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ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

TROJAN *Barbie*

Elon's newest play reflects the wars of ancient history on the world today



Juniors Tommi Aleman and Magnus Carlstrom rehearse a scene from "Trojan Barbie" in costume on Tuesday, Jan. 15, the week the play opens at Elon University.

Deirdre Kronschnabel
Elon News Network | @kronschn

Senior Tess Tregellas thinks audiences may have a reaction to "Trojan Barbie" that is comparable to how they feel hearing a baby cry. "There are some physiological reactions that are hard to control — it's in our DNA, almost," Tregellas said.

"When people watch the show, they may not know why they're sad, and it's a little uncomfortable."

The play examines how Americans experience war through stories and images in the media — particularly how the survivors of war, who are usually women and children, are frequently the stories lost.

"It's supposed to be a little uncomfortable — we're very comfortable here at Elon, and there are other people who are not, so it's just a little reminder," Tregellas said.

"It's heavy, but it's real. It was written thousands of years ago, but you can turn on the news and be like, 'That's a very similar story.'"

See **TROJAN BARBIE** | pg. 4

Elon Elementary prepares for transition

Faculty and staff organize and plan their move to an updated facility in a safer location

Lilly Blomquist
Elon News Network | @lillyblomquist1

The Elon Elementary School community members are spending their last year within the walls of a long-established school building by sorting through materials and sharing enthusiasm for the future of their institution.

"This is a very welcoming and exciting event in the history of a new beginning as we open a new school building to become the home to a community full of tradition and pride," said Elon Elementary School Principal Jack Davern.

Next fall, Elon Elementary School students, faculty, staff and families will bid farewell to their current school on East Haggard Avenue that has served them for more than 60 years and open the door to a new beginning at 730



Ian Lewis, first-grade teacher at Elon Elementary School, prepares to teach his students language, math and social studies.

Walker Road.

The elementary school's relocation is a component of a land swap agreement that began in 2016 between Elon University and the Alamance-Burlington School System.

The university is fully funding the construction of a \$20 million elementary school on university-owned property in exchange for Elon Elementary School's 18-acre site, which will accommodate Elon's strategic plan of campus expansion.

See **ELEMENTARY** | pg. 5



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALYSSA MARTINA

Students work on their projects for the "Design Thinking for the Social Good" class in fall 2018.

MAKING A MOVE



Elon entrepreneurship students hope to bring wheelchair innovations to campus

Hannah Massen
Elon News Network | @massenhannah

THE DRIVE HOME FROM her son's 21st birthday dinner changed Nita Skillman's life. Her car was hit by a drunk driver. Skillman has struggled to walk ever since.

Since her accident in 2015, Skillman has struggled performing basic tasks with her lack of mobility, but a class project might be changing that.

As part of the fall 2018 upper-level entrepreneurship course "Design Thinking for the Social Good," students began a class project with the goal of making Elon University more accessible for people with disabilities. Now, students and faculty members are hoping to make their class project a reality.

Alyssa Martina, the professor teaching the class, worked in collaboration with faculty and staff from both the School of Business and the School of Life Sciences, including the school's respective deans, Raghu Tadepalli and Becky Neiduski.

Skillman, the director of the Client and Standardized Patient Program in the School of Health Sciences, served as the "expert" perspective throughout the project.

Martina had taught the class before but took a new approach last semester.

"We've always integrated design thinking in our entrepreneurship classes, but not to the extent that we did in this class," Martina said. "We really used design thinking in this class, particularly in building empathy for the wheelchair user, and that was fundamentally different." Tadepalli, eager to see the students connect with their work, took an active role in overseeing the students' progress.

"In all my years as dean, I've never really gone to a class ... But in this case ... I actually went to the class in the beginning of the semester and told the students that they were going to work on a project," Tadepalli said. "I didn't tell them what the project was, but I said they were going to work on a project that could really make a difference to people's lives and that I hoped that they would take this project very seriously. And if they could not take it seriously, then I said this was probably not the class for them."

See **DISABILITIES** | pg. 4



NEWS • PAGE 5
Why Elon's decade-long provost decided to step down



SPORTS • PAGE 6
The sports for the rest of January and beginning of February



SPORTS • PAGE 7
Behind basketball's heartbreaking weekend

THE PENDULUM

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EDITORIAL POLICY:

ENN seeks to inspire, entertain and inform the Elon community by providing a voice for students and faculty, as well as serve as a forum for the meaningful exchange of ideas.

