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Elon explores the unique intersection of religion and dance

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## MORE THAN JUST A LUNCH TOPIC

Chick-fil-A addresses accusations of donations to anti-gay philanthropies

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# THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2012 | VOLUME 38, EDITION 9

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## Astley's absence creates space for reflection, dialogue

*Elon community shares memory of friend, accepted member of the Class of 2015*

**Katherine Blunt**  
Assistant News Editor

He still leaves the light on in her bedroom at night, even though she won't be coming home.

Nearly nine months after the death of his daughter, Malcolm Astley is still learning to cope with his grief, and he is not alone. Both those who knew Lauren Astley personally and those who were moved by her story attended a gathering of friends in her memory Monday afternoon, led by Lauren's parents and Chaplain Jan Fuller.

Lauren Astley was to be a member of the Class of 2015, but was found dead of apparent homicide July 4 in her hometown of Wayland, Mass. She was a suspected victim of relationship violence, and her former boyfriend Nathaniel Fujita has been charged with her murder.

"Although romantic relationships happen between two people, (relationships) affect every person involved in their lives," said Elizabeth Nelson, coordinator for violence prevention at Elon.

Nelson helped plan three other events in memory of

Lauren's life that will be held throughout the week.

Those in attendance sat in a circle and took turns sharing how Lauren's life forever changed their own. Some offered anecdotes that inspired both laughter and tears, and others voiced reflections punctuated by moments of deep silence.

Freshman Annie Schaffer, who was to be Lauren's roommate, welcomed the chance to express her sorrow.

"I didn't really tell anyone last semester about (how I was feeling)," Schaffer said. "It was nice to remember her in a group. It's not often everyone comes together like this."

Lauren's story resonates outside of the Elon community as well. Sophomore Lindsay Glosson, who attended summer camp in New Hampshire with Lauren for several consecutive years, marveled at how many people "liked" a Facebook page dedicated to the memory of Lauren's life. The number topped 20,000.

"If we had told Lauren that her life had touched this many people, she would have laughed at us," Glosson said. "She really left a footprint on this place."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Elon University designed Memory & Witness events to commemorate Lauren Astley and educate students about signs of unhealthy relationships.



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

(Left to right) Jan Fuller, University Chaplain, Malcolm Astley and Mary Dunne, Lauren Astley's parents and sophomore Lindsay Glosson listened as friends and Elon students talked about her life at a ceremony in her memory Monday afternoon.

### Memory & Witness

**Religion & Relationships: Messages & Misunderstandings**

7 p.m. Wednesday KOBC 208

A panel discussion featuring faculty and staff members sharing how their religious tradition addresses romantic relationships.

**Healthy or Unhealthy? A Conversation about Choices**

7 p.m. Thursday Moseley 206

Go online for coverage of Tuesday evening's conversation with Malcolm Astley about Lauren.

Sponsored by the Office of Health Promotion, Interpersonal Relations and Community Well-Being, the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life and the Office of Violence Prevention and Response.

## Junior-senior cap on campus housing influences learning communities

**Mary Kate Brogan**  
Senior Reporter

For years, Elon University's learning communities have depended on juniors and seniors to act as unofficial mentors to freshmen and sophomores on their halls. The cross-campus junior-senior cap on housing has affected those who wish to live in learning communities just as much as it has those who wish to live in on-campus housing.

Rising juniors and seniors have felt the push to move off campus to give more spots to rising freshmen and sophomores because of the cap, according to Michael Carignan, associate professor of history and associate director of honors who

coordinates the Honors Living and Learning Communities.

"I felt like the junior-senior cap that they imposed this year, and whatever message they delivered to kind of let juniors and seniors know that it was time to go, meant that we got no applications from rising juniors and seniors to live in the (Honors) LLC," Carignan said. "I think that that's detrimental to the community we're trying to build on the floor there. We want different grades represented. I don't know what we can do next year, but it's certainly on my agenda to make sure rising juniors at least know that we'd like a few on the (Honors) floor."

Laura Anderson, special projects coordinator for Residence Life learning

communities, sees the lower amount of juniors and seniors returning a different way.

"Before the application even was available to students, the (faculty) advisers were made aware of how many first years had to be in a community and how many spaces had to be reserved for first years," Anderson said. "Fewer rising juniors and seniors applied than sophomores simply because a lot of them have been in the community for two years and they're ready to do something else or they want to transition off-campus."

Even so, the Honors floor represents just one of many learning communities that have felt a shift because of the junior-senior cap. Anderson said Residence Life has not had to turn many upperclassmen away, but Carignan said he has heard from juniors and seniors currently in the learning communities that more of them would have applied if they had thought that there would be spots available to them.

"I'm worried that we missed a chance to keep some more elders around because of the campus-wide formula they had that wasn't really respectful of the needs or precedents of the Honors floor," Carignan said. "But if they need beds for first-years and the only ones left over are in the LLCs, well then the LLCs should be expected to adjust to that and sometimes that can work out well."

Carignan also expressed concern that the Honors learning communities may not have enough freshman applicants to fill the extra spots that rising juniors and seniors did not fill. The Honors hall in Colonnades C typically holds spots for 16 freshmen and the William R. Kenan

Jr. Honors Pavilion holds spots for 10 freshmen. This year, there will be four extra spots available on each hall because of the smaller amount of returning rising juniors and seniors. Typically more than enough first-years apply to fill the spots in any given learning community, Anderson said.

"If there was a situation where a community didn't fill, I'm not sure how it would be handled," Anderson said. "It might be an instance of getting the students that are accepted in the community to recommend those that they know might be interested because I think that there are students on campus who haven't applied for whatever reason, but, when given that kind of nudge from a friend in the community, will say, 'Oh yeah, well I do want to do it. I want to try.'"

Despite the change in the number of juniors and seniors in learning communities, the numbers for sophomores have remained consistent, according to Anderson. Senior Katie O'Brien, student learning community assistant and media arts and entertainment major, said there are several reasons that freshmen usually stay in learning communities as sophomores.

"Mainly people who are in learning communities as freshman are going to want to come back," O'Brien said. "I was in a learning community my freshman year and I think everybody reapplied for their sophomore year, just because you're used to it. That way, you don't have to go through housing selection. It's just so much easier, and hopefully you liked it enough to go back."



GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer

Honors Fellows residents hang out in the Honors Learning Community located in the Kenan Honors Pavilion. The wall murals were painted as part of a Learning Community competition.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Joanne Ruelle named Dean and University Librarian, will begin June 1.

Joan Ruelle will succeed Kate Hickey as Dean and University Librarian June 1. Ruelle began her library career at the University of Virginia in 1997 and more recently served as University Librarian at Hollins University.

Ruelle will be responsible for Belk Library's personnel, budget, policy development, facilities planning and services and integrating emerging technologies into library operations.

### Muhammad Yunus to speak at Convocation for Honors

Nobel Prize winner Muhammad Yunus will give a lecture titled "Building Social and Humanitarian Businesses" at Convocation for Honors at 3:30 p.m. April 3 in Alumni Gym.

Yunus founded Grameen Bank in 1983 and he and the bank jointly received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006. He is the author of three books and has received several American and international honors for his contributions toward eliminating world poverty and dedication to social justice.

### Society of Professional Journalists to host day of speakers and workshops

The Society of Professional Journalists Region 2 Conference and Awards will begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 31 in the McEwen Communications building. The conference participants will be made up of students and professionals from Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and Washington, D.C.

SPJ's Region 2 Mark of Excellence Awards will be presented at the conference.

### Top 10 Under 10 Awards Banquet will honor 2012 recipients

The Top 10 Under 10 Awards Banquet will recognize 10 outstanding graduates of Elon's undergraduate programs from 2001 to 2011. It will be held at 6:30 p.m. March 31 in McKinnon Hall.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GLORIA SOI | Staff Photographer  
Although Chick-fil-A remains Elon's most popular on-campus dining option, the establishment has been boycotted on college campuses throughout the United States and recently received negative attention, despite the company's assertions that they do not support or donate to anti-gay causes.

## Chick-fil-A fights anti-gay claims

Kassondra Cloos  
Producer of The Swing

Chick-fil-A announced last week that the company's philanthropy arm, WinShape, would cease grants to external organizations. The move comes after the student government at Northeastern University voted against partnering with the fast food chain in its student center because of allegations that the company had donated money to anti-gay causes.

While the company is clear about its Christian and family values, the claim that Chick-Fil-A is anti-gay is untrue, according to Jerry Johnston, corporate public relations senior manager of the company. Johnston could not say whether WinShape funding had previously contributed to anti-gay causes or organizations dedicated to maintaining marriage as solely between a man and a woman, but the intent behind all funding was "surely from a family-support standpoint," he said.

In the future, WinShape will choose to not donate to outside foundations to prevent misconceptions, Johnston said.

Although gay-rights organizations and student groups at some colleges with Chick-fil-A restaurants have continued to call for boycotts of the company, no strong opposition has arisen at Elon University. Chick-fil-A remains the most popular on-campus dining venue for students, according to Vickie Somers, director of auxiliary services.

Laurin Kier, associate director of tutorial services and assistant professor of sociology at Elon, said she rarely eats fast food, but she tends to avoid the company for its political leanings on gay rights.

"Because there's so much choice out there, if someone feels strongly about an issue, and because money is so important in this society, I think that not spending your money in a certain place can be very powerful," Kier said.

In a statement released after Northeastern's decision, Johnston

said Chick-fil-A does not represent any political agenda.

Kier also said she would like to see Elon give thought to companies' allegiances to determine whether they are in line with the university's values and goals. Nevertheless, such partnerships are currently evaluated based on goods and services offered, according to Somers.

"We choose our vendors not based on political or social views, but based on the service they render, the pricing and the popularity," Somers said.

Sophomore Kyla Sokoll-Ward said she is a vegetarian and does not eat at Chick-fil-A, but she's not sure a company's alleged stance on gay rights would influence her eating habits.

"I would definitely support someone if they decided to stop eating Chick-fil-A because of (the controversy)," she said. "I think it would be a good move, but I can understand if someone thought that it wasn't a big enough reason to stop eating the food."

## Affinity network rekindles alumni, Elon relations

Melissa Kansky  
News Editor

University Advancement designed a summit for the LGBTQIA alumni community in order to foster a greater connection between the identity group and Elon University, according to Jim Piatt, vice president for university advancement. The summit provides a forum for students, alumni and members of the administration to discuss potential programming supportive of the community, Piatt said.

More than 200 alumni received an invitation to the summit planned for March 30 and 31.

"We're starting to realize that our alumni will identify and connect with groups that they have a close affinity with," said Durice White, coordinator of alumni engagement for affinity programs.

The summit represents University Advancement's affinity network program, which aims to attract alumni involvement based on their respective Elon experiences, Piatt said.

"Elon has a new strategic plan and they're making an effort to connect alumni back to the university," said Christian Wiggins, Class of 2003 and current member of the alumni council. "And one way to do that is to connect them to something they are passionate about."

The summit will also unite graduates to the current Elon community, White said.

"Our goal is really to bring a group around the table and see how the Elon Alumni Association can partner with the LGBTQIA community to help them better engage with Elon and become partners, advocates and investors in the university," she said.

For John Pickett, Class of 2003 and member of the LGBTQIA Alumni Summit planning committee, the event represents a unity between current students, administration and alumni.

"I think this will be the jumping off point for connecting the community on campus and the community of Elon alums," he said.

Participation in such programs translates to responsibility for the university's future, said Sallie Hutton, director of alumni engagement.

Some alumni share this view. Pickett said he recognizes the empowerment the summit provides for this specific identity

group.

"I think that what this does is it shows the attributes of the LGBTQ community and that the people of that community are valued," he said. "With any type of minority group, it is important to take the effort and the time to say 'we appreciate the diversity you bring to our campus.'"

“One of our primary goals is to unify a group of people with a common interest”

-Jim Piatt  
VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY  
ADVANCEMENT

The theme — past, present, future — encourages alumni and students to examine the identity group's integration into Elon, according to Hutton. Breakout sessions and discussions provide the group with the opportunity to devise long-term and short-term goals of the LGBTQIA community, she said.

