get classes, because there are not enough seats in the class," she said. "They either need to expand the school or add more sections. I'm glad something is being done about it."

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Business students buy real world experience

Senior fellows manage investment portfolio with portion of university endowment

Natalie Allison
Managing Editor

At a university where engaged learning is a primary focus, finding the means to manage an investment portfolio as an undergraduate can be a difficult task for students aspiring to be professionals in the financial services industry.

But such an opportunity is afforded to a select group of students at Elon University — the business fellows — some of which selected the school largely for the portfolio management program.

David Campbell, a senior double major in finance and accounting, was one of those students attracted to Elon because of the opportunity to manage a portion of the university's endowment.

Campbell is one of eight business fellows enrolled in the two-semester senior investment course. The other senior business fellows take part in a management and marketing project.

"I got accepted into other schools, but one of the main reasons I came to Elon was being offered an opportunity to do this," said Campbell, who started investing at age 15.

Elon is not alone in offering certain undergraduate students a chance to be a part of the university's investment strategies, however Campbell said programs for undergraduates at other schools don't guarantee such a hands-on experience.

"At a lot of institutions, the students are mostly analysts for the endowment money they're given," he said. "They don't get to make actual decisions, just recommendations."

Wonhi Synn, professor of finance and chair of the finance department, helped initiate the program at Elon in 1992 when the Board of Trustees accepted his proposal to allow students to manage part of the endowment. A last minute decision, Synn handpicked nine students who would manage the \$30,000 allotted from the endowment.

After a successful first year, the course became the project of senior business fellows who had taken prerequisite finance courses.

The Board of Trustees increased the group's funds to \$100,000 in 2006, by which time the successive business fellows classes had grown the portfolio to around \$65,000.

Today, the senior business fellows manage around \$163,000 in the investment class, a tenth of a percent of the university's \$140 million endowment. Though Elon has doubled its endowment since 2006, compared to other universities, the endowment is still relatively low, said Jim Piatt, vice president for university advancement.

But despite having a smaller amount of money to manage, Synn said undergraduate students at Elon may come out with more experience than students at larger universities.

"There's a big difference among most schools, especially big schools where there is a lot more money," Synn said. "Most undergraduate students at those schools are working as analysts to produce research reports, and the decision-making party consists of faculty and outside investors."

Senior Jacqueline Evans, an accounting and international business double major, said the money allotted to the student investment group was plenty to give the class hands-on experience.

"It is the perfect amount, as it allows us to choose multiple stocks in various sectors while maintaining a substantial cash balance," Evans said.

Synn said Elon was one of the first undergraduate schools to start such a program in the 1990s, but today hundreds of schools provide opportunities for business students to have a say in university investments.

"All the big schools have these programs," he said. "At most schools, the managers (of the portfolio) are MBA students."

At Elon, the business fellows in the two-semester, two-credit-hour investment class meet twice a week



Senior David Campbell, front, takes his turn leading the senior investment course for business fellows. From left to right, Wonhi Synn, professor of finance and seniors Elizabeth Larson, Jacqueline Evans and Jane Kolodkin listen as the group discusses its current investments. Students take the class both fall and spring semesters of their senior year.

under the supervision of Synn.

"It's really up to the class on how we do things," Campbell said. "We decided to break it down so each person has one or two sectors they keep up with and report on how that market is doing."

Campbell said members of the class go around the room and discuss how their investments are doing and whether they should sell any stocks. A board on the wall of the classroom, visible to anyone walking by on the first floor of Koury Business Center, shows daily losses and gains of some of their stocks.

"It's an awesome talking point in an interview," Campbell said. "If I bring up the point I helped manage a \$160,000 portfolio, that's going to draw a lot of attention."

Synn said the group has never experienced significant losses on its investments. Though the class aims to generate a positive return on their investments and beat the S&P 500, an index based on the common stock prices of the top 500 publicly traded companies, Synn said the main purpose of the



Students in the course are responsible for investing approximately \$163,000 of the university's endowment.

class is for students to have real-world investment experience.

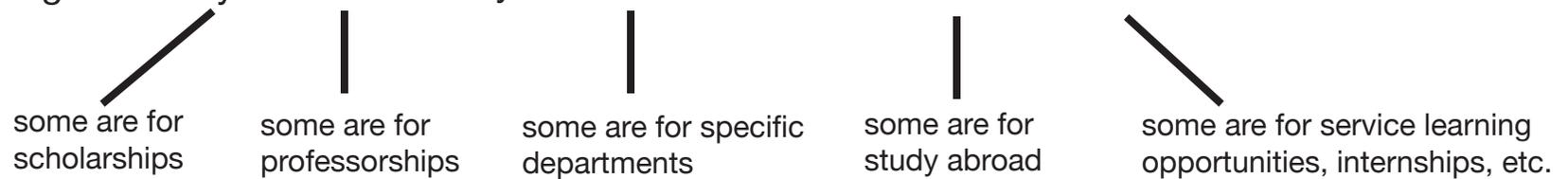
"From the university's point of view, it's not about making money, but providing an opportunity for students to work on a challenging project as a small group and

learn how to work as a team," Synn said. "It's not an easy project and they expect to do a lot more homework and their own research. Even though it's two credit hours, there's probably more work than if it were four credit hours."

Infographic by Natalie Allison, Managing Editor

A breakdown: Elon's endowment and how it works

People give money to the university's endowment, which is divided into hundreds of funds.



As of October 2012, there were 751 funds in Elon's endowment.

But the university doesn't touch that money. It invests it and gets to spend the accrued interest.

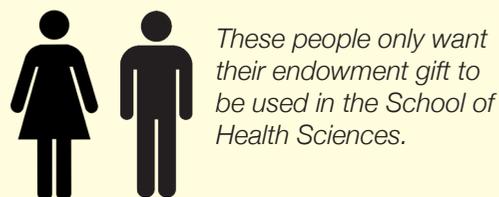
Elon invests the endowment money.

It's managed primarily by a company called Global Endowment Management.



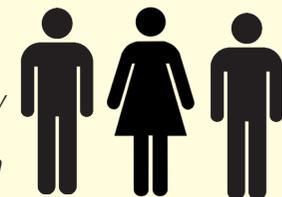
Each year the university hopes to get a 4.5% return on these investments. That is money that can be spent – but Elon can't exactly spend the money however it chooses.

Donors indicate restrictions on their endowment gifts.



The university respects donors' wishes for their gifts (within reason, of course).

University Advancement works with donors to allot gifts to areas of the university that matter most to them, such as the School of Health Sciences.



...unless they gave unrestricted funds, which are essentially most ideal for the university. Elon can then use the gift however it sees fit among scholarships, professorships and other facets of the endowment.

Anyone can make a gift to the university's endowment, but you'll need to have \$50,000 ready in order to donate. (With the exception of \$25,000 for a study abroad scholarship.)

Here is a breakdown of some of the minimum donations for endowment funds:

- **Study abroad scholarship:** \$25,000
- **Need-based, talent-based or athletic scholarship:** \$50,000
- **International student scholarship:** \$100,000
- **Law school scholarship:** \$100,000
- **Summer faculty fellowship:** \$100,000
- **Lectureship series:** \$100,000
- **Emerging scholars/junior professorship:** \$500,000
- **Visiting or named professorship:** \$1,000,000
- **Faculty sabbatical fund:** \$1,000,000
- **Distinguished university professorship:** \$2,000,000

NC college affordability forces students into debt

Rising costs, irresponsible spending shatter education dreams

Rebecca Wickel
Features Editor

In 1999, the cost of tuition and fees at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was less than that of a laptop: \$2,350. That year, Shirley Ort, UNC's associate provost and director of scholarships and student aid had to decide if adding an additional \$2,350 to cover the cost of a computer was too extreme. But today, a yearly increase of this amount is the norm. And the increase gets bigger every year.

Tuition and fees have increased 5.6 percent in American public schools since 2001 according to the College Board, and the U.S. Census Bureau found only 25.6 percent of North Carolina adults have an undergraduate degree. With the rising cost of college, the percentage is expected to decrease.

"This is a really unsettled time for higher education," Ort said. "I don't think we know yet how to imagine our future in a way that can be reconciled both with public expectation and with political judgment. We know it can't be the way it's always been, but I don't think we know yet quite how to shape a new vision for ourselves."

College graduates are 50 percent less likely to be unemployed and earn nearly 85 percent higher salaries, according to the U.S. Labor Department. But as the link between higher education and financial stability becomes clearer, it is challenged by a failing system. The cost of college in the Tar Heel State has never been higher, while college degrees have never been in higher demand.

The changing landscape in higher education cost leaves thousands of students in the dark. With the future of student aid still in a fog, many don't know what to expect from their college education — or to expect one at all.

Creating a national crisis

In the past 30 years, the cost of attaining a college degree has increased more than 1,000 percent. According to the Center for American Progress, the steady climb of tuition and fees is the result of many factors, but is primarily caused by the 2008 recession and a decrease in government funding.

The recent recession in the United States affected college affordability by devastating other markets. As unemployment rose and the housing market deteriorated, funds that would have been allocated for college tuition evaporated.

"There is a significant number of folks who planned to fund their sons' and daughters' higher education expenses from either their current income or their home," said Gerald Whittington, vice president for business, finance and technology at Elon University. "The home values have plummeted, so that's a real pressure. Avenues that people might have had are gone, and that's really difficult. Few of us ever did what we should have done, which is putting money away the day our sons and daughters were born."

The struggling economic climate has no doubt challenged the federal government as well. In order to try and balance the budget, the federal government has cut education spending, including funding for the Pell Grant.

Pell Grants, provided by the U.S. Department of Education, make up the foundation of financial packages for students who qualify based on need. Additional scholarships and aid are often added to this amount, but are rarely enough to send a student to school who otherwise could not afford it.

"The budget that the House has passed actually cut Pell Grants, the same Pell Grants that 9 million students currently depend upon to go to college," said N.C. Sen. Kay Hagan during a college affordability conference call in October. "The House cut means 1 million students would lose their Pell Grant coverage over the next two years, and I think that's not a good way forward."

But the North Carolina public university system cannot cover the gap the absence of Pell Grants will create. It already spends 12 percent of its budget on public universities, accounting for 2 billion dollars a year.

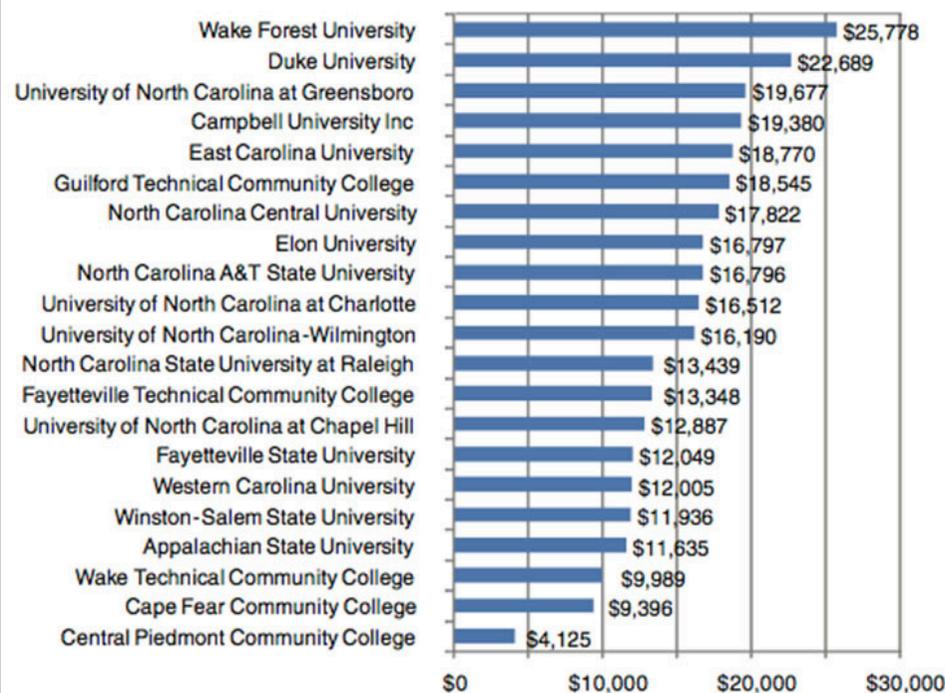
Prior to 2012, the state offered the North Carolina Legislative Tuition Grant, a non-need based \$1,850 grant to every resident. As of the fall 2012, that funding has been removed for students who do not meet the requirements based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, a form that determines a student's eligibility for Pell Grants, federal student loans and federal work-study.

"These are tough economic times, but you're seeing that amount of state aid go down," Hagan said. "The burden then becomes much higher on the students because the universities have to end up increasing tuition."

Others said they see the rising tuition result from greater competition between schools and a need to keep up with current trends in resources.

"The most obvious driver that I have seen is the need to keep up with constantly changing

Estimated debt of the typical borrower



GRAPHIC FROM CENTER FOR COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY AND PRODUCTIVITY
Note: Assumes the student borrows the average amount each year and graduates in four years.

technology, and an expectation on the part of our students that there will be a certain level of amenities on campus," said David Gelinis, director of financial aid at Davidson College.

If a university chooses to ignore those trends in order to keep costs down, they usually end up falling behind. Attracting students is a top priority for universities, and without certain perks, applicant pools shrink. As long as tuition increases for all of a university's competitors, remaining in a pack of expensive schools doesn't do much harm to admission statistics.