CORRECTIONS POLICY:

ENN is committed to accurate coverage. When factual errors are made, we correct them promptly and in full, both online and in print. Online corrections state the error and the change at the top of the article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page. Contact enn@elon.edu to report a correction or a concern.

WHEN WE PUBLISH:

The Pendulum
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Elon Local News
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ELN Morning
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ELN Online Exclusive
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CORRECTIONS

NEWS

In the article titled “The Urge to Unionize,” Elon News Network misstated the owners of the signatures in the letter of support, which was signed by 270 students.

In the article titled “Court Victories for the University,” Elon News Network’s graphic misprinted the date the court ruled in favor of the university, which was Nov. 26, 2018.

LIFESTYLE

No corrections were issued to Elon News Network for this section.

OPINIONS

No corrections were issued to Elon News Network for this section.

SPORTS

No corrections were issued to Elon News Network for this section.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – A TOUGH STUDY ABROAD



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN WAGNER

Students of “The Stolen Generations” class use their bodies to spell out “Elon” with the Milky Way Galaxy illuminating their shadows in Hyden, Australia, on Jan. 13, 2018.

JANUARY 2006. As many students set off on their Winter Term study abroad trips, they were struck with numerous instances of bad weather, flight cancellations and other travel woes.

An extreme case happened with Virginia Zint — a sophomore at the time — who missed a connecting flight at Newark International Airport.

Once she eventually made it to London, she feared her luggage was nowhere to be found.

After many hours and dollars spent trying to solve the mystery,

her bag ended up being in London the whole time. To top it off, the next day her purse was stolen in a local pub.

She lost her money, cell phone, phone cards, various tickets and her passport. Zint said her professors and the study abroad office were a big help throughout the turmoil.

Instances of late arrivals occurred on numerous trips, including Peru, Greece, Ireland and New Zealand.

Currently, there are almost 40 different student groups around the world taking part in a study abroad program.

GAMES

How to Play: Guess the missing word in the five clues, then find them in the word search below. Words can be found backward, diagonal, etc.

- _____ is the last name of the feminist playwright who wrote “Trojan Barbie,” the play opening at Elon this month. *See Page 4 for answer.*
- The Northeastern University _____ beat the Elon University Phoenix men’s basketball team 81–70 on Thursday night. *See Page 6 for answer.*
- _____ are the technology students in the “Design Thinking for the Social Good” class are improving for disabled people. *See Page 5 for answer.*
- Provost Steven _____ is stepping down from his position at the end of 2019. *See Page 5 for answer.*
- Elon University is building a new school for Elon Elementary School located at 730 _____ Road. *See Page 8 for answer.*

T	X	C	W	A	L	K	E	R	D	V	K	S	Q	P
O	P	M	U	B	U	C	E	I	X	Q	Z	D	K	I
O	D	U	T	N	I	S	Y	A	L	T	E	J	R	X
R	W	H	P	P	S	N	M	H	P	N	H	W	L	U
A	J	R	A	W	J	A	K	C	U	N	D	S	V	I
R	W	J	Q	P	Z	V	L	L	M	S	N	I	E	P
H	N	M	H	S	F	E	E	E	G	S	K	F	S	U
W	P	P	W	G	T	S	B	E	Y	C	P	I	Y	N
O	E	S	B	O	P	Y	K	H	F	C	F	X	E	R
Q	E	X	L	P	X	Z	P	W	T	B	Y	G	J	S
C	X	S	F	V	U	F	M	G	T	A	U	W	R	W
T	Z	N	U	A	Q	N	M	Y	A	Y	C	B	U	Y
A	O	S	J	O	U	Y	T	H	N	K	W	Z	J	G
W	T	M	M	J	H	S	T	V	X	R	W	H	I	A
N	N	B	I	M	R	J	D	F	Z	N	A	N	B	F

CALENDAR: JAN. 18 – FEB. 5

**VISION BOARD
WORKSHOP**
| 10 A.M.

341 S. Main St.
Burlington

16

**WOMEN’S TENNIS
DOUBLEHEADER**
| 10 A.M. and 2 P.M.

Jimmy Powell
Tennis Center

16

TROJAN BARBIE OPEN
| 7:30 P.M.