"One of the primary goals is to unify a group of people with a common interest, a shared identity," Piatt said. "But more specifically what kind of programming they would like us to see moving forward and what pieces and parts of the Elon Commitment speak to them."

The forum gives the alumni ownership of various university programs.

"If they're invested and they own (the community's growth), they go leaps and bounds in creating the environment and the services they are interested in," Hutton said.

The focus on the LGBTQIA community resulted from the success of the Black Alumni Network, which created a scholarship fund for students belonging to their identity group, and the ideas of two volunteers who participated in a Black alumni summit and also expressed an investment in the LGBTQ community.

University Advancement is looking into creating a summit dedicated to the Hispanic and Latino population, Piatt said.

"It's hard to imagine moving forward without true acknowledgement of people with all backgrounds," he said.



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# International



At the Haifa Purim street festival, onlookers attempt to distract a man dressed as a sphinx as he sits unmoving on a platform for lengthy periods of time. RACHEL SOUTHMAYD | International Reporter

## Israel parties during annual Purim celebrations

Rachel Southmayd  
International Reporter

For any unassuming American, looking at an Israeli street during the holiday of Purim would be nearly indistinguishable from a Halloween party in the United States, that is except for the smell of falafel wafting above the heads of costume-clad adults and children looking on as street performers roam about and music from a concert reaches the furthest corners of the city.

It doesn't matter if you know what you're looking at or not, one thing is for certain: Purim is a holiday for party-goers.

Technically, the Jewish holiday commemorates the story of Esther and her uncle Mordecai, who convinced Esther to sway King Ahasuerus to not proceed with the plan presented by his adviser Haman to kill all of the Jews in the land.

Purim is a celebration of a triumph over anti-Semitism.

In today's world, it has become an opportunity to have a good time. Cities throughout Israel hold parades and street parties where food vendors, artisans and performers can display their wares. People wear costumes, dressing as everything from a large yellow "Angry Bird" to Marilyn Monroe and all that falls in between.

This was the first Purim experience for Brett Jansen, a junior at the University of Maryland,

"It was a great community event,"

he said. "It was a lot of fun."

For Aaron Herman, a junior from Rider University, this type of revelry was far removed with what he normally experiences when observing Purim at home in New Jersey.

"In my temple, they always have a Purim reading, so we all go to that," he said.

The reading he refers to is the Megilla, the biblical book of Esther. This book is significant because it is the only one in the Bible that doesn't mention the name of God. It also prominently features women, which is an uncommon feature for the type of readings.

But in Israel, the atmosphere is focused more on parties than on religious discussions about the significance of the defeat of Haman's plan.

"It's a festival of the heartiness of the Jewish people to never ever be ruled," Herman said.

To one Israeli family at a nighttime street party, Purim is simply all about the fun.

"I think the girls mostly like this holiday because of all the makeup," said one mother, gesturing to her three daughters, aged seven to 11, dressed as princesses and a cat.

The two sons waged a pretend war with their toy light-up guns. One was dressed as a Power Ranger and the other as a dragon, although he insisted he was a crocodile.

"It starts at school a week before the actual holiday," she said. "Each day

is something else for them to do."

At a bus station in the city of Haifa, groups of costumed men handed out bags of snacks.

They gave a passerby a bag, asked for it back and then handed them another bag as a gesture of gift-exchanging and generosity. In bakeries and kitchens throughout the country, traditional hamantashen, which are three-cornered cookies filled with chocolate, jam or other sweets, were baked.

The holiday also stretches several nights for many college students, although the actual holy day only lasts one day. Nightclubs and bars host special parties and costume contests.

Purim is an event not to be missed for the Israelites. It just goes to show that every culture and every community has its way of letting loose and partying, and Israel is no exception.

### Purim Fast Facts

- Mid-March on the 14th of Adar
- Celebration of the salvation of the Jews from Haman.
- Hamantashen are the traditional food, cookies filled with chocolate or other sweets.
- Purim is the Hebrew word meaning "lots."
- Children dress up in costumes similar to Halloween in the United States.
- Purim is preceded by a three-day fast.

### INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

#### Social upset in El Salvador

El Salvador has been recognized as one of the most dangerous countries in Central America due to drug cartels and gang violence, but recently the death toll has dropped dramatically, causing suspicion that the government has made secret agreements with the gang leaders to stop the killing.

Neighboring countries' authorities have accused the government of partnering with the drug cartels and gangs, which has caused distrust and unease throughout El Salvador. Political leaders have tried to stifle the accusations, but have not done so in a manner that causes the people to believe them, according to official reports.

A high-ranking colonel in the army is said to have officially put the idea in motion a few months ago with the hopes of decreasing homicides by 30 percent and increasing his political status and power.

A couple of weeks ago, 30 of the top gang leaders imprisoned in El Salvador were transferred to less restrictive prisons, allowing them to receive more leisure time and family visits.

#### Pope visits Mexico in an effort to condemn drug violence from gangs

Pope Benedict XVI landed in Mexico March 23, marking his first trip to a Latin American country since being named Pope. Thousands of Roman Catholics waved flags and eagerly awaited his arrival along with the country's president, Felipe Calderon.

The Pope began his speech by saying his visit was "a pilgrimage of faith, hope and love." He then addressed his purpose for the trip, the topic of drug violence, which he claimed stemmed from greed.

Benedict has expressed his hope that the visit will cause a surge of support to fight against the drug violence and cartels.

#### Money sent to Afghan families as apology for innocent murders

The United States government has paid the families of 17 killed Afghans \$50,000 each as an apology for their innocent murders.

Several weeks ago, an American soldier went on a shooting spree that killed 17 Afghans and wounded more. The seven wounded Afghans received \$11,000 each for their suffering.

Staff Sgt. Robert Bales was indicted with leaving his sleeping quarters March 11 and opening fire on sleeping families in two nearby villages. It has not been disclosed yet what kind of punishment Bales will receive for his actions.

## Correspondents' Corner

SINGAPORE — Singapore is one of the cleanest countries in the world, has one of the best health care systems and has the lowest infant mortality rate in the world.