"You're probably here because you probably want the experience that this institution provides distinctly from another institution, and you can't get away from the fact that it costs what it costs," Whittington said.

As the burden increases, students resort to federal and private loans. Both public and private schools have seen a dramatic increase in the number of students who rely on loans to fund their education.

"The amount of loans that our students have here at Elon is higher than it's been, and the pressure to pay it back is a real issue nationally," Whittington said.

But how much responsibility should students accept? If college affordability is an issue for students, should they bend to their finan-

cial limitations and not enroll in a school that will put them in debt?

"Sometimes the people who have significant amounts of debt made a choice that they later have buyer's remorse about," Gelinis said. "They may look at it like the system is broken, and I think there are some cases where you can say yes, but you made a decision that led to where you are today, so why blame the system for a personal decision? Now that's a hard conversation, but it's one that's legitimate."

Some students have their hearts set on particular institutions and will accept any amount of debt to get the education they desire.

Elon University sophomore Kati Asbury posted \$5,000 of her college tuition on Indiegogo, an online fundraising network. In the campaign description, Asbury described her interests and achievements, adding that if she does not receive help, her dream and education will end.

But Asbury had other options. She applied to 12 other public institutions, including Towson University, a college near Baltimore, where her mother works.

"I'm choosing to come here because I know Elon is a great school," Asbury said. "The academics are amazing. It's the reputation, it's the community. I love the feeling of this amazing campus."

“The House cut means 1 million students would lose their Pell Grant coverage over the next two years, and I think that’s not a good way forward.”

-N.C. Sen. Kay Hagan

Although she has decided to stay at Elon while sinking into debt, Asbury said she continues to worry about affording future semesters. But to her, staying at the university is the best option, and according to Ort, this is not an uncommon attitude.

“Brand loyalty is a curious thing,” she said. “You can get a very good education at most schools. It has so much to do with embracing an opportunity. When young people don’t get into Carolina and they tell us their life is going to be ruined because they didn’t get in, usually, what we see is a year later somebody is so happy where they ended up, and they say ‘I can’t imagine what it would have been like if I hadn’t done this.’”

Universities are accountable as well. Part of a student’s application for a private loan must be completed by the university, which some said they believe should be taking student debt seriously.

“We do have some involvement there,” Gelinias said. “But at the end of the day, the individual borrower has to say, ‘I will go through with this, or not. We definitely try to council all of our potential borrowers, especially those who want to go to the private sector, because those are in the realm of more than the federal loan limit. We feel like we should at least discuss with them the implications of doing that.’”

Debt consequences destroy dreams

As the cost of education becomes less manageable, North Carolina students bear the burden of the funding fatigue, rather than universities.

“Private universities are doing pretty well right now, and they’re strengthening their financial position,” Ort said. “They’re recruiting a lot of really stellar, quality faculty away from public research universities because we just can’t compete. When they raise tuition they can use it for enrichment and strengthening an academic program. When we raise tuition, we’re usually filling a hole.”

It’s a challenge for public universities to meet even their own instructional objectives during these financial times, according to Ort. This means less effective education.

After graduation, the consequences worsen. Payments are typically due within 6 months of

graduation. Those who can’t make payments slip deeper into debt, just as they do with credit loans and mortgages — there is no exception made for those who signed their financial futures away before they were legal adults.

“Getting a college education shouldn’t be a burden to our young people by leaving them with an unsustainable debt load,” Hagan said. “Today our Americans have more student loan debt than credit card debt.”

Students who accumulate attend both public and private schools bear the debt burden. For many, staying in-state could provide financial freedom, but at a cost.

“I have so many loans it’s absurd,” Asbury said. “It’s a struggle because I know when I graduate if I stay here, I’ll be so far behind. If I transfer to where my mom works at a public school, I could pay that off almost right away. But the schools back in Maryland are not as academically challenging, and that’s something my parents and I talk about when we discuss possibly transferring.”

Taylor Davis, an Elon University junior, had similar experiences with public and private colleges. Davis attended UNC-Greensboro as a freshman, but transferred to have more opportunities, better facilities and smaller classes.

“I feel like I’m getting a better education for sure, and I like the atmosphere,” she said. “My smallest class at UNCG was 100 students, and my smallest class here is 15. I had professors that wore microphones on their shirts. That’s just not how I learn.”

Trying to move forward during the debt crisis

The issue of college affordability is not lost on politicians, advocates or universities across the country. Student debt and its consequences



FILE PHOTO BY CLAIRE ESPARROS
Competition among universities motivates an increase in tuition. According to David Gelinias, director of financial aid at Davidson College, students expect the cost of college will provide a certain level of amenities on campus.

have become part of national legislative dialogues.

“Many colleges want to control cost, but there’s a lot that federal and state policy makers can do to make sure that those who have the least can actually get access to the education that will allow them to join the economy and make a better life for themselves and their country,” said Jose Cruz, vice president for higher education policy and practice at The Education Trust during a conference call.

Putting value in education is the key to moving forward, Cruz said. Whittington agreed.

“In the national discussion, I think the country as a whole is going to have to come to the point of saying ‘Is higher education valuable? Is this something that we need to, as a society, continue to support?’—not just with our lips, but with our pocketbooks as well,” he said. “Are we over the long term cutting off our nose to spite our face by not supporting it?”

According to Hagan, North Carolina is on the right track.

“In North Carolina, our business community gets it,” she said. “They understand why students need to afford to invest in their education, because these are the workers that our businesses need and entrepreneurs need to grow and foster.”

But for a state that understands the importance of affording an education, there is an absence of preparation for students.

“My high school didn’t really help that much,” Davis said. “I was prepared for college, but no one told me what to expect. No one told me how much money it would be.”

Gelinias said educating students on the cost of college is a priority at Davidson.

“We have a loan counselor who sits down to discuss why students choose to go that route,” he said. “We show them, we try to be really personal with the process.”

Many said this conversation must become a priority for high schools during the college application process, to prevent students from making unsound financial decisions.

North Carolina’s debt reality

Today, the price of a quality laptop is less than it was in 1999, but the same cannot be said for college tuition for North Carolina institutions. One year at UNC costs in-state students \$22,340, and while Ort said the university is committed to access and affordability, many students still remain outside of classrooms.

But Ort can only do so much. Without a value on education and funding from the federal government, there are limits on the aid the state of North Carolina can provide.

“When public universities raise tuitions, they’re usually trying to get back a piece that the state legislature took away,” she said. “That’s something that gets lost on a lot of the American public.”

Winter Term in Israel encourages students to think with 'heads, hearts'

Kyra Gemberling
Design Editor

The proposal has been approved. The itinerary is being planned. But the program almost didn't happen.

Chaplain Jan Fuller proposed the idea of having a Winter Term study abroad course in Israel shortly after she came to Elon University last September, but she initially had reservations.

"As I wrote the proposal for the trip, I threw my hands up in the air several times and thought, 'What am I trying to do?'" she said. "There were several times when I thought, 'Just give it up. This is too big.' But I realized that I want students to grapple with the big things."

The course, which was accepted less than a month ago, is set to take place during Winter Term 2014. It will focus on the relationship between religion, culture and politics in Israel, specifically through examining the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

One aspect of the course is studying grassroots peace-making communities. The only way the efforts of these communities will make sense, Fuller said, is if students understand the conflict these people live with everyday, which is no easy task.

"There's nothing simple about this," she said. "It's an extremely complex situation — there's no right and wrong. No one is pure. No one is innocent. No one is evil. No one is wrong. There's such a complex array of history, religion, human needs and injustice all over the area, and the goal is to try and understand some of that."

Fuller said she is looking for students who are willing to engage in a respectful dialogue with people they might not agree with, but will withhold any potential judgment in order to listen more carefully.

"I'm hoping we'll have students who are not

only willing to think with their heads but think with their hearts, and who are also willing to be vulnerable with each other," she said.

Kevin Morrison, assistant dean of global studies in the Isabella Cannon Global Education Center, said he's glad Fuller is tackling a difficult subject and exposing Elon students to something they probably are not familiar with.

"The complexities of what's going on are not easily solvable questions," he said. "I think it's admirable to delve into difficult topics that don't have easy answers. You have to be OK walking away not having resolved these issues."

The class also stands out because it is revolutionary in the Elon community: it's the first Winter Term class to travel to Israel in Elon's history.

Morrison said the program is a great start to developing more study abroad programs in the Middle East.

"The Middle East is an area where we are underrepresented in study abroad programs," he said. "This is partly because of safety issues, and partly because I think it's an area that we need to develop more curiosity about with our students."

Fuller said she's aware that safety concerns may arise. She said she intends to carefully watch the news until the time of the program to make sure no one will be put at risk.

"There are dangers, but I think we will circulate around them," she said. "We will be smart, and if things get dangerous, we won't go. But I want to reassure students and their families that the way things look in Western media is not always the way things are. One small corner can be risky, but not the whole place."

While the course communicates global issues, it inherits a



KYRA GEMBERLING | Design Editor
Chaplain Jan Fuller came up with the idea to propose a study abroad experience in Israel shortly after coming to work at Elon University in September 2011.

more personal significance from Fuller, who grew up in Lebanon and Jordan.

"I think the people of the Middle East are some of the warmest, most passionate and most beautiful people," she said. "I can't wait to introduce the community here to some of my community there."

Elon Campus police apprehend armed woman outside Danieley

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

Elon University Campus Safety and Police arrested a young woman after finding a rifle, ammunition and other weapons in her vehicle on Elon University's campus Nov. 25, according to an email sent by Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life.

Campus security waited outside Danieley Center for Alexis Gray, 18, after receiving warning from her former boyfriend, an Elon student.

"The young woman's parents reached out to the Elon student, who in turn notified Campus Police immediately about the situation," Jackson wrote in the email. "Our officers effectively defused the situation and protected everyone involved."

Gray, a student at a Pennsylvania university, may be charged with possession of a firearm on campus, and she has been permanently banned from Elon's campus. Her former boyfriend refused to comment on the situation.



KYRA GEMBERLING | Design Editor
Fuller has a variety of religious trinkets in her office. She said her collection reminds her to keep an open mind about all aspects of spirituality, a theme she hopes to promote during the Israel study abroad program.

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Young voter turnout exhibits trajectory of growth

Melissa Kansky
News Editor

Younger generations have historically voted in fewer numbers, but the recent elections have witnessed a climb in young voter turnout. President Barack Obama executed a campaign that swallowed voters into the political sphere, and young voter turnout has increased in 2008 and 2012.

Young voters are characterized as voters in the 18-29 age group.

"We have more at stake in these issues than any other generation," said Andy MacCracken, executive director for National Campus Leadership Council (NCLC), an organization designed to connect student government presidents to national leaders.

Prior to the election, Kenneth Fernandez, director of the Elon University Poll, predicted voters would be less enchanted with Obama. But young voters represented 19 percent of all those who voted this election, an increase of 1 percentage point since the previous election. Nevertheless, the percentage of young voters still falls below the national average for all voters. In contrast, the percentage of voters older than 65 exceeds that of national voter turnout.

Voter turnout among those 18-29 reached 52 percent during the 2008 election, with an estimated 23 million casting a ballot, according to the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement (CIRCLE). In 2012, the number of active young voters increased to 53.7 percent of the young voter population.

"Students matter and they matter not just because they're the leadership of tomorrow, but it speaks to the effect that we are future homeowners and future employers and future retirees, so it's important for students to vote," MacCracken said.

Young voter turnout has demonstrated a trajectory of growth. Turnout in 2008 exhibited an increase of 4 percentage points since the 2004 election and 12 percentage points since the election in 2000, according to the Center.

Attracting young voters

Obama's charisma captured young voters' attention and largely influenced voter engagement since his entrance into the political arena.

The allure relies on his novelty, according to Fernandez.

"Turnout was higher in 2008 (compared to previous years)," he said. "Why? Barack Obama was younger than the average presidential candidate, he is African-American. That brought a lot of news and attention."

Nevertheless, Fernandez argued that the public's enchantment with Obama has diminished.

While voter turnout increased, the percentage of young voters who cast a ballot in favor of Obama decreased 6 percent.

According to an Elon Poll conducted in August, 36 percent of likely voters 18-30 years indicated they

were "very excited" about the upcoming election, a percentage that lags behind every other age group examined.

But the increase in young voter turnout during the 2012 election proves enthusiasm is not a direct indication of engagement.

MacCracken said he believes young voters are politically active.

"Young people are enthusiastic about making a change in our community and anything that says otherwise is misinterpreting what that level of enthusiasm is," he said.

Inspiring political engagement

NCLC developed the Campus Vote Challenge to help campus leaders incite a "pro-vote" culture on campus.

"The traditional definition of political engagement is shifting with our generation," MacCracken said.

While members of the organization aim to increase voter registration, civic engagement is not limited to voting, said MacCracken, who traveled to various colleges in the United States to advocate for political activity and to observe student initiatives. His observations of various campus communities show students embrace a more holistic approach to civic engagement.

Although there is evidence of increased political activity among the young voter population, the age group still votes at a rate less than those of other age demographics.

"Young voters represent a voting block that is basically untapped because younger voters vote in fewer numbers than anyone else in the nation," said Sharon Spray, chair of the political science department and associate professor.