Roberts Studio Theatre

18

**MEN’S TENNIS
DOUBLEHEADER**
| 9 A.M. and 3 P.M.

Jimmy Powell
Tennis Center

18

MBB V. DELAWARE
| 7 P.M.

Schar Center

31

WBB V. DREXEL
| 7 P.M.

Schar Center

01

MBB V. DELAWARE
| 7 P.M.

Schar Center

02

WBB V. DELAWARE
| 2 P.M.

Schar Center

03

**MEN’S TENNIS V.
CAMPBELL**
| 2 P.M.

Jimmy Powell
Tennis Center

05

MBA OPEN HOUSE
| 6 P.M.

KOBC

05

Attendees fill the seats in Alumni Gym moments before attorney, activist and professor Anita Hill takes the stage to give her speech on Thursday, Jan. 10.



SAMANTHA CASAMENTO | EVENT COVERAGE COORDINATOR



SAMANTHA CASAMENTO | EVENT COVERAGE COORDINATOR

Anita Hill delivers the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Address, “From Social Movement to Social Impact,” in Alumni Gym at Elon University on Thursday, Jan. 10. [SEE MORE EVENT COVERAGE AT ELONNEWSNETWORK.COM](#)



JARED BUNDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon University senior guard Sheldon Eberhardt draws a foul against a Hofstra University defender on Saturday, Jan. 12. [SEE MORE BASKETBALL | PAGE 6](#)



ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

Elon sophomore forward Emily Maupin attempts to make a shot but is blocked by UNCW senior forward Chinyere Bell and junior guard Timber Tate during the game on Sunday, Jan. 13.



JESSICA RAPFOGEL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Provost Steven House and President Connie Book watch the women's basketball game on Friday, Jan. 11. Just hours after, Elon announced House would be stepping down as provost at the end of 2019. [SEE MORE PROVOST | PAGE 5](#)

Elon to become more accessible one creation at a time

DISABILITIES | from cover

Even before the technical challenges of the project began, students were expected to go outside their comfort zones and spend time in a wheelchair themselves. According to Martina, this was a critical step in building empathy for their target customer.

While students only experienced challenges performing various jobs like going to the grocery for 24-hours, these were issues that Skillman has faced for the last four years.



Nita Skillman

Senior Asa Goldstein wasn't prepared to encounter such a variety of obstacles.

The issues Goldstein faced while in a wheelchair surprised him. He struggled with basic tasks such as getting his clothes out of the laundry machine, pouring boiling water over a sink and cooking dinner.

"You're really cutting off about half your body," Goldstein said. "You're losing about your knees to your hips."

Junior Amy Zheng was surprised to see how people treated her when she was in the wheelchair.

"It was just such a different perspective, not only physical perspective because that was on a much lower viewpoint than everyone else, but also the emotions that pass through you," Zheng said. "I just felt like peo-

ple were staring at me, and people were giving me pity rather than trying to understand the situation."

But Skillman and the other 25 Elon students on campus that are disabled can't leave their disabilities behind on a whim. That's where the designs come in.

One of the four design teams created a mobile obstacle course for wheelchair users and their families to learn how to navigate challenging terrain in a safe, controlled environment.

According to Neiduski, the course features typical and atypical terrain, including an inclement weather simulator.

Another team conceptualized a new wheelchair with a rotating base to meet Skillman's professional and personal needs.

Zheng's team created an attachable shopping basket, which could swing toward or away from Skillman's wheelchair, carrying her loose items so she wouldn't have to herself. Zheng said she and her team members are currently building an improved prototype for Skillman to use.

"All of us are definitely interested in seeing how far this could go and the potential that it has, just because the feedback that we've had has been so strong and so amazing," Zheng said. "I just really want to help this community and this cause because I believe in it."

Goldstein and his team designed a building classification system to help Skillman and others know what to expect before they even arrive.

"There are a lot of buildings on campus where just getting into the door is almost impossible," Skillman said. "The buildings are challenging, and unless I go into that building frequently, I don't know [what] my challenges are until I get there."

Using Goldstein's system, campus locations would be matched against a set of standardized criteria to determine how accessible that