REBECCA CUMMINGS

It is a country in which we have been told it is OK to drink the water, which is a rarity. But we have also been told there is an incredible number of rules too. We are not allowed to chew gum, jay walk or spit on the ground. We must always flush toilets, and we absolutely cannot smoke at any time. We have to be careful of what we do in order to not be deported or put in jail.

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA — I think it is important to appreciate every aspect of a culture in order to really understand a country and its values, beliefs and the individuals that make it unique.



LESLIE GILMAN

It is interesting to look at the Borucas, the indigenous population of Costa Rica, and how they are self-sustaining without electricity, easy access to anything — since it takes three to seven days to walk through rough mountainous terrain to get to "civilization" and running water. They are invaluable to the culture here.

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# Opinions

## Women's contributions to society cannot be crammed into 30 days

### A Pendulum Editorial

Women throughout history have made unparalleled contributions to our society, contributions that have benefited both women and men. Their efforts are noticeable within our society every day, in fields ranging from politics to science, education and health care.

And yet, the daily contributions of these women to society are annually shortchanged and shepherded into a disproportionately small amount of time designated to honor them.

Women's History deserves more attention than it currently receives. March is Women's History Month, but students tend to forget this fact, instead allowing thoughts of sun-filled spring break adventures, March Madness and St. Patrick's Day to distract them from their observance of this cultural celebration.

The real problem here is that our society has a habit of trying to condense entire decades, even centuries, of cultural history into the form of a single predetermined month to pay tribute to that group's contributions to our country. There are a few problems with this practice.

First, trying to encapsulate an entire culture's history into a single month isn't conducive to it being discussed throughout the rest of the year. In the case of women's history, it compartmentalizes the entire scope of female-related history within the United States into a narrow window, equating it to be culturally relevant only during the month of March.

Furthermore, it suggests that women as a whole are to be viewed as a supplementary category in American social history, rather than a continuous part of its entire history.

Unfortunately, this pattern of compacting large timespans of history into a month's time is evident in our observance of other demographics' contributions to society. Perhaps the clearest example of this is Black History Month.

Every February, universities across the country sponsor events and discussions designed to honor the important contributions of such prominent figures as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman in celebration of Black History Month.

And yet, despite all the talk that of renewed equality and education that usually

accompanies these cultural workshops, it seems that students' minds are only oriented toward this mode of thinking when it occurs within that culture's designated month for recognition. The discussions and promises of renewed equality and identity awareness often disappear as soon as the month ends.

Our sudden attention and concern for both women's and African-Americans' contributions and experiences seems to rise out of nowhere and disappears as quickly as it comes, rendering our generation's concern for civil equality essentially unchanged for the remainder of the year.

At Elon, Women's History Month has been celebrated by various departmental offerings and opportunities to discuss and reflect on women's rights and the future. On March 15, Elon students and faculty were invited to participate in the women's and gender studies scholarship forum, geared toward discussion of women's achievements in society, particularly emphasizing female contributions within the realm of higher education. Belk Library publicized its open display of texts and works related to women's rights and achievements throughout the month.

Amanda Gallagher,



Elon faculty and students discuss the role of modern women in institutions of higher education.

assistant professor of communications and coordinator of Elon's women's and gender studies program, said during an interview with The Pendulum that while having a single month designated to discuss women's rights can be constrictive to the discussion, the fact that it exists remains the positive tipping point.

"It's good to have these months," Gallagher said. "I wish we didn't have to have a month called women's history month; I wish we could have these type of discussions every day, but sometimes you need a special uniting theme to recognize the issues."

American society is richer

for its various cultures and minority communities, all of which deserve the right to be celebrated year round, not compacted into a designated period and then cast aside.

Women's History Month rightfully pays tribute to the endless contributions and accomplishments made by women for our society.

In addition, it celebrates the future potential of our female population, but it is insulting to try and adequately express our gratitude for their efforts if it means it has to happen within the confines of a 31 day period. Women and their historical achievements deserve to be appreciated year round.

## 'Kony 2012:' Manipulating facts, perpetuating 'white man's burden' in Africa

A few weeks ago, the Internet was struck with Joseph Kony 2012 fever. #StopKony, #Kony2012, Uganda and



Edith Veremu  
Columnist

Invisible Children trended on Twitter for days, and posts were reblogged on Tumblr. The 30-minute Kony video created by Invisible Children, Inc. co-founder Jason Russell had one goal: to make Joseph Kony, Ugandan warlord and leader of the Lord's Resistance Army

in north Uganda, "famous." The video also appealed to the International Criminal Court, asking the organization to capture and charge Kony with war crimes, including having an army of child soldiers and sexual assault crimes against women. But the fame Kony received during the campaign isn't the right kind. The video itself is inaccurate and the facts presented have been manipulated.

The opening scenes show crying

children in northern Uganda, whom the audience are made to believe are being terrorized by Kony. But Kony and his army, who haven't been in Uganda since 2006, have migrated the surrounding countries in central Africa. This fact, among many other pertinent ones, are strategically omitted from the video, and the atrocities committed against the people of northern Uganda are thus simplified for the Western audience. This isn't the way to shine the light on devastation around the world.

"It gives impression that Uganda is still at war, people are still displaced, those many children are still out sleeping on the streets in Gulu and of course this not true," said Amama Mbabazi, Ugandan prime minister, in a recent article published by The Telegraph.

Kony's army has been operating since its creation in the 1980s, yet it's only after a carefully edited video by a nonprofit that the rest of the world caught onto what's been going on. Being informed about world events is wonderful, but people shouldn't just rely on one-sided YouTube videos or Facebook groups to give them accurate accounts of world news.

Invisible Children, the mastermind



PHOTO COURTESY OF INVISIBLE CHILDREN, INC.  
One of the posters used to make Kony famous.

of this campaign, and its motives can and must be questioned when presented with the facts. The organization, founded in 2004, has created 11 films, including KONY 2012, about the LRA, and to go along with these films are wristbands, shirts and other merchandise. Because nothing says "I care" more than rubber bands and posters.

In a New York Times article from earlier this month, Russell admitted the

organization sometimes inflates facts.

"No one wants a boring documentary on Africa," he said. "Maybe we have to make it pop, and we have to make it cool. We view ourself as the Pixar of human rights stories."