Fernandez attributed the low level of young voter

participation to their busy schedules and general detachment from the areas in which they live.

"In many places, young voters may be new to an area," he said. "If you're an Elon student and you moved from Georgia or from Maine, you're not going to be connected to the governor, the state legislature or the mayor, all of which really create an emphasis to vote."

Elon University freshman Meghan Slattery, who said she did not believe she was knowledgeable enough about the candidates to vote, exemplifies Fernandez's declaration. Although she observed her suitmates' enthusiasm, she said she did not have enough spare time to learn about the election.

Power of the youth vote

Nevertheless, attracting this demographic has contributed to Obama's victory during both the 2008 and 2012 elections. According to research conducted by CIRCLE, the youth vote caused 80 electoral votes to swing in the president's favor during the most recent election.

The Center suggested Ohio, Florida, Pennsylvania and Virginia would likely have been counted among the red states had Obama not received overwhelming support from young voters.

"The mobilization of the vote can have a great impact for any of the candidates," Spray said.

More recently, young voters have leaned Democratic, according to a poll conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press.

In 2008, 53 percent of all voters cast their ballots in favor of Obama, in comparison to 66 percent of young voters who supported the Democratic candidate. This past election exhibited a similar divide in young voter preferences, with 60 percent voting for the president, compared to the 39 percent who cast a ballot for Romney.

As a result, Fernandez said expanding one's voting base has proved to be more influential than persuading the small margin of undecided voters.

Demonstrating excitement on campus

The election season generated political discussion throughout Elon's campus, which witnessed increased activity within political organizations and realized a politically conscious community.

Student organizations orchestrated activities related to the election season, and the university partnered with TurboVote, a nonprofit organization designed to increase voter registration and facilitate requests for absentee ballots.

"This type of program helps students immensely because only 17 percent of our students are from North Carolina, and so this makes it easier for them to navigate the waters once they get here," Spray said.

As of Election Day, 1,005 individuals registered to vote through TurboVote on campus, and an additional 1,168 requested an absentee ballot using the online resource. Of those who used the tool, 98 per-

cent were under the age of 30.

The national election has also motivated politically-focused organizations on campus, specifically College Democrats, College Republicans and the non-partisan Politics Forum, to increase their activity. The College Democrats and College Republicans have been fairly inactive the past two years, but they have enhanced their presence during the campaign season.

Additionally, the Politics Forum was founded with the intention to provide a place for discussion in a space not affiliated with any political organization, according to junior Greg Honan, the founder and president.

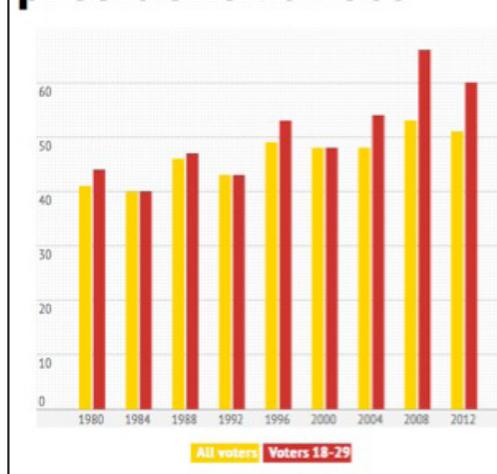
Honan designed the Politics Forum to facilitate discussion about international and domestic politics and to host panels that advance these conversations, he said.

Jana Lynn Patterson, assistant vice president for Student Life, praised the healthy debate and tolerant environment cultivated on campus.

"You don't find that much in the real world," she said. "You don't find people who are willing to engage on issues with an intellectual bias without it bifurcating a relationship."

College is a place to grow intellectually and share ideas, which allows for students to gain insights into both political parties, Patterson said.

Democratic share of presidential vote



GRAPHIC BY MELISSA KANSKY

The percentage of young voters who voted in favor of the Democratic candidate is either equal to or greater than that of all voters. Information compiled from Pew Research Center and CNN.



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FILE PHOTO BY CLAIRE ESPARROS

Time to let the Phoenix out of its cage to revive school spirit

When we think of school spirit, we may think of bleachers filled with energetic students echoing chants with their school mascot painted on their chests and faces. But as much as we talk about the strength of our close-knit community here at Elon University, we as students do a poor job of actively supporting that community. School spirit, living “the maroon and gold life,” whatever you want to call it — it isn’t exactly noticeable on campus.

Why is school spirit so hard to find at Elon? It’s because Elon students are in the midst of an identity crisis.

And we don’t mean the Republican or Democrat, gay or straight, Team Edward or Team Jacob kind of identity crisis. From the moment we arrive at Elon, we are bombarded with different images and ideas of what our years at Elon are supposed to represent. And while most students find meaning and purpose through their studies and extracurriculars, there remains no consensus on what symbol all Elon students are meant to rally behind.

From Freshman Convocation to commencement, Elon students are in-

stilled with the idea that they are acorns that will grow into saplings, not Phoenix rising from the ashes.

It is time that we let the Phoenix out of its cage in an effort to revamp school spirit.

Some of you may be wondering: Is school spirit really a big deal anymore? Who cares if you don’t show up to a football game or wear a Phoenix shirt to class? Why should I have to pay extra to get tickets to the spring show? To that point, we agree with you. There’s much more to community and school spirit than just showing pride for pride’s sake.

But maintaining a high-spirited atmosphere is crucial for making our school an enjoyable environment for students to thrive and achieve in.

This simple yet effective concept is often overlooked at Elon, but can mean the difference between just being at school and being at our school.

One reason school spirit is so poorly demonstrated is that everywhere around us we do not see the Phoenix rising, but instead the Phoenix that sits in its nest — in Alumni Gym, in

Rhodes Stadium or on the baseball field — a symbol you would be hard-pressed to find anywhere else.

You won’t get renewed community support without indoctrinating students from the very beginning with the central idea that we are all Phoenix. But in order for that to occur, it has to mean something to be a Phoenix.

Another explanation for the lack of enthusiasm is the mindset that many of us adopt once we cross Elon’s threshold. School spirit often gets cast aside in the midst of our desire to earn as many credits as possible while simultaneously balancing extracurricular commitments and a social life.

We often get so caught up bolstering our resumes for life beyond college that we forsake the opportunity to involve ourselves in the local community. The university certainly realizes this, and tries to appeal to every college student’s weakness for free food and other incentives to evoke more student involvement in Elon events.

But it is not enough to sell T-shirts, send emails, put up flyers or give students incentives to attend Elon events

and cheer on the Phoenix. While these ideas are great and should continue, relying on material incentives will not change the day-to-day culture of Elon or revitalize school spirit.

Head football coach Jason Swepton acknowledged the impact the lack of community support has on Elon’s athletic performance this season.

“We just didn’t create our own energy. We had to,” he said in an interview following Elon’s loss to Furman University on Oct. 27. “There was no one in the stands. We had to create our own energy and hopefully we can learn from it and move forward. It felt like a coffin out there and it didn’t help.”

Students attend games when students believe they are part of the team, that our pride and school spirit is somewhat intertwined with the success of our athletics. And believe it or not, athletes perform better when they know they have the support of their peers.

We understand we are not a large university and do not place as much emphasis on school spirit as we do on academics.

But having school spirit is about more than just a mascot or a rallying cry. It’s an idea that is rooted in the foundation of Elon University. It’s about being part of something bigger than yourself.

There are several simple ways you can demonstrate your school spirit here at Elon: wear your maroon and gold once a week, attend a home game or sponsored concert, support campus wide competitions or involve yourself in events like Homecoming or the Spring Show.

School spirit memorializes our Elon experience — not just for us but also for future Elon students. Avid school spirit often draws additional alumni support, which translates to a better college experience for all of us.

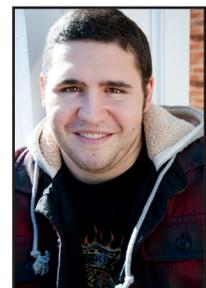
But most of all, school spirit gives our college years meaning: it gives our victories and defeats context, reminds us of our past and points us toward our future.

For some of us, graduation day will arrive before we know it, and as students, we should learn to appreciate our school before we leave for good.

If at first you don't secede, don't try again

Secession fever spreads rapidly across US, alienates citizens

In the weeks following President Barack Obama's re-election, conservative citizens across the country upset with Obama's victory have



Dan Quackenbush
Columnist

been looking for alternatives rather than endure another term under a Democratic administration. But a radical petition originating from Texas to secede from the United States has led to the spread of secession fever across all 50 states, with considerably more than a million signatures received already.

Anyone with a political science or history degree will tell you a state or nation's reasons for secession are pretty standard throughout history: resentment from the people on the level of power being exercised by their government.

But if you were to ask them if secession could be considered a legitimate option in our scenario, I think you would be hard-pressed to find a satisfactory answer justifying it.

None of this secessionist folly will amount to anything. These petitions are nothing more than blatant acts of infantile behavior by conservative-minded voters drowning their sorrows in the

wake of an unfavorable political status quo. And I'll bet most of the petitioners aren't dead serious about wanting to secede, either.

Before I go any further, let me remind anyone now intrigued by the prospect of seceding that the laws of our land do not afford the right of secession to any U.S. state, no matter how broadly you care to interpret the Constitution. This statute was established by the Supreme Court following the Civil War in 1868 in the landmark case of *Texas v. White*.

Furthermore, hardly any of these petitions have addressed solutions for the messier details if their states' efforts were to succeed. Issues like the termination of United States defense contracts, the establishment of new interstate (or in this case, international) trade regulations and industrial markets or establishing their own declarations outlining the basic rights of citizens within the territory.

It's an intriguing prospect, though. But let's be real here: Are things so terrible in this country that secession is the only answer? No. Even despite the gross polarization of our democracy and current economic turmoil, change is still within our power. So if all hope is not lost, why consider seceding? The answer is simple: There is no logical reason.

And while I believe the threats to be mere

bluffs, there remains a sinister aspect to these secessionist sentiments. Most secession movements, as previously noted, are rooted in widespread public discontent and an ideological disconnect from those around them.

This growing psychological discontent is perhaps best explained in conservative political commentator Patrick Buchanan's book "Suicide of a Superstate."

Buchanan wrote: "In America today, the secession that is taking place is a secession from one another, a secession of the heart." Buchanan then goes on to describe the cultural detachment that is responsible for Americans being alienated from one another.

Here exists the danger in these separatist sentiments: They are finally exposing the seething underbelly of the American populace.

They reflect the deterioration of the United



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
The Confederate flag has recently regained its prominence as the patron symbol of secession in the wake of petitions to secede from citizens of every state.

States into increasingly disillusioned communities.

But most of all, they reflect the lengths that Americans are willing to consider just because they didn't get their way.

And it shows clearly that the United States is still full of citizens who are ignorant of our history, purpose and our promise.

Republicans back away from Norquist pledge in favor of fiscal compromise

For years, GOP candidates running for Congress, governor or president would sign conservative



Rachel Southmayd
Columnist

lobbyist Grover Norquist's pledge against tax increases, but those days may be coming to an end.

Some promises are made to be broken, and in the case of

Norquist and his "Taxpayer Protection" pledge, it's never been a better time to break one.

Norquist, founder of the conservative group Americans for Tax Reform, and his supporters have been clamoring for legislators to sign the pledge for decades. Signatories to Norquist's pledge have agreed to "oppose any

and all efforts to increase the marginal income tax rates for individuals and/or businesses."

But it seems that the anti-tax crusader and his pledge are quickly losing supporters as several GOP bigwigs have said enough is enough. Dozens of previous signatories, as well as several new congressmen-elects, have committed to breaking or refusing to support the pledge if it could finally mean reaching a compromise on the looming "fiscal cliff," what many financial analysts are calling the "point of no return" for the economy as we know it.

Frankly, it's about time.

Kindergartners generally know how to compromise better than those in Washington nowadays, so to hear that someone is finally willing to take steps towards the middle is positively refreshing. Times are changing, and the way legislators approach revenue and spending needs to change as well.

Democrats haven't signed an equivalent pledge banning future spending cuts, but this olive branch extended by such prominent Republicans should be returned with a similar gesture of good faith and compromise.

But here's the thing about Norquist and his "no raising taxes ever" pledge: it's not technically a Republican Party initiative. Yes, the majority of signers are Republicans, but the Republican Party has never been particularly steadfast on its positions toward eliminating taxes or reform policies. Conservative politicians have waived for decades on the issue of raising or lowering tax rates. Even Ronald Reagan, now heralded by many as the demi-god of the Republican Party, raised taxes multiple times during his campaign.

By agreeing to go against the pledge signed years ago, lawmakers have taken a bold stance, essentially



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
Grover Norquist is quickly losing party support in Congress for his anti-taxation pledge

saying, "My allegiances do not lie with this organization. My allegiances lie with the America that exists today and the tough decisions it faces to guarantee a secure tomorrow."

The outcome of the status quo election several weeks ago shows that Americans are still very much divided on how they believe the government should run. Obviously there is no way

to please everyone. But no one will be happy if the people in charge aren't willing to sacrifice party principles for the greater good.

If each side is willing to give a little, a solution can be reached. Not a perfect one from any perspective, but one that we can all live with, regardless of what pledges we sign or the party we align with.

Victims or entrepreneurs? 2 perspectives on prostitution

Laura Van Drie
International Reporter

AMSTERDAM — Mariska Majoor blends in perfectly with the rest of the pedestrians and bikers on Amsterdam's crowded streets. She looks like a typical Dutch woman: Her dark hair is back in a ponytail and she wears simple jeans, sneakers and a huge knit scarf that practically covers her face.

She also used to be a prostitute.

Majoor began "sex work," as she calls it, at age 16. She wanted extra cash to buy a dog, so she began legally working as a prostitute in Amsterdam's Red Light District and realized the nature of the work didn't bother her. Soon enough, she had plenty of money to buy the pet German Shepherd she wanted.

After nearly 20 years working as a prostitute, she opened the Prostitution Information Center, or PIC, in Amsterdam to educate tourists — many of whom come from countries where prostitution is illegal and stigmatized — about what it is really like to work under a red light.

Majoor said she strongly believes prostitution should stay legalized in the Netherlands.

"When it's legal, everything is more regulated," she said.

Dutch sex workers must pay to lease their work spaces, which all come equipped with a "panic button" that will sound an alarm and alert police. They are selective about the clients they choose to let in. Majoor said she always preferred men who were non-aggressive and respectful. They have strict rules about what they are and are not willing to do and take necessary precautions to protect their sexual health.

"Sex workers are not stupid hookers," Majoor said.

To help increase respect for sex workers, Majoor had a statue called "Belle" built in the middle of the Red Light District in Amsterdam. Belle is a half-naked woman who stands straight, with her shoulders back, chin up and hands on her hips. Majoor hopes that Belle's strong stance will help diffuse the image of helpless, desperate prostitutes.

But not everyone in the Nether-



In Amsterdam, some say legalization of prostitution provides regulations that make sex work more safe. Others argue many sex workers are victims who work involuntarily.

"There is a lot of gray area. There is a lot of exploitation...often, these women have rape, abuse, money problems and bad relationships in their histories."

-Saskia Wishart, campaign coordinator of Not for Sale

lands shares Majoor's liberal stance on prostitution — mainly because not all of the girls behind the windows really want to be there.

Saskia Wishart, a campaign coordinator at Not for Sale, a non-profit organization that helps trafficking victims recover and rebuild their lives, said she believes the line between voluntary and involuntary prostitution is blurry.

"There is a lot of gray area. There is a lot of exploitation," she said. "I would hate to say, 'this percentage is doing it by force, and this percentage is doing it by choice.' Often, these women have rape, abuse, money problems and bad relation-

ships in their histories."

Many women who work as prostitutes in Amsterdam were brought into the country without a clear future. According to Wishart, a lot of women come to Amsterdam from Eastern Europe thinking prostitution is glamorous and others are seduced by "loverboys," who are pimps that pose as wealthy boyfriends to recruit women into prostitution.

"Most girls who are trafficked had big dreams," Wishart said. "One Romanian girl said that everyone in her town just got married and had babies, but she wanted an adventure."

What Wishart and Majoor both

have in common is their belief that sex workers deserve respect. While Majoor works to educate others about the benefits of legal, regulated prostitution, Wishart works directly with trafficking victims and current sex workers.

Similar to many social situations, Not for Sale finds that food works well to break the ice.

"We sell soup twice a week to Red Light girls, since they usually don't get nutritious food," Wishart said. "They can get charged four euros for Ramen noodles when they usually cost 80 euro cents, just because they're prostitutes."

The soup also helps Wishart and Not for Sale create relationships with sex workers and victims. Trafficking victims learn to readjust to normal life by helping to cook the soup at Not for Sale. And sex workers have made Wishart traditional soups from their home countries or invited her into their rooms to talk over the meal.

"I love hearing the girls tell me when they don't like the soup," Wis-

hart says. "In their work, they never get to ask for what they want. I love hearing them say, 'I don't like this. Here's how you can make it better.'"



The Red Light District is notorious for its prostitution industry in Amsterdam.

Despite cease-fire, Israeli-Palestinian conflict not over

Kassondra Cloos
Copy Editor

More than 60 years after the start of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the battle rages on. Following the Nov. 21 cease-fire, Israeli and Egyptian officials began discussing parameters on Monday, but the process thus far has been murky and the outcomes even less certain.

Some Americans who recently graduated from college are currently serving as Teaching Fellows in Israel, teaching English in cities across the country as part of an Israeli government initiative. Many were evacuated during the recent clashes involving thousands of rockets fired by both Israeli and Palestinian forces. An Israeli airstrike targeted the commander of Hamas, the ruling Palestinian militant group, Nov. 14, and Hamas promptly responded by sending missiles into Israel.

Alex Green, 22, a recent graduate of Oakland University in Michigan, is just one of the Teaching Fellows who was evacuated from the southern Israeli city Be'er Sheva during the conflict. He has safely returned from northern Israel, but during the evacuation, he and others he was with were eager to return to their students and feared for their safety. His group was pulled from Be'er Sheva shortly after the first rockets landed, but many Israelis stayed put and continued life with as much normalcy as possible, seeking shelter within the city.

"A number of us were in opposition to the evacuation," Green said. "It seemed like a betrayal of our students, our teachers, our friends and their families to so quickly pull out."

Green posted frequent updates for family

and friends on Facebook and asked people to spread information about the conflict. Many people have formed opinions about the situation based on misinformation. Green said the cycle of attack and revenge can only be stopped by spreading complete and well-rounded knowledge about the history of the conflict.

Israel's Iron Dome, a missile defense system that identifies incoming rockets that could hit civilians, shot down most of the missiles fired from Gaza that were aimed at populated areas of the country. Six Israelis were killed in the conflict, but the Palestinian toll was much higher. Without the technology to deflect incoming missiles, more than 150 Palestinians were killed.

"The biggest problem that Israel has is that Hamas is a terrorist organization that does not recognize Israel's right to exist," said Sarah DiStefano, 24, a Teaching Fellow from Chattanooga, Tenn. "I know that the (world's) public opinion has always been very important to Israelis but that, in general, it seems to be formed from a lot of wrong facts. What I hope people would do is get all the correct facts about what is happening in Israel before they make any judgments."

But Israel and Palestine have been locked in conflict for decades, and there's no telling how long the cease-fire will hold. Although violence is not foreign to the region, fear is a familiar feeling for people living in the most dangerous areas.

"Even Israelis who have lived their whole life with rocket fire say you never really get used to it," DiStefano said.

Still, in spite of those who genuinely want to resolve longstanding issues and stop the fighting — permanently, not temporarily, and with



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Before the Nov. 21 cease-fire, another Israeli airstrike left part of Rafah in the Gaza Strip up in smoke.

skeptical hesitation — many are not willing to give up ground in favor of peace. For many, the scarring and deadly effects of each attack only further justify the violent retaliation that has fueled the fight for almost 50 years.

"I believe that it is generally a traumatic event for both Israelis and Palestinians," Green said. "Many want to see peace and an end to the status quo. Sadly, however, there are still those within each party who are eager to see the conflict escalated and see war as the solution to their problems."

Facts about the recent conflict

- 162 Palestinian deaths
- 6 Israeli deaths
- Israel bombed more than 1,000 targets
- Palestinian militants fired more than 1,500 rockets into Israel

Source: The New York Times

Pacific region struggles to achieve press freedom

SAMOA— Press freedom has been an issue plaguing the Pacific region since the introduction of the written word. Islands without an independently owned newspapers suffer from press freedom for lack of an unbiased and honest voice, and islands that print such newspapers deal with censorship and criticism.

The issue encompasses both government interference and cultural setbacks as well as an ongoing struggle faced by journalists about their responsibilities to the public.



Grace Elkus
International
Reporter

The root of the issue includes multiple

forms of censorship and a lack of legislation protecting the rights of journalists. The Cook Islands is the only Pacific Islands nation with Freedom of Information legislation, which gives the public access to information related to government decisions. It ensures the protection of the rights of free speech. But there have been troubles overseeing the act, and the island continues to fight several defamation situations.

Many islands not only lack these laws, but have implemented censoring legislation such as the Printers and Publishers Act of 1992 in Samoa. This act directs publishers and editors to reveal their sources of information to the government, frightening sources from speaking with the media on topics such as political corruption.

In the Solomon Islands, the government introduced emergency legislation that could

result in imprisonment of up to two years or a fine for any journalist who violates state-imposed reporting regulations, and in Samoa, the government decided public funds would pay for any legal costs incurred by government ministers or senior officials who sue the news media.

There are also numerous examples of government censorship in the Pacific. In Fiji, one of the first actions performed by the coup in 2000 was to shut down the journalism department of The University of the South Pacific at Suva's website. In Kiribati, the president barred a New Zealand journalist from the country because he felt the journalist had portrayed Kiribati in a bad light. In Tonga, libel remains a criminal offense and is used often by sensitive officials against journalists. In Vanuatu, a free newspaper was shut down because it was

publishing information that embarrassed the government.

But the government isn't the only censoring body. Journalists themselves have begun self-censoring, knowing that without it, their stories won't be approved. In Samoa, because of the Printers and Publishers Acts, journalists refrain from writing critical news articles to avoid lengthy and costly court cases.

Journalists are responsible for giving the public the truth. After that, their job description will continue to change as perspectives of the media evolve and develop, but action must be taken to ensure that press freedom stays at the forefront of conversation, that legislation is enacted and that education, outreach programs and regional collaboration take place in the South Pacific.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SCOTT RICHARDSON

The cast of the fourth season of "Elon Tonight," the university's student-run sketch comedy show, poses for a class photo. Season Four of the show will debut Nov. 30 in LaRose Digital Theatre in Koury Business Center.

'Elon Tonight' prepares to launch new season

Stephanie Butzer
Senior Reporter

Resilient. Shenanigans. Family.

Those are three words students from "Elon Tonight" used to describe their organization. The student-run sketch comedy show is written, directed, edited, produced and performed by Elon University students.

On Nov. 30, "Elon Tonight," with the help of SUB, will present its fall showcase in LaRose Digital Theatre, which will highlight the best clips from "Elon Tonight" during the fall semester.

Although cast and crew members often stagger under the enormous weight of work

throughout the semester, "Elon Tonight" is consistently promoted on social media outlets so the community and those beyond it can enjoy the students' work.

"It is a lot of work, and I mean a lot of work, but at times, 'Elon Tonight' can be pure, unbridled joy," said senior Scott Richardson, creative director of the show.

To create a comedy show, it is important for the people involved to be humorous and creative. A major part of the work is allowing their minds to wander and play, Richardson said. Their best scripts come to mind when they behave like children and think outside the box.

"We're a comedy show," Richardson said. "We have to have fun creating. It requires

the proper mindset."

Richardson said he is more than thrilled that the show has found a way to combine work and play. Even at 4 a.m. in the editing suites — a common occurrence for people involved with the show — the students still find ways to get the work done and have fun at the same time.

"We're a community, we're a family," Richardson said. "One giant, sleep-deprived family with a weird sense of humor."

For Richardson, there have been many times when he forgot he was doing work, because it felt like he was just hanging out with friends. It is an ease and comfort that has allowed the cast and crew to build strong friendships throughout each semester.

"Elon Tonight' is a group of people coming together and doing what they love," said junior John Molloy, who acts in a number of sketches each episode. "The end product just so happens to be a TV show."

Students do not receive academic credit or a stipend for their work. They take on all the projects and meet all the deadlines simply because they love the show, Richardson said.

But two years ago, the show was caving in on itself. Leadership was uncertain, and when the organization went through a transitional period because of creative differences, no content was produced. New members lost interest, and 35 active students became just 15.

Thanks to a small band of people, though,

Welcoming the newest class:



A.J. Demers
Junior
Theater



Rebecca Hurd
Freshman
Theater



Tony Weaver
Freshman
Theater



Harris Fishman
Freshman
Undecided



Nicole Bloom
Freshman
Broadcast Journalism



Matt Lee
Freshman
Broadcast Journalism



Brandon Williams
Junior
Strategic
Communications



Matt Dowdle
Junior
Media Arts &
Entertainment



Hunter Purvis
Freshman
History



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SCOTT RICHARDSON
Sophomore Ben Stringfellow prepares for a take while filming a sketch for "Elon Tonight."

the rise. I cannot wait for this episode to be released. It's going to be something special."

This season, the actors have tried improvising during their sketches and found that it produced some of the best work they have ever done. When difficulties come up, students roll with the punches.

"One time I had to make peasant costumes out of the cover of a beanbag I found on the side of the road," said freshman Lindsey Lanquist, producer of the show. "Now that's a shenanigan at its finest."

Lanquist said she often finds herself in awe of other students at "Elon Tonight."

"Sometimes it's the actors improvising something hilariously creative on set, and other times it's a director conveying his or her vision of a sketch, and I just think to myself, 'Wow, I could never do that,'" she said.

Molloy said he looked back at sketches from the show's first season and couldn't help but notice how much the quality has improved.

"That's what you get when you have a team of people like this who are dedicated to producing a great show and always improving what they have," he said.

Richardson, who graduates in May, said he will miss the people of "Elon Tonight" the most when he leaves Elon. In all his life, he said he has never laughed harder than during the time he has spent with people on the show.

"Laughter is contagious," Richardson said. "And we laugh a lot."

Want to see Elon Tonight's Season 4 Fall Showcase?