Teju Cole, a prominent anti-Kony activist, stated in a recent article, that "from the colonial project to 'Out of Africa' to 'The Constant Gardener' and KONY 2012, Africa has provided a space onto which white egos can conveniently be projected."

In his article, "The White Savior Industrial Complex", Cole highlights the Western perception of Africa, a trend that Cole describes as an illusion.

"It is a liberated space in which the usual rules do not apply: A nobody from America or Europe can go to Africa and become a God-like savior or, at the very least, have his or her emotional needs satisfied," he wrote.

The disturbing thing about KONY 2012 fever is that it plays into the "White Savior Industrial Complex" or "white man's burden." Invisible Children is just another puppet that sends the message that Ugandans must be saved from their problems by white Westerners, because the natives can't take care of themselves.

## THE PENDULUM

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The Pendulum is published each Wednesday of the academic year. Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) as Word documents. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned.

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Content will be edited for clarity, length and accuracy. All submissions must include a name and phone number.

A message board also accompanies each article online at [www.ElonPendulum.com](http://www.ElonPendulum.com) where commentary can be quickly posted.

# Style

## Simple ways to freshen spaces for **Spring**

**Erin Valentine**  
Reporter

From the doldrums of classes to hiding from the bitter cold, many college students retreat into their dorms and apartments to hibernate during the winter. And when spring comes along, students don't want their space looking dull and dreary. College students can easily take a few simple, easy and affordable steps to brighten up their space.

- Simple additions to a living space can amount to a huge aesthetic difference. Putting small, colorful rugs on bare floors in a bedroom, bathroom or kitchen can give a room a bright lift. Colors such as light green, blue or pink are great options for subtly softening the look of a room.
- Even adding simple artwork to the walls can make a difference. Switch out an old poster or cover up a blank wall space with artwork that has simple patterns and designs to instantly brighten up a room.

Also, if no

desirable artwork can be found, students can make their own with poster board and Sharpies, or even enlarge their own photographs and hang them on the wall.

- In addition, for people in apartments with furniture or students with hutches on their desks, a fresh coat of paint can be added.
- An easy approach to dull bedding can be to add brightly colored pillows and blankets. Cheap bedding accessories are available at many stores and offered in large selections.
- To engage the senses, air fresheners can be used to add the scents of spring to a stale smelling dorm room or apartment. Room sprays and oil diffusers are some of the best ways to spread the scent of spring.
- For students who have little time to decorate, a small plant such as a cactus or bamboo, can be added as a quick fix. Whenever students stop by the grocery store, they can pick up some fruit, put it in a bowl and the room instantly seems fresher and less dreary.

Craftier students could add some homemade additions to their space. Reusing mason jars has become a new trend. They can be

used for holding flowers, office supplies, bathroom supplies and more. Lights or electronic candles can also be placed in them to give off a warm glow.

- A fun way to brighten a room is to cover plastic cups with fabric and then attach them to a string of lights. First, start off with clear plastic cups and trace their length and width by marking them on a piece of fabric. Make sure to mark the back of the fabric. Then, cut the fabric and glue it onto the cup. Poke one of the lights on the string of lights through the bottom of the cup so the bulb is inside the cup.
- For another wall space update, old shoebox tops can be used. The tops can be covered either in fabric or wrapping paper and hung on the wall in a mosaic form.
- Finally, as the sun begins to warm up the days, catch some of the rays with homemade sun catchers. According to craftster.org, bake marbles at 325 degrees to 350 degrees for

20 minutes. Then, put the marbles in ice water so they crack inside. When they are done, glue on end caps with starter rings so they can hang near a window. When it comes to spring, no change is a bad change. Any of these small adjustments to brighten up a dorm or apartment can force the winter out of any room.



**TIP: Decorate with plants that don't need much attention.**



**TIP: Use colored pillows to accent certain colors.**

PHOTOS BY TRACEY RAETZ | Photographer

**TIP: Try light colors to add a soothing effect to any room.**

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# Religion, dance converge in Black Box

Stephanie Butzer  
Senior Reporter

The Black Box Theatre was filled to capacity with students, faculty and community members as they awaited "Dancing

Across Religions: Embodied Yearnings for the Divine."

Twice a year, the Department of Religious Studies presents a crossroads of religion to the Elon community. This semester, members of the department

chose to illustrate how religion intertwines with dance during a panel discussion held March 13.

"Religious Studies at the Crossroads" is a lecture series at Elon that strives to create conversations about the academic study of religion. This year's lecture, paired with a dance performance, delved into how dance is a central point at which religion can be represented. Hinduism, Sufism — a mystical sect of Islam — and Christianity were examined at the event.

"We all have more in common than apart from each other," said Jane Wellford, professor of performing arts. "We all have creation stories we dance, we all have dances of prayers, we all have dances of sacred stories about how to live and treat each other."

Wellford said people tend to keep to themselves during worship, but dance can help them open up.

"We use this as our vehicle of expression as well as interpretation," Wellford said.

Wellford said she hopes to expand students' "tunnel vision" regarding religion, so they can see and understand other practices of faith. She said it is particularly important people discuss this now as construction continues on the Numen Lumen Pavilion, Elon University's upcoming Multi-faith Center.

Wellford was a panelist at the performance, along with Malini Srinivasan, a third-generation Bharatanatyam dancer, and Katherine

Zubko, assistant professor of religious studies at UNC Asheville. Bharatanatyam is a classical dance form from South India which involves very intricate footwork.

Srinivasan explained her dance as she performed it. She first demonstrated a Hindu myth, followed by an interpretation of a 13th century devotional Sufi poem.

Srinivasan said she enjoyed being able to share her religious expression with Elon students, faculty and staff.

"I loved performing and speaking for the Elon community," Srinivasan said. "I felt that the audience was fully engaged with our presentation and very warm. It was a wonderful experience for me."

Amy Allocco, assistant professor of religious studies, moderated the panel. She said she felt the event was successful in its goal of educating students about religious crossroads.

"I think it really gave students an option to really think about the intersections between religious studies and dance as a discipline," Allocco said.

Freshman Aly Quintana said the event provided insight on an unfamiliar topic.