When: 8:30 p.m., Nov. 30

Where: LaRose Digital Theatre, Koury Business

Cost: Free



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SCOTT RICHARDSON
Freshmen Tony Weaver (left) and Matt Lee film a sketch called "Mitch's Furniture," which is part of the show's fourth season. "Elon Tonight" will host a fall showcase featuring new content Nov. 30.

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Elon Tonight regained its footing.

"Although it was a small group, they were a very dedicated bunch. And they're what kept the show alive until the following year," Richardson said. "We're stronger, funnier and more unified than ever. Bring on the challenge. We can handle it."

The interest level has also grown. In the spring of 2011, "Elon Tonight" had 12 to 15 interested members. As of fall 2012, it has 50 to 60 members. "Elon Tonight" continues to push forward into Season Four, Richardson said.

"We've done nothing but improve since the beginning," he said. "And we're still on

Ensemble shows high schoolers life of collegiate music

Elon Music Ambassadors encourage aspiring music students

Casey Brown
Senior Reporter

For the Elon Music Ambassadors, their upcoming show, “One World, One Voice,” is only the beginning. On Dec. 3, the Ambassadors’ program will present a global showcase that has been carefully constructed for audiences beyond Elon University.

Led by Virginia Novine-Whittaker, adjunct instructor of music, the purpose of Elon Music Ambassadors is to expose high school students to Elon, its music department and college-level music classes in general. The program, which started with a six-school tour led by eight students last year, has expanded to 10 students and two tours — one during winter break to western North Carolina and one during Fake Break along the southern East Coast.

“I help (Whittaker) select schools to go visit,” said L.E. Alexander, a senior in the ensemble and the program’s tour coordinator. “I emailed a ton of band directors and organized trips to those schools. I’m in charge of saying, ‘This is who we are, this is when we’re going to be here and this is what we need.’”

It was through Alexander’s assistance that “One World, One Voice” could find an audience, and Whittaker kept her listeners in mind.

“We wanted a performance that is entertaining for high school students and, in addition to that, has an educational component,” she said.

The concert escorts audiences around the world, from Latin America to Africa to Europe. Whittaker said she thinks the theme is perfect for showcasing the power of music.

“(We are showing) music as an



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KELSEY HIGGINS
Junior Brian Magna rehearses with fellow Elon Music Ambassadors.

expressive tool,” she said. “Music is our greatest, most successful form of expression.”

The performance will highlight traditional and modern musical stylings from different nations. For example, the segment about Japan will include the shakuhachi flute and video game music. The educational component comes from narrations between the pieces, which provide context for the audience. Although some countries’ music may sound simple, the learning process hasn’t been easy.

“(When) you think old cultures, you think Beethoven and Bach, (you think of) really difficult music,” said junior Wesley Rose. “(But for) a lot of these cultures, their style of playing is more difficult than you think.”

Hand-selected by their professors, the 10 performers in the ensemble are praised for their musicality, leadership qualities and academic standing within the department.

“The students in this ensemble are very dedicated. They’re hard workers,” Whittaker said. “They are (some of) the



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KELSEY HIGGINS
Junior Michelle Warshany, senior L.E. Alexander and senior Ethan Luke rehearse.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KELSEY HIGGINS
Seniors David Kerman (left) and Alex Nuesse run through a vocal selection at a rehearsal for the “One World, One Voice” concert.

busiest students on this campus. This is only one of the many musical ensembles they’re in.”

As the top performers in the department, these students are good candidates to show high schoolers the life of a music major. Despite their different instruments and ways of thinking about music, junior Michelle Warshany said the group members bring different elements to the table and work well together. The ensemble has weekly rehearsals together, which don’t encompass all of the preparation that goes into the performance.

“Depending on the day, we try to rehearse two or three things. We usually take one country at a time,” Warshany said. “Some of the countries have small amounts of people, so sometimes we get together outside.”

The ensemble has been gathering and learning music since August and after performing for trustees earlier this semester, the group has been motivated to polish its performance and take it on tour. But even though group members are looking forward to a future of more performances in more locations, the ensemble is currently focused on this



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KELSEY HIGGINS
Senior John Mullen practices a percussion piece with the Elon Music Ambassadors.

year’s tours and making an impression on the schools it visits.

“We really want to get Elon’s name out there and the name of the music department out there,” Alexander said. “And even just showing kids who are in high school, ‘This is what studying music is like and it’s a possibility’ will be cool. We want to show them that if you really want to do (music in college), it can be an amazing experience.”

One World, One Voice

When: 7:30 p.m., Dec. 3

Where: McCrary Theatre

Cost: Free

From Ghana to Elon, passions remain the same

Michael Papich
Reporter

At the University of Ghana, each department nominates one student each year to travel abroad to study. For the 2012-13 year, James Nti-Omane was nominated.

“I was thrilled because I saw it as a challenge — a challenge to know different people, to see different cultures, to immerse myself in a different environment.” Omame said. “When I found out, it was January and I would be coming in August, so I could not wait for August to arrive.”

The trip from Ghana to North Carolina was not only Omame’s first time in the United States, but it was his first time on a plane. It was also his first time leaving Ghana.

Omane has adjusted to life in the U.S., partly because of his love for academics. His passion for accounting is enormous, as he describes the subject with care and reverence.

This knowledge and appreciation is not lost on Linda Poulson, associate professor and chair of the Department of Accounting at Elon. She is Omame’s intermediate accounting professor, and has come to appreciate his enthusiasm.

“When he answers questions, he doesn’t just answer the question,” Poulson said. “He understands the concept more deeply than just the answer.”

Coming from Ghana to America

Before coming to Elon, Omame lived in

Accra, the capital of Ghana, a small, coastal country in West Africa. Ghana is the birthplace of former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and, as Omame points out with a smile, the country that beat the United States in the past two World Cups.

Back home, Omame attended the University of Ghana, also in Accra. There, the classes were more like lectures, with hundreds of students in one room, listening to professors give lessons on favorable variance and burden rates.

“You could just hide in the classroom and the professor would never see you,” Omame said. “Or you could never show up to class and only come to take exams.”

Before going to college, Omame lived in Accra while his father did farming work in rural Ghana. Not a farmer by trade, his father previously worked as a teacher and a principal of a school outside of the city. After retiring, Omame’s father fell in love with the land and decided to stay there and spend his days growing cabbage.

Busy days filled with music

A standard day for Omame is no different from any other business student.

“I’m very impressed with his knowledge of accounting because he appears to be light-years ahead of the rest of the class,” Poulson said.

Omane’s schedule looks pretty ordinary at first glance: accounting, marketing, finance



JUNIOR JAMES NTI-OMAME | Reporter
Junior James Nti-Omane came to Elon from Ghana to study accounting, and hopes to earn his MBA.

and computer systems.

But there is one class that sticks out — Piano for Beginners.

Omane practices alone whenever rooms are open in the Center for the Arts, sitting and playing along to recorded songs and matching notes and chords by ear.

“I’m taking the piano class to learn formal piano, to learn how to read it, to learn how to look at it and still play,” Omame said. “So now I’m just playing like how I played back at home — by ear.”

Omane’s brush with piano comes from playing in churches in Ghana, where the music is more choir-based and the pianist’s duty is to follow along with the voices. But since coming to Elon and attending Grace Reformed Baptist Church with other students, Omame’s seen the more hymn-like music played and the skill required by the church’s pianist.

“She’s in rhythm with the singers, she plays beautifully,” Omame said. “I always sit in the front row just to look at her.”

To be able to play in the local church, he studies and practices whenever the chances arrive.

Practicing for long stretches of time, Omame can repeat one song over and over until he feels confident he’s mastered the material.

“I feel like I’ve learned a song if I’ve gotten the chords and I can add my own style to it,” Omame said, demonstrating by adding

flourishes in between notes to a song he’s recently rehearsed.

While Omame enjoys learning new skills with the piano and playing for his church, at the core of his piano playing lies his true intentions — a way to get away from work and the hectic aspects of life and focus as he plays Christian spiritual music.

“The primary reason for playing is to have a quiet place somewhere by myself to play those kinds of songs and meditate on the words,” Omame said. “It’s a spiritual booster.”

Life at the end of the year

Omane gets to contact his friends and family in Ghana every now and then. Phone calls are expensive, but he can still connect via Facebook and email with a laptop he received from the DodekaLithon Society, an anonymous Elon charity.

After he finishes his schooling, Omame said he plans to work in an accounting firm in Ghana.

“I’m already in the process of trying to make a connection for him,” Poulson said, referring to contacts with an Elon alumnus who was a partner with a major accounting firm that has offices in Ghana.

So far, Omame knows for sure that he wants to go to business graduate school after he finishes his four years of college. And he has already set his sights on one university for his extended studies — Elon University.



MICHAEL PAPICH | Reporter

Omane said he spends a lot of time studying, but also enjoys practicing the piano when time allows.

A child's escape from Nazi Germany: Henry Landsberger grows out of his misfortune

Melissa Kansky
News Editor

At 6 years old, he recognized the threat Adolf Hitler's regime posed. Jewish and German-born, Henry Landsberger sensed the approaching danger.

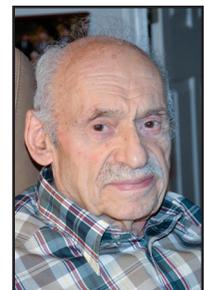
It was evident by the way three men responded to the passing Storm Troopers with an outstretched arm; by the way Landsberger's teammates harassed him following a soccer game; by the way his father fell silent after surviving a month in Buchenwald; by the way Germany slowly disappeared from view as he headed toward London, a passenger on the Kindertransport.

"I don't think I had any regrets about leaving because I was so aware of the terrible situation," Landsberger, 86, said. "While I was not enthusiastic about breaking with my family, I think I accepted it as a rational thing to do."

A photo of Dresden, his first home, occupies a space on his living room wall. The white frame traps a picturesque city, omitting the scars adopted during the war.

Landsberger first witnessed the changing atmosphere when his uncle, chairman of the Dresden Association of Social Democratic Doctors, fled to Czechoslovakia overnight.

"That was the first real incident I remember, but I was just about immediately aware when Hitler won the election and assumed office at the end of January," he said.



LANDSBERGER

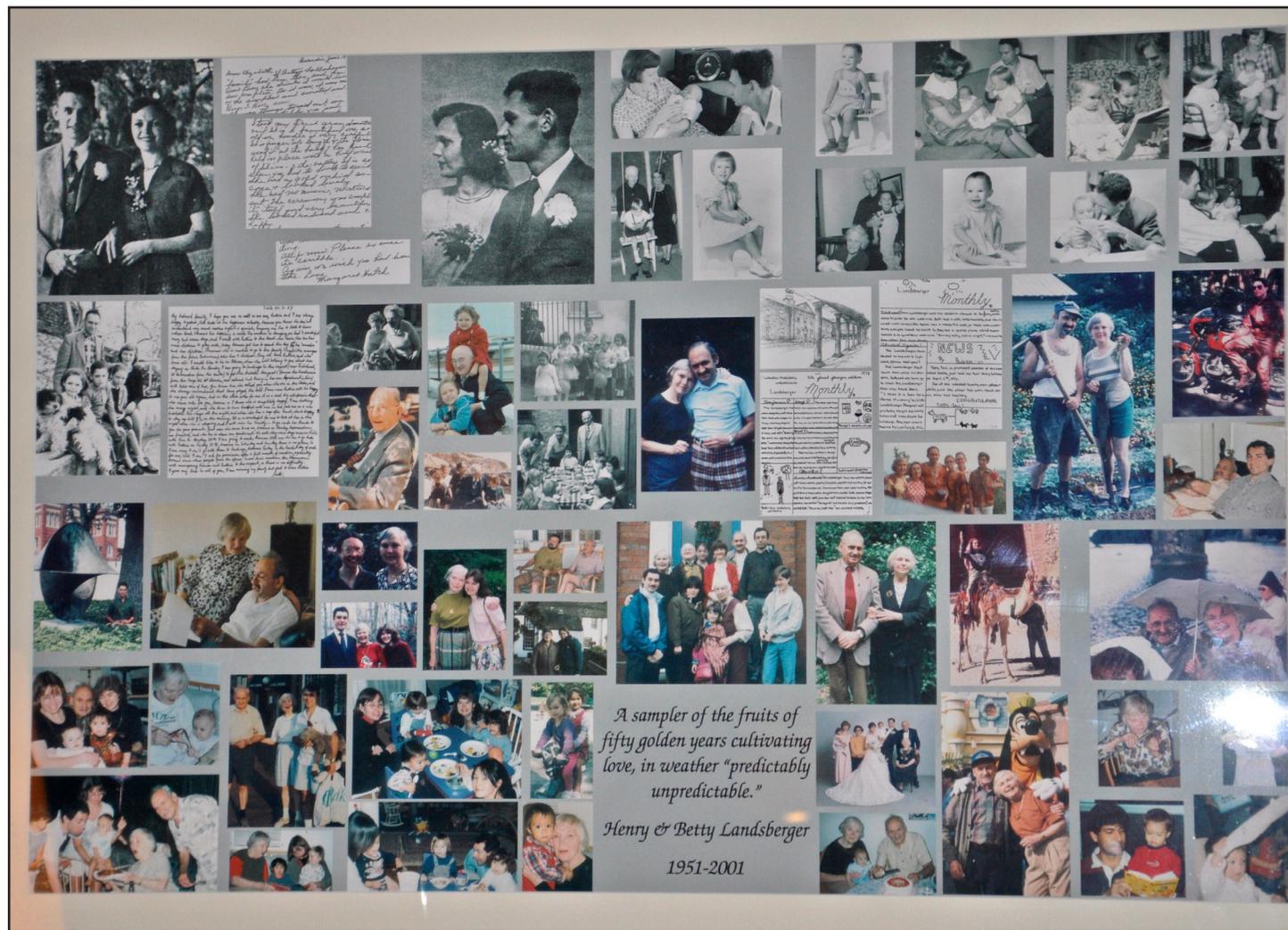
Life in Germany

Isolation quickly followed. During the spring of 1938, after poorly playing goal-keeper, his high school teammates beat him in the locker room.

Approximately 60 years after the incident, Landsberger returned to Dresden for a reunion with some of these classmates. The majority of them attributed the beating to his poor soccer skills, but one individual, Hans Lucke, confessed. He admitted the group harassed Landsberger because he was Jewish.

Nevertheless, in spite of the past conflict, Landsberger established a friendship with Lucke and excused the actions of the other boys.

"Had I felt hostile, I wouldn't have met with them," he said. "I figured they were kids and had gone through suffering themselves. I didn't have



Landsberger's children created a collage of pictures, displaying photos from his wedding day, June 21, 1951, up to his 80th birthday, which he keeps in his home.

hard feelings."

He interpreted their earlier aggression as a product of their environment.

"Perhaps there was an element of scientific sociological interest in being close to these guys and seeing what happened to them and precisely noting they no longer had any hostility that they might have had," he said.

Although he rationalized their actions at the reunion, in 1938, the incident was followed by exclusion from public school and advancing brutality.

That fall, Landsberger witnessed the devastation characteristic of Kristallnacht, the night the Third Reich sanctioned the destruction of Jewish businesses and synagogues. The next day, Jewish males in Dresden began to be arrested from their homes.

Landsberger's father, a decorated war veteran, was dragged away to Buchenwald.

He returned Dec. 8, one month later, molded

by the cruelty of the labor camp.

"He came home a really broken man," Landsberger said. "One realized that in some, yet unknowing way, these hostile steps were going to progress."

Despite the worsening conditions, his father remained a patriotic German.

"This slow progression was precisely what never provided quite enough impetus to get out," he said.

But his mother found concern in her husband's silence. While one of her sons obtained a visa to Chile, she insisted her 12-year-old son, Henry Landsberger, join the Jewish children on the Kindertransport to London.

But hardships awaited him on the European island as well.

"When we got to this camp, which had been built for summer use and had thin walls, I don't think we were widely enthusiastic, but you just accepted it," Landsberger said.

Across the battle lines

His escape from Germany causes him to caution his audience that he is not a "real" Holocaust survivor.

"To be a survivor is to be someone who escaped or left prewar Europe," said Sharon Halperin, an organizer at the Chapel Hill-Durham Holocaust Speakers Bureau, where Landsberger donates his time to talk to groups about his experiences during the war.

Although some categorize survivors according to experiences during the war, the situation in Europe intensified prior to 1939, Halperin said.

"So I call him a survivor because of what he went through in Europe before he came to the United States," she said.

While Halperin said people more frequently request to hear from one of the other 15

Holocaust Speaker Bureau participants because “they want to replicate the stories of Anne Frank and Eli Wiesel in their classrooms,” she recognized the importance of Landsberger’s testimony.

Even though he fled Germany, his arrival in London did not shield him from the effects of World War II. While living in a holiday camp in Dovercourt, he experienced the fighting from the other side of the battle line.

He lived in the Jewish refugee camp in London and listened as the siren wailed the morning of Sept 3, 1939, indicating Hitler had refused to withdraw from Poland. He passed the following nights on a mattress in the cellar, listening as his home country dropped bombs over England.

Prior to his arrival in London he had idealized the British lifestyle, allowing his imagined portrait to feed his hope for a secure life.

“If you had asked if they had any crime in England, I would have said no,” Landsberger said of his earlier perceptions of the country. “They were all gentlemen.”

But soon the war settled on London. And although Landsberger’s German nationality made him an official “enemy alien,” he volunteered for the war effort and served in England as a Bevin Boy, working in the coalmines as part of National Service during World War II.

But in spite of his contributions to the Allies, Landsberger remained a proud German and never denied his heritage.

“For one thing, you can never do that, there’s enough accent,” he said. “But I don’t have any desire to do that. I am who I am: a German, Jewish refugee who also became quite influenced by being in England.”

Chasing academic pursuits

His newly formed relationships in England strongly impacted him and influenced his aca-

demical pursuits throughout his life. After more than a month of listening to the bombs rain outside the cellar, Landsberger received an invitation from his aunt to live with her in the home of Robin Jones in Lincoln.

He described his introduction to Jones as “the biggest piece of luck in his life.”

Robin helped the young boy enroll in the Lincoln City School and inspired him to study sociology.

“I really followed in Robin Jones’ footsteps,” he said.

Landsberger graduated First Class Honours from the London School of Economics with a major in sociology and continued his education at Cornell University in 1949, where he worked as a graduate assistant and earned a doctorate at the School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

He attributed his interest in societal issues and his academic pursuits to his experiences during the war.

“It’s very difficult to separate,” he said.

His early consciousness of politics motivated him to study the relationship between government and social issues. Even later in life, his tendency toward politics has not wavered.

At 5 p.m. he interrupted conversation to “listen to the headlines.” He turned on the radio and placed it upright on the footstool along side his reclining chair.

He listened to the recent developments of the Voter ID bill and mention of a lawsuit against J.P. Morgan Chase.

He pursed his lips and responded to the price of an energy plant in North Carolina with a singular sound, closely related to a disgruntled “pooh.”

When the report concluded he turned his attention back to the living room, where even still, his political aptitude serves as a fixture in his life.

“I must have thought: what can you do with this kind of knowledge except to teach it,”



MELISSA KANSKY | News Editor

Henry Landsberger, a retired UNC-Chapel Hill professor, has collected treasures from his travels throughout Europe, South America and the United States, which he now keeps in his home.

Landsberger said.

Landsberger became assistant director in the ILR School at Cornell, but was soon offered the opportunity to move to another corner of the world. He relocated to Chile, where his family lived after leaving Germany and where he spent some time after completing his schooling in London.

In Chile he served as a lecturer in Spanish on human relations in industry and industrial sociology and was named an honorary member of the University of Chile’s Faculty of Economics.

Teaching opportunities also brought him to the Latin American Studies Center in Zurich and the University of Manchester before he accepted a position in the sociology department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Settling home

He now calls North Carolina home.

“I am associated with many places, but we came here in 1967, so we’re talking about 45 years down here,” said the retired professor, referring to the home he and his wife made in Carolina Meadows.

A painting of Big Ben and Parliament, framed against a white backdrop, faces Henry Landsberger’s chair in his Chapel Hill home. A photo of Dresden rests to the right, staring directly at the painting of Wales, smartly mounted on the opposite wall.

His house offers a collage of the cities he had called home, interminable glimpses into his travels.

“Without giving up that all these other places were my home, I consider ourselves settled in Chapel Hill,” he said of himself and his wife, who recently passed away.

An established community

A collection of black and white photographs cover the wall separating the kitchen and living room. His past and present live side by side.

They offer a trajectory of his life: his wedding to Betty Hatch, his travels and the growth of his three children.

His children live far away, two in Los Angeles and one in Alaska, but Halperin said the local community of Holocaust survivors reminds her of family. Talking with Landsberger is reminiscent of her time spent with her own parents who are survivors as well, she said.

“They’re gems. They’re treasures,” Halperin said of the survivors. “Other people can appreciate what they went through, and many of them are optimistic. Despite the fact that they went through so many things, they come to America and are thankful to be alive.”

Halperin also said she admires his decision to return to Germany. Aside from participating in the high school reunion, he returned to conduct research about East Berlin after the wall fell in 1989. He also returned to help reconstruct a synagogue in Germany.

While Halperin expressed great respect for her own parents, Landsberger’s willingness to return contrasts her parents’ refusal to set foot on the land from which they came.

“It’s fascinating that he was willing to go back and immerse himself in the community even though he was ripped from it,” she said. “He put a lot of effort into making the Jewish community alive there again.”

Living in the present

Although they share a common history, present-day matters consume their conversation. Talk circles around the recently published books they are eager to read.

Even though his country segregated the young Landsberger from society, he has developed a life intrinsic with worldly affairs and established strong relationships. He unearthed opportunities buried in the earlier misfortunes.

“I’m really grateful that despite that background, which might have easily meant the end of my life, I in fact had a very good life,” he said. “While I contributed to it being so good, there is a lot of luck. Much is due to fortune.”



MELISSA KANSKY | News Editor

The framed photo features Landsberger, his wife Betty and their family, including their three children.

Silverman's hard work pays off

Matt Krause
Reporter

In any sport, hard work in the offseason can produce an improvement in performance in competition. But rarely does such work and improvement result in a hot streak such as the one Elon University junior tennis player Cameron Silverman has been on in the fall season.

While the NCAA's official tennis season is in the spring, athletes compete on an individual level in amateur tournaments throughout the fall. Silverman's performance in these tournaments has helped put himself and Elon on the map in the amateur tennis world.

Silverman, from Mount Kisco, N.Y., came to Elon because he had family in North Carolina and needed a "change of pace." He met head coach Michael Leonard at a tournament during the recruiting process.

"He did a pretty good job recruiting me hard," Silverman said.

In Silverman's rookie year at Elon in the spring of 2011, he won the Southern Conference Freshman of the Year award. Despite initial success, Silverman said he has made significant strides and improvements since then.

"My conditioning was not very good," he said. "I wasn't very strong. That's something that's improved, and Coach Leonard has definitely improved my on-court tennis game."

This past summer, Silverman decided to address some of the problems that have plagued him and his game. The most important was his serve, but there were other things as well.

"I (wanted) to improve consistency and my conditioning," he said. "I want to get a little bit better to play at the top level."

Silverman's decision to be more disciplined in those respects pleased his coach.

"We talked a lot this summer about things he needed to do if he wants to take his game to the next level," Leonard said. "He's a talented kid, more mature and (has) become a bit more of a leader for our team."

Leonard said he immediately

knew that when Silverman began to devote himself to improvement and nutrition — "the little things" as Leonard called them — good things were bound to happen to the 5-foot-11 Silverman.

"He began working harder, and I thought, 'This kid's got a chance to be something special,'" Leonard said.

There was immediate change.

"He's never had a great fall (season)," Leonard said. "In the three years he's been here, he's always gotten better as the year goes on. But now he's training the right way, because sometimes he wouldn't train in the right ways when he's away from here. This fall, when he came back, he had a good win early on, he started getting confidence and believing he could beat these ranked players. He got a win in the first tournament and you could see his confidence start to take off."

What ensued was an unprecedented run of success. Silverman and partner, sophomore Stefan Fortmann, earned a doubles championship at the Wake Forest Fall Invite Oct. 14. A week later, Silverman knocked off the top ranked amateur player in the country, Henrique Cunha of Duke University. The three-set match was a semifinal at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Carolina Regionals tournament.

Although Silverman was defeated in the singles final, he still earned a berth in the ITA Indoor Nationals in Flushing, N.Y., home of the U.S. Open. Silverman was the first Elon player to ever be selected for the tournament, and finished the competition 1-2, to complete a 12-5 overall fall season.

Silverman agreed with the words of his coach when describing his streak.

"All (the conditioning and practice) helped me out in the fall, and during the (tournaments) I rode confidence match by match," Silverman said. "It started when I beat a kid from UNC-Wilmington who was ranked 55th in the country, and then I beat (Cunha) from Duke. I played a really good match against Cunha."

While Silverman points to an

increase in personal confidence as an output of his run, he is also mindful of the impact it has had on the men's tennis team.

"It's put Elon more on the map," he said. "We're a mid-major school not really known by that many top tennis universities. For me to go to a tournament where it was just the top schools like UCLA and Stanford, it's great for Elon. A lot of people now understand where Elon is."

Leonard said he is grateful for Silverman's contributions to the program.

"It's given us light, to get to the finals of regionals and beat the No. 1 guy in the country," Leonard said. "It gives us notoriety in the region, and then when he was able to get to the national indoors in New York, that put us more on the national stage."

Silverman's success in the fall, at a time when the focus is more on individual players, is exciting for the rest of the team and its hopes for the spring. Leonard said Silverman and Fortmann are formidable players on both the singles and doubles side, and Silverman's goal for the spring is to deliver a Southern Conference championship and NCAA tournament berth.

He started preparing much earlier this time.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS
On Oct. 21, Silverman upset the top-ranked player in the nation, Duke's Henrique Cunha, in the semifinals of the ITA Carolina Regional singles tournament.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS
Elon junior men's tennis player Cameron Silverman had a successful fall season, going 12-5 overall.

2012 CROSS COUNTRY SEASON IN REVIEW

Compiled by The Pendulum Sports Desk



FILE PHOTO BY GLORIA SO

The Elon women's cross country team earned its first regional ranking in program history. The United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association slotted the Phoenix No. 13 in the Southeast Region to begin the season.

Best Moment :

Women are ranked for the first time in program history

On Aug. 27, the women's cross country program found themselves in uncharted territory: being nationally-ranked.