"I didn't know all the background behind all of those dances and how you can embody a song and communicate with the gods and deities," Quintana said. "I found it really interesting how into it people really get."



Bharatanatyam dancer Malini Srinivasan performs an interpretive piece at "Dancing Across Religions: Embodied Yearnings for the Divine." BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

## The White Panda promises 'craziness' at Spring Show

When Elon University's Spring Show is held March 30, expect "Pandamonium" on the stage. The White Panda, consisting of Dan "DJ Griffi" Griffith and Tom "Procrast" Evans, began in 2009 when both boys were in college at the University of Southern California and Northwestern University, respectively. The White Panda has released free mixtapes like "Versus" and "Pandamonium," while touring North America with artists including Wale, Mike Posner, Flo Rida and Chiddy Bang. The Pendulum caught up with Griffith to talk about the band members' creative process, as well as their expectations for Friday's show.

**Q: Tell me about the name The White Panda. Where did it come from?**

A: I wish I had a cooler story for you, but it was kind of right in the beginning when we decided we wanted to start collaborating and releasing music that we came up with it. We threw it out and thought, everyone loves pandas, it's super catchy and we just adopted

it. There's a theory that since I'm part Japanese, I have a little bit of the panda in me and Tom is the white part of it, so there's a little theory going around there. But really, other than that, we were just trying to come up with a catchy name and all the rest — the white mask and acting crazy on stage — kind of came about after we had formed the group and everything.

**Q: Tell me a little bit about the process and how it works with two people.**

A: At least in the very initial stages of a concept or an idea, it's pretty individual. Even when we were working across the country, it was kind of that way. I will either start with an idea and send it his way, and he will either give me the approval to keep continuing it or give it his own little flavor. It starts with the individual's concept, then we share the music with each other, critique it and improve it, continue sending a project file back and forth and keep coming up with a better product every revision.

**Q: What should we expect for the concert at Elon on Friday?**

A: You can definitely expect craziness. Basically, we like to make a lot of our set the stuff you like to hear at concerts — super upbeat party music as opposed to what you might hear in the studio — more mellow music. We're going to be bringing a lot of energy and production. Basically, we just want to make it one big party for you guys.

**Q: What's next for The White Panda?**

A: Well, we just released a new tape a couple weeks ago, so in terms of another new album, that's probably a ways away. A lot of the stuff we release is continuous tracks. The album we just released is a continuous album and it's minute-and-a-half-idea tracks. We're going to start releasing some of the ideas we did for the first time on this tape into full songs. We'll start trying to roll those out as the spring goes along. And then we'll continue to come out with some new material this summer and hopefully look into some of the original production and remixing later in the year. And we will definitely keep continuing to put out new music and we're excited about the rest of the year.

**Q: Finally, I'm sure you have a favorite song you've made.**

A: Early on, there was one we made, "What You Know About Little Secrets," sampling tracks by Passion Pit and T.I. and that was kind of right when we were starting and our initial first exposure on music blogs, so it really put us on the map. For me personally, it has a little special place in my heart. The one most recently that I'm proud of is "Midnight Life," the M83 sample with Kanye West we released. That was a lot of original production there, and remixing of the actual M83 song. It was pretty well received with our fans, and it's always exciting when we get great feedback from them.

Information compiled by Lindsay Kimble, senior reporter.

## Shopping around for summer style

Spring has sprung and summer is fast approaching. The beach days and suntans will soon



Alyssa Baxter  
Columnist

be upon us, which means summer fashion trends are also on their way.

Here are three fashion staples that every girl and guy will need to make this summer a trendy, fashion-forward one.

### Ladies

The first fashion must-have is a mini or maxi dress. This summer is all about dress extremes, so choose north or south. A mini dress is a really versatile option. It can be a daytime outfit paired with sunglasses, gladiators and a satchel, while easily transforming into a night ensemble with heels, jewelry and accessories. A maxi dress can also act as a great beach cover-up or day dress. Bright colors, florals and stripes are this year's hottest patterns, so look for a dress that makes you feel comfortable and expresses this coming season's best styles.

Strappy sandals are another fashion staple this year. Whether it's gladiators, wedges or espadrilles, don't be caught on the boardwalk without a pair. These give your outfit a boost that regular flip-flops or sandals can't offer. Browns and neutrals can be paired with a brightly colored outfit, while patterned sandals can give a neutral outfit a pop of color. Don't be afraid to try a heel or wedge either. They will make your legs look long and give you a slight boost.

But no outfit this summer will be complete without an oversized, floppy hat. This summer accessory is a perfect addition to anyone's day outfit, which can be worn to a wedding or party when paired with a chic dress. A '70s rendition floppy hat, oversized sun hat or even a woven fedora are this summer's "in" items, whether you're tanning on the beach or strolling through the park.

### Fellas

This summer's must-have for men is a casual button-up shirt. Linen, cotton and other natural materials give the seemingly stiff, traditional button-up a free and easy feel. It's great to pair with casual shorts or swim trunks for the beach, or a nice pair of slacks for the evening. The button-up shirt is a truly versatile summer item this year.

But if you're looking for something easy to slip on at the beach, the classic flip-flop is just what every guy needs to be casual and fashion-forward. Leather and neutral-colored flip-flops are a definite staple, but don't be afraid to throw some color into the mix.

You can also bring on the nostalgia with some classic shades. Whether they are Ray-Bans, VonZippers or \$10 knock-offs, don't be caught without some old-school sunglasses. They are this summer's must-have men's accessory, which you can pair with any casual day outfit.

Whether you're a girl or guy, having a few go-to wardrobe staples in your closet will undoubtedly keep you stylish in the summer sun.

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## Playing small, baseball team hits stride with key wins

Zachary Horner  
Sports Editor

Twenty-five games into the 54-game season, the Elon University baseball team is in the sludge of the schedule, grinding out games against Atlantic Coast Conference opponents and playing tough extra-inning matchups against Southern Conference foes.

Approximately halfway through the season, junior outfielder Niko Fraser said his team could go either way.

"I think that we have the potential to be extremely good, but we have the potential to be extremely average," he said. "It depends on how well we buy into executing the very small things that seem unimportant and probably aren't as showy on the stat book, so moving people over, taking a pitch, taking a walk, seeing the ball in the dirt."