In the initial USTFCCCA rankings, the women were ranked 13th in the Southeast Region. Through the course of the season, the Phoenix rose as high as 11th. With the season over, Elon finished where it started: ranked No. 13.

"Being ranked is huge," said junior Allyson Oram. "It just shows how strong our team has become. It gives us so much confidence going forward into each meet as well to know that we're ranked among the best in the country."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

Elon sophomore runner Luis Vargas continued to break records in his second season.

MVP:

Luis Vargas, sophomore (Men's XC)

The sophomore runner got even better in his second year as a Phoenix. The native of Angier, N.C., set the 10K school record Nov. 9 by posting a time of 31:35.37 in the Southeast Regional meet in Charlotte. On Oct. 12 at the Queens Royal NC Challenge in Charlotte, he set the school's 8K record with a time of 24:16.0, breaking the record he set last year in the Southern Conference Championships. Along with setting those records, he earned the program's first all-SoCon first team honor at the conference championships.

In retrospect, junior Ari Rothschild seemed prophetic when he uttered this at the beginning of the season: "Luis, he's always way out there. He loves going fast. It's just something he loves to do — basic runs, workouts, he's always out there."

MVP:

Haylee Dawe, sophomore (Women's XC)

Early in the season, the Elon women's cross country team was ranked for the first time in program history. Leading the way for the Phoenix was sophomore Haylee Dawe. In the first meet of the season, she and senior Emily Tryon placed second in the meet to help the Phoenix take home a first place finish. Two weeks later at the Elon Invitational, Dawe paced the Phoenix with a time of 18:18, as the women's team won the event for the second consecutive year. Continuing her stellar run, Dawe again paced the Phoenix with a time of 22:16.42 at the Charlotte Invitational on Sept. 28.

Following the win at the Elon Invitational, junior runner Allyson Oram talked about how big it is to have one of the team's top runners be an underclassman.

"Every year, we keep getting more and more recruits," Oram said. "She's really strong and she's awesome to train with because she really pushes everyone else."

Best Event:

The Elon Invitational on Sept. 15, 2012

Coming into the meet as a ranked program, the women's team was looking for a repeat win at the event while the men were in search of their first win at the meet since the inaugural year in 2009. Paced by Dawe, sophomore Tereza Novotna and freshman Elyse Bierut, the women won the meet, making it the first time the women won the Elon Invitational in back to back years.

On the men's side, sophomore Luis Vargas paced the Phoenix, finishing with a time of 25:37. Runners from Elon and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro took the top 16 spots in the meet, but the Phoenix pulled out the win by just three points.

It was the first time since 2008 that both the men and the women took the top spots on the same day.

2012 WOMEN'S SOCCER SEASON IN REVIEW

Compiled by *The Pendulum Sports Desk*



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

Junior forward Simi Dhaliwal (above) led the team in goals this season with three. She also led the Phoenix with seven points.

Best Moment :

Beating Appalachian State University in the quarterfinals of the SoCon tournament

Freshman defender Mel Insley called it the best moment of the year, and we couldn't agree more.

"Beating Appalachian State at Appalachian State, that was great," she said.

It's not common in soccer to get multiple chances to play a team twice in a single season, let alone your rival. Elon got that chance this year, and the Phoenix made the most of it.

The first weekend of Southern Conference regular season play, Appalachian State came to Rudd Field and defeated the Phoenix in overtime after Elon scored the first goal early on.

After the game, head coach Chris Neal told his players to keep their heads up and that the loss didn't define them as a team. Elon went on to win or tie the next seven games before a loss to Samford University on the final Sunday of the season.

Drawing the Mountaineers in the first round of the conference tournament was a chance at redemption for the Phoenix. Behind senior midfielder Jaclyn Wood's second goal of the season, the Phoenix topped Appalachian State to advance to the semifinals of the tournament.

In the semifinals, the Phoenix lost 1-0 in double overtime to Georgia Southern University.

MVP:

**Kate Murphy,
#1
Sophomore
goalkeeper**



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

Sophomore goalkeeper Kate Murphy recorded six shutouts for the Phoenix this season.

7-8-5, 1.00 GAA, .848 SAVE %, 6 SHUTOUTS

The argument could be made that then entire back line of the Elon defense could be the team MVP, but the title can only be given to one person. Sophomore goalkeeper Kate Murphy was one of the most consistent goalkeepers in the Southern Conference this season. She allowed just nine goals on 159 shots, which is good for an 88.6 save percentage in conference. She recorded six shutouts this season, including a stretch of three in a row in conference against Georgia Southern University, Davidson College and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in mid-October. That tied the program record, which was set during the 2008 season.

Best Game:

Sept. 14-16 against High Point (T 1-1) and Francis Marion (W 1-0)

Being 1-5-1 through seven games is not good. That was Elon's record entering the weekend of September 14-16 with its final two non-conference matchups of the season on tap against local rival High Point University and Francis Marion University. Having just returned from a trip to Wilmington that infused confidence in the program even though the Phoenix dropped both games, the High Point and Francis Marion games became big determinants of what would happen the remainder of the season.

Elon battled High Point to a 1-1 draw on the road, then topped Francis Marion 1-0 two days later on Rudd Field to give the Phoenix some momentum moving into conference play.

"We struggled a little bit early in the season, so it's really good to be undefeated this last weekend going into conference," sophomore midfielder Kim Gardner said after the game against Francis Marion. "That's definitely going to boost our confidence in the long run."

And boost the confidence it did. The Phoenix finished with a winning season in Southern Conference play for the fourth straight year, making them one of three teams in the league of 11 to accomplish the feat. The other two were the top two finishers this season — Samford University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

Sophomore defender Caroline O'Dee played in 18 games this season, starting in seven of those games.

2012 MEN'S SOCCER SEASON IN REVIEW

Compiled by The Pendulum Sports Desk



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

Freshman forward James Brace notched two assists this season, playing in all 22 games for the Phoenix in 2012.

Best Game:

The Phoenix's 2-0 win over Charlotte

We could've easily chosen the other three wins the Phoenix had over nationally ranked opponents, but decided Elon's 2-0 win over Charlotte was the most impressive. The 49ers came to Rudd Field as heavy favorites, and why not? They were the sixth-ranked team in the country, undefeated, and a large, vocal fan base made the short trip to cheer them on. But the Phoenix came out and punched the 49ers in the mouth, playing with a passion previously unseen by the Phoenix faithful.

Chris Thomas scored two first-half goals, forcing the shell-shocked 49ers to chase the game from there on out. The Phoenix kept the 49ers off the scoreboard and walked off Rudd with a win that sent shockwaves through the college soccer world. Head coach Darren Powell, his eyes brimming with pride, had no trepidation in calling his team's win one of the most significant in program history. The win helped propel the Phoenix to 15 wins, the most victories the team has ever had in Powell's tenure.

The 49ers made the NCAA Tournament at the end of the season and were eliminated by No. 3 seed Georgetown University in the second round.

MVP:

Chris Thomas
#20
Senior forward

22 games, 23 goals, five assists, 51 points

Easiest decision we'll make all day. The senior forward was the leading goal scorer in the nation. While everyone drooled over wide receiver Aaron Mellette, Thomas went about his business, putting together the most spectacular single season in program history. He was named the Southern Conference Player of the Year on a nationally-ranked team in a conference that had dynamic playmakers on every squad. He led his team to four wins over nationally ranked opponents, and saw the Phoenix ranked for just the second time in team history. Thomas then led the Phoenix to the conference regular season title and a second straight conference tournament championship. Whenever the team needed a goal, Thomas stepped up and found the back of the net, time after time. Thomas scored two goals apiece in two of the Phoenix's biggest wins — University of North Carolina at Charlotte and the University of West Virginia. Much of the Phoenix's success this season was thanks to the stellar play of their superstar forward, who is projected to be a top-10 draft pick in the upcoming Major League Soccer draft.



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

Senior forward Chris Thomas (20) led the nation with 23 goals in 2012.

Best Moment:

2nd straight Southern Conference Tournament championship

The Phoenix had several memorable moments in a year full of milestones. But the most significant was the Phoenix's second straight Southern Conference tournament championship and the NCAA tournament appearance that came with it. After escaping a potential upset at the hands of Davidson College, the Phoenix respectively beat Georgia Southern University and Wofford College in the semifinal and final to win back to back conference championships. The Phoenix defense was fantastic, conceding just two goals in three tournament games after struggling for a stretch of the regular season. The offense, led by Thomas and senior midfielder Gabe Latigue, provided all the scoring the Phoenix needed. The win against Wofford was significant, as it gave the Phoenix a second trip to the NCAA Tournament, just the second appearance in school history. The win was yet another milestone in a season of firsts for the Phoenix program, who has established itself as one of the Southern Conference's elite squads.

2012 FOOTBALL SEASON IN REVIEW

Compiled by *The Pendulum Sports Desk*



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO
Elon senior wide receiver Aaron Mellette (3) continued his collegiate success in 2012, grabbing 18 touchdowns to lead the FCS in that statistic.

MVP:

**Aaron Mellette,
#3 Senior
wide receiver**

11 games, 97 receptions, 1,389 receiving yards, 18 touchdowns

The senior wide receiver's numbers are hard to ignore. The All-Southern Conference First Team pick by both coaches and media, Mellette had 97 catches for 1,389 yards and 18 touchdowns. He tied for the second-most ever in a single season in conference history in that latter. He was second nationally in the Football Championship Subdivision in receptions per game (8.82) and receiving yards per game (127.09). Mellette finished his career with the second-most receptions (304), receiving yards (4,254), touchdowns (44) and 100-yard games (23) in Elon University and SoCon history, behind Terrell Hudgins.

Not only did Mellette impress in the numbers category, he was a monster on the field. His height and speed allowed him to create separation from defenders. This showed up notably in games in which he faced spectacular talent on defense, including a career-best 247 yards and three touchdowns against Appalachian State University cornerback and NFL prospect Demetrius McCray Oct. 6. He is the No. 15 wide receiver in the NFL Draft class of 2013 as currently rated by ESPN, slated to go in the fourth round.

Best Game:

**23-35 L to No. 14 Appalachian
State University Oct. 6**

In a year when there weren't many great games for the Elon Phoenix, this provided perhaps the best back-and-forth action for 60 minutes. Elon got on the board early, with senior quarterback Thomas Wilson finding Mellette for an 11-yard touchdown to get the game going about three minutes in. The teams traded scores until the Mountaineers got on top 28-17 thanks to quarterback Jamal Jackson's 23-yard passing score to running back Steven Miller just 2:13 into the fourth quarter. Just one minute and 21 seconds later, Wilson found Mellette for the third time that day to pull the Phoenix within five, 28-23. But the Mountaineers' defense held out, and Jackson added insurance with a touchdown run with less than eight minutes left and Appalachian State continued its dominance over the Phoenix with a 35-23 victory.

Mellette had a stellar game, grabbing 13 balls for 247 yards and three touchdowns, increasing his career total in scores against the Mountaineers to eight. Wilson threw for 431 yards, but also had three interceptions. Meanwhile, Jackson was an effective 19-for-27 through the air for 291 yards and four touchdowns. Jackson later beat out Wilson for all-SoCon first-team honors at quarterback.



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO
Elon head coach Jason Swepson suffered through yet another loss to Appalachian State Oct. 6 on the way to a 3-8 season.

Best Moment:

**Thuc Phan's 110 rushing yards Sept.
15 vs. West Virginia State**

He's 5-foot-6, 160 pounds and a freshman walk-on running back from Greensboro. He had just 43 carries this season, most of them in garbage time in big wins or big losses. But perhaps Thuc Phan's biggest moment was his team's lone individual 100-yard rushing game this season.

The Phoenix held a 38-7 lead in with 5:13 left in the third quarter against West Virginia State when the second-team offense came onto the field, including Phan. Until the final whistle blew, he nearly scored twice, broke six rushes for ten yards or more and brought the few remaining fans to their feet whenever he touched the ball.

The Phoenix struggled on the ground all season, but Phan's big day against West Virginia State was a highlight in a dark season.



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO
Elon freshman running back Thuc Phan (with ball) had 43 carries for 153 yards this season in six games.

2012 VOLLEYBALL SEASON IN REVIEW

Compiled by The Pendulum Sports Desk

MVP: Megan Gravley & Ali Deatsch



FILE PHOTO BY WILLIE KENYON

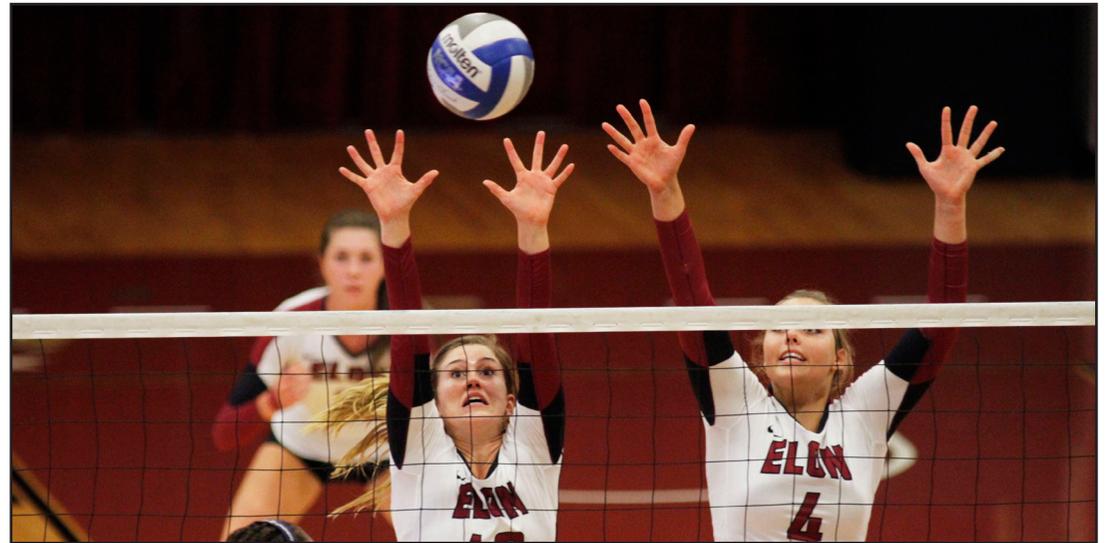
Senior outside hitter Ali Deatsch won the Southern Conference Defensive Player of the Week honor twice in her final season with the Phoenix.

Freshman outside hitter Megan Gravley had 350 kills this season. She had many decisive plays and helped break long runs by other teams. Originally from Apex, Gravley played high school volleyball with sophomore middle blocker Kris Harris. She looked forward to this season so she could play alongside Harris again.

"I absolutely loved playing beside her in high school," Gravley said. "Kris made everything so much more fun on the court."

On the defensive side, senior co-captain and libero Ali Deatsch had 484 digs throughout the season and 23 aces. A native of Elmhurst, Ill., she ended her career at Elon with 1,919 digs.

The Phoenix ended the season with a 16-16 overall record and a 9-7 record in the Southern Conference.



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

The Phoenix finished the season 16-16, falling 0-3 Nov. 17 to Furman University in the quarterfinals of the SoCon Tournament.

Best Moment : Oct. 19-20 Weekend

The best weekend from this season was during the weekend of Oct. 19-20 with an exciting 3-2 win over Wofford College and a 3-1 victory over Furman University, the conference's top offensive team.

Furman quickly took set one with a 25-17 win. But the Phoenix pulled away in the second after an eight-point-run including three aces from senior defensive specialist Ali Deatsch, giving Elon a nine-point lead. Elon was able to hold for a 25-18 win in the second set.

With strong blocks, consistent hitting and few service errors, the Phoenix took the third set 25-18 and then finished off Furman with a 25-20 fourth

set win.

Deatsch said quality serving helped Elon keep its momentum throughout the matches.

"Friday, our serving was on point all night," she said. "And that was something that really led us to victory. We knew we could use serving again."

The Phoenix only had three service errors the entire Furman match.

Elon ended up falling to Furman during the SoCon Championships.

Furman came in second place in the championship, losing the final match against College of Charleston in a five-set game.

Best Game:

3-2 win vs. Wofford Oct. 19

Elon volleyball defeated Wofford after an exciting five-set match (23-25, 25-19, 25-23, 20-25, 18-16). The Phoenix dropped the first set against Wofford after a tough back-and-forth match, then battled back to tie the game winning the second set.

Elon held during another tight set to win the third 25-23, but the Phoenix found itself down by five for most of the fourth, and Wofford was able to stay alive with a fourth-set win.

In the fifth and deciding set, Wofford took match point first 15-14, but the Phoenix defended two match points to tie the game 16 all. Elon sealed the match with a kill from freshman setter Chelsea Rafetto and a final kill by sophomore outside hitter Chanelle Smith to win the match 18-16 in the final set.

Smith led the team with 17 kills and also recorded a double-double with 14 digs for the match.

They said what?

Best quotes from sports in Fall 2012

Compiled by The Pendulum Sports Desk

Cross Country

"We all knew he was fast, but already, we've seen two workouts and he's just like a gazelle out there." — Sean Magee, redshirt sophomore runner, on sophomore Luis Vargas at the beginning of the season

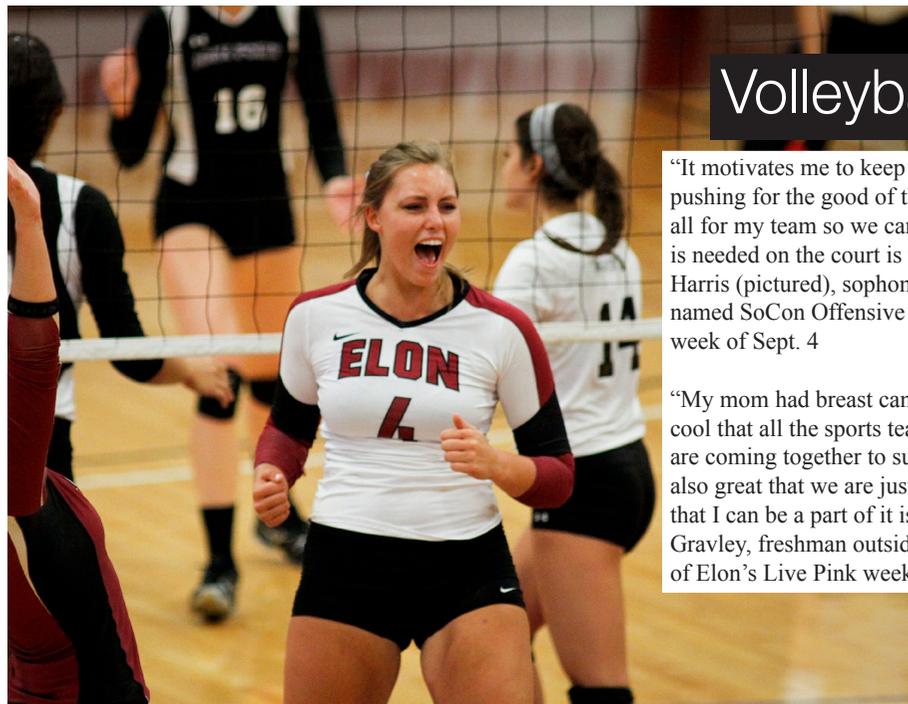
"We're gonna go hunting. I just repeat it to myself over and over and over again. Let's go get 'em." — Emily Tryon (pictured), junior runner, before the Southern Conference Championships



Volleyball

"It motivates me to keep trying my best and keep pushing for the good of the team. I'm just giving it all for my team so we can reach our goals. Whatever is needed on the court is what I will do." — Kris Harris (pictured), sophomore middle hitter, on being named SoCon Offensive Player of the Week for the week of Sept. 4

"My mom had breast cancer last year. I think it's so cool that all the sports teams and the whole campus are coming together to support the cause. But it's also great that we are just supporting awareness, and that I can be a part of it is just awesome." — Megan Gravley, freshman outside hitter, on the importance of Elon's Live Pink week



Women's Soccer

"Orange clashes with blue. You still have to look good out there, right?" — Kate Murphy, sophomore goal-keeper. At halftime of the game against College of Charleston Sept. 30, Murphy was forced to change her jersey because both goalkeepers were wearing orange. Murphy changed to blue. What also changed was her headband, going from orange to matching blue.

"What I do beforehand is I go mow my grass with my Walkman on and I cry like a baby. I'm serious. I try to get it out of my system." — Chris Neal (pictured), head coach, on what he does before Senior Day

"I won Coach of the Year and we were a losing program, so explain that one." — Neal



Men's Soccer

"I can't even put it into words how much (being ranked) means to us. It means everything to us, to the school. (We) can't read into it too much because the games come 'thick and fast' as coach always says. It's very nice to see or recognition finally. We thought we've earned it for a while but we understood we had to do some big things, and this year we've started to do them."

— Daniel Lovitz (pictured), junior midfielder, on team being nationally ranked

"To score 50 college goals is very good, isn't it? He's had good production this year, he's worked hard over the course of the summer and to score 20 goals in a season, so far, is obviously a good sign for him and, obviously, for the team. He'll be the first to admit he takes (scoring goals) as his job; his job is to score goals for this team and he's taken that on his shoulders this year and performed well at it."

— Darren Powell, head coach, on Chris Thomas' school-record 50 goals



Football

"I take away that was a good football team. They played their A-game. I told someone they probably could have beaten the Green Bay Packers on Saturday." — Jason Swepson (pictured), head coach, after losing to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Sept. 1

"We just didn't create our own energy. We had to. There was no one in the stands. We had to create our own energy and hopefully we can learn from it and move forward. It felt like a coffin out there and we didn't help it." — Swepson after losing to Furman University Oct. 27



THE LAST WORD: Going Greek

This January, hundreds of freshmen, sophomores and probably a few juniors will go through the college ritual known as rushing. They will visit Greek houses, talk to strangers, answer



Christopher Bosak
Producer, The Swing

questions and — if they're lucky — be deemed worthy to join one of Elon's eight fraternities or nine sororities. For some, this time is far in the future (rush doesn't begin until January) but, for many, Greek life is already the topic of conversation.

Elon can seem like a Greek-centric universe. It's impossible to walk around campus without

seeing someone wearing Greek symbols. According to Elon's admissions website, one in four students belongs to a Greek organization. As an underclassman, getting into one can seem like the thing that makes or breaks your college life. I've been on both sides and I can assure you: it's not.

Starting college can be jarring because, for the

first time, you're alone. Even if you know a lot of people, you're still on your own in a new place. The isolation is unnerving, especially for those who are used to having a family they can come home and relax with. Sometimes the college equivalent of that family is found within a fraternity or sorority. Sometimes, it's not. I've been a part of a Greek family and some non-Greek families. Both have gotten me through college and taught me about myself.

The first family I joined was the group I started *Elon Tonight* with. As freshmen, me and three people I barely knew spontaneously got lunch together and decided we would leave the ESTV shows we were working on and start a new one. We asked everyone we knew if they wanted to help start a sketch comedy show. The people I asked were all communications school acquaintances I wanted to become better friends with. They all agreed and four weeks later, everyone was sitting in McEwen's screening room, dressed for the red carpet, watching the pilot episode of *Elon Tonight*. In the following semesters, working on the show gave us an excuse to catch up, even when classes got in the way.

Eventually, we all left the show and moved on to bigger things. (Today's *Elon Tonight* is a different family, only one of the original members still works on the show). I don't see all of the original team as much as I used to, but I try to keep in touch. They are the most talented people I've ever met and some of my closest friends.

During my sophomore year, some of my friends outside of *Elon Tonight* began discussing a rumor that a new fraternity was coming to campus. We soon learned the rumor was true and many of them formed the group that would build the Elon chapter of Delta Upsilon. I wanted to join so I could get to know the guys who were involved. But there was one thing about DU that really sold me: it's a non-secret fraternity. Everything about DU is transparent. Most initiation rituals are held behind closed doors, DU's are open to the public. Most rite books are kept secret with a dedication that rivals religion, DU's is proudly posted on the Internet. After rushing the year before and not feeling comfortable with any of the other fraternities on campus, I knew this was the one I wanted my name attached to. The new DU was a group of men I clicked with,

who became part of a national organization I agreed with. Had either of those not been true, I would not have joined.

Finally, the last family I joined was The Pendulum. I got a tip from a friend that the staff was looking for someone to help get a web show off the ground. I had seen some great examples of what other newspapers were doing online, and I thought it would be fun to give it a shot. Even though I knew next to nothing about proper journalism, the staff members made me feel like one of them and The Swing took off. I've learned more about working as part of a big team in The Pendulum office than anywhere else. Their support even allowed me to branch out and try writing this column — something I had wanted to attempt since coming to college.

If you're thinking about rushing, go for it. You have nothing to lose and the experience is a college bucket list necessity. But, if you don't find a group that you click with, don't worry about Greek life. Whether they're a club sports team, a student media group or a Greek life organization, eventually, you will find your family.

Drop me a line at thelastwordelon@gmail.com.

WordSearch

E	M	R	E	O	S	C	I	S
T	M	E	M	Y	H	U	T	A
A	D	A	N	N	D	O	E	N
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Word Bank

- Luminaries
- Santa Claus
- Hot chocolate
- Cram jam
- ElonLight
- Toys
- Tots
- Reading Day
- Candy
- Cookies
- Hanukkah
- Menorah
- Love Feast
- Pack-a-thon

Top Tweets

@OnlyAtElon

"The best event Elon has every year #ElonLight"

@xoGossipSquirrel

"I hope everyone's Black Friday was wonderful! Personally don't celebrate it because I'm not racist. #butdowhateveryouwant XOXO, GS"

@iliveinyellow

"The most beautiful alma mater there ever was @elonuniversity"

@TheBubbleBitch

"Elon landscaping uses voodoo witch craft to make sure no leaves touch the ground."

@lilIGZ

"there's hope for Elon. Smith Jackson says theres boys here worth a drive down from Pennsylvania. #occupyDanieley"



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TOP photos



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer
Elon senior Noah Manneville celebrates the end of the 5K Turkey Trot.



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Giving the tradition its name, a student dressed in a turkey costume runs the 5K marathon.



CLAIRE ESPARROS | Photo Editor

Construction workers push to make the final touches in the new Lakeside Dining Hall, which is scheduled to open in spring 2013.



STEPHANIE BUTZER | Senior Reporter

Runners cross the finish line at the annual Turkey Trot, which had over 230 runners at South Campus last Friday. Runners donated a can of food as an entry fee for the competition.

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