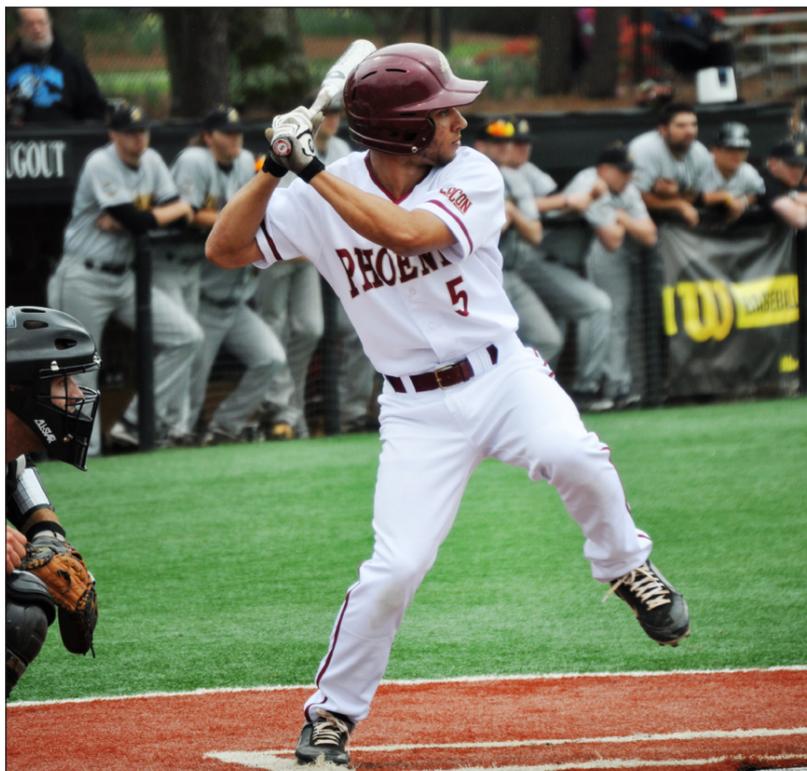
One small ball area in which Elon has been struggling is fielding. The Phoenix is second in the SoCon in errors with 43, seven less than league leader Wofford College.

"Errors have definitely been a little bit of a tainting of our clean play," Fraser said. "It always is. You can never be a great ball-club and have a lot of errors. So we're definitely trying to smooth that up. No one's ever trying to make errors. If we're ever going to win another Southern Conference championship in this league, we're going to have to smooth that out all the way around the diamond, every position included."

Over spring break, the Phoenix dropped five of eight, including four straight, two each to Davidson College and Clemson University. But they rebounded with a series victory by taking two of three games from Appalachian State University, which is in second place in the SoCon.

Fraser said the key to those wins was a focus on playing a complete game.

"We focused, whereas before we may



Sophomore second baseman Sebastian Gomez is second on the Phoenix in batting average (.298).

have lost focus unintentionally, but we really bared down and did the little things right," he said. "Some of us were talking and saying that they were the most complete games that we had played as far as getting on, whether that being hit by a pitch or a walk, or reaching on an error then moving him over, getting him over, getting him in."

As a theme for Elon baseball, playing the small ball is crucial, especially as they tackle the rest of the schedule, beginning March 30 against Samford University in

Birmingham, Ala.

"You can't take any days off, regardless of who we're playing, whether it be an eight-seed or a top team in the nation, it's the same game," Fraser said. "You have to play your game, you have to play a complete game. I think that our extra inning games really show the necessity of playing a complete-game mentality because if you just show up for certain innings, as coach Kennedy always says, you never know which run is going to beat you."

## Injuries, lack of hitting derail Phoenix against Samford

Adam Lawson  
Assistant Sports Editor

For perhaps the first time this season, the Elon University softball team must deal with a little adversity.

The Phoenix (17-7, 6-3 Southern Conference) lost two of its three games against Samford University last weekend and fell further behind the two teams ahead of them in the conference standings.

The three-game series was marred by a severe lack of hitting. Elon collected just three extra base hits in 86 at-bats and put up a paltry .323 on-base percentage.

"We struggled a little bit hitting," said interim head coach Kathy Bocock. "That's kind of taken us out a little bit but we're going to work on it and we're going to come back."

The lack of hitting coincides with two key contributors missing time. Bocock didn't provide comment on who was injured or what the severity of the injuries were, but junior catcher Camille Hill has been out of the lineup since March 17 and freshman second baseman Cyra Cottrell hasn't played since leaving the first game of the Samford doubleheader March 24.

Those absences have meant increased playing time for sophomore utility player McKenzie Carter and freshman infielder Aly Quintana.

The results haven't been stellar. While Hill leads the team in hitting and Cottrell has hit three home runs, Carter and Quintana have combined for just two hits in 19 at-bats.

Luckily for Elon, the schedule has gifted the Phoenix with a 10 day layoff to help cure the walking wounded. They don't take the diamond again until an April 4 doubleheader against UNC-Charlotte.

"We've had some injuries a little bit," Bocock said. "So some of the injuries have plagued us and (we've) had to make some adjustments, so hopefully this week will give us rest time for those injuries and everybody will back to where we need to be and get things back in order."

Elon may need all the healing time it can get. After the two home games against UNC-Charlotte, the Phoenix travels to Chattanooga for a three-game set against the Mocs April 6-7.

The five-time defending regular season conference champions have



Sophomore outfielder Carleigh Nestor is tied for the team lead with 18 RBI for Elon this season.

power personified. Chattanooga (18-11, 4-0 SoCon) has hit 35 home runs this season, 11 more dingers than any other team in the SoCon.

The Mocs also lead the conference in batting average, slugging percentage, OBP, runs, hits, RBI and doubles. And they possess two of the best hitters in the country in Sara Poteat (.480 batting

average) and Michelle Fuzzard (.447).

But before going back onto the diamond, the Phoenix must wait. Ten days to rest, sure, also, 10 days to think about a lost series. Ten days to determine to bounce back.

"These kids, they love to win," Bocock said. "They're fighters. They don't want to accept losing."

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Women's golf competes in two events

The Elon women's golf team had two strong showings in the past two weeks.

In the Low Country Intercollegiate in Hilton Head, S.C., which finished March 26, the Phoenix finished fourth out of 15 teams with a 627 (318-309). Senior Virginia Mayer finished tied for 10th with a 154 (79-75), while junior Martyna Mierzwa (85-73) and freshman Kristi Ingram (77-81) shot 158 to tie for 16th.

At the Pinehurst Challenge March 18-20, Mierzwa finished sixth individually with a one-over 217 (70-72-75), her best score of the 2011-2012 season, to help the Phoenix to a 13th-place finish with a 919 (307-302-310).

### Women's tennis improves to 4-2 in SoCon

Sophomore Frida Jansaker continued her stellar season against Georgia Southern University in Southern Conference women's tennis action March 26, helping the Phoenix to a 6-1 victory over the Lady Eagles. Elon's record improved to 13-5 overall and 4-2 in the SoCon for the season.

Jansaker registered a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Georgia Southern's Allison Beeler at No. 3 singles and teamed with fellow sophomore Jordan Johnston to improve Elon's No. 1 doubles team's record to 15-2 on the year. Jansaker's singles win was her 12th victory in her last 13 matches.

### Men's tennis goes 1-2 over spring break

The Elon men's tennis team had a 1-2 record over spring break, moving its record to 7-9 in the 2012 season.

The Phoenix dropped a 5-2 decision to Southern Conference foe College of Charleston March 17, losing its first SoCon match. Sophomore Cameron Silverman and freshman Stefan Fortmann won singles matches for Elon.

Elon rebounded with a 6-1 road victory over Georgia Southern University March 19. Fortmann and Silverman won singles matches again, while freshman Jordan Kaufman added a singles victory. Pairs of Fortmann and Kaufman, Silverman and senior Eric Turner and freshmen Dan Sablik and Chris Geaslen all won their doubles matches.

But No. 50 University of North Florida shut-out the Phoenix 7-0 March 21 in non-conference play. The Phoenix will continue its schedule at 2:30 p.m. at home, facing off against Appalachian State University.

### Men's golf ties for 17th in Furman Intercollegiate

By shooting a 894 (303-291-300), the Elon Phoenix men's golf team finished tied for 17th at the Furman Intercollegiate golf tournament which ended March 18.

Sophomore John Somers was the top performer for Elon, finishing tied for 21st with a 216 (75-69-72). Sophomore Stuart Kaufman shot a 221 (79-69-76) and tied for 48th, while sophomore Jack Adkins tied for 88th with a 228 (75-79-74).

Coastal Carolina University's Sebastian Soderberg won the tournament with a 204. Clemson University shot a tournament-best 26-under 838 to win the team title.

The Phoenix will next participate in the Coca-Cola Wofford Invitational in Spartanburg, S.C., starting April 9.

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# Sports

## Get your sticks ready: Women's lacrosse is an Elon sport



FILE PHOTO BY MOLLY CAREY

Elon club women's lacrosse has been in existence since 2001. Last week, the university announced the sport will be a Division I program at Elon starting in 2013-2014.

**Zachary Horner**  
Sports Editor

The Elon University Board of Trustees has made it official - there will be a Phoenix women's lacrosse team. The program will begin play in the 2013-2014 season.

"Women's lacrosse is growing at an incredible pace, and we are excited to add this opportunity for Elon student-athletes," said Dave Blank, director of athletics. "Women's lacrosse is becoming increasingly popular at all intercollegiate levels, and we feel the sport is a strong fit for our athletic program."

In February, Blank named lacrosse as one of three possibilities for an additional women's sport to the university's programs.

Elon will take the academic year of 2012-2013 to recruit players and develop the program, which includes recruiting, scheduling and player development. A national search for a head coach will begin immediately.

Blank cited gender equity required by the NCAA as one of the driving factors behind adding the program.

"Among the themes of The Elon Commitment strategic plan is a goal for the university to set conference standards in academics and gender equity," he said. "The addition of women's lacrosse is a key step toward achieving that goal, providing additional opportunities for female student-athletes to compete at the NCAA Division I level."

NCAA Division I lacrosse currently features more than 90 women's lacrosse programs, and the sport boasts the top graduation success rates (GSR) among all NCAA Division I sports. According to

NCAA figures released last May, women's lacrosse posted a four-year class average GSR of 94 percent, which topped all 18 NCAA-sanctioned sports.

Elon becomes the fifth school in the state of North Carolina with a varsity lacrosse program, joining Davidson College, Duke University, High Point University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In the Southern Conference, Furman University recently announced the addition of women's lacrosse to begin competition in 2014-2015. Davidson began lacrosse in 1994 and currently competes in the National Lacrosse Conference, which also features High Point University.

The women's lacrosse program will be the 17th varsity sport and 10th women's athletic program at Elon. This is the first addition of a varsity sport at the university since the 2000-2001 academic year, when women's indoor and outdoor track and field began competition.

Women's lacrosse has been offered as a club sport at Elon since 2001. The Pendulum spoke to players on the team for a story three weeks ago with this possibility in mind.

"We love watching the game, we love playing the game," said club president and attacker Becca Luz, a junior. "I think any more lacrosse, the better."

Seventy-two high schools in North Carolina now offer girls' lacrosse. The five states with the highest number of high school lacrosse athletes are currently New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Maryland, which are all in the top 10 states represented in Elon's Class of 2015.

"Obviously, lacrosse is a good fit for us," Blank said in an interview Feb. 7.



FILE PHOTO BY MOLLY CAREY

Women's lacrosse will be the 15th Division I sport at Elon, joining seven other women's programs.



FILE PHOTO BY MOLLY CAREY

Elon will take the academic year of 2012-2013 to recruit for and develop the lacrosse program.

## ELON UNIVERSITY VARSITY SPORTS

<b>MEN'S</b>	<b>WOMEN'S</b>
Baseball Basketball Cross Country Football Golf Soccer Tennis	Basketball Cross Country Golf Soccer Tennis Track and Field Volleyball <b>Lacrosse (2013)</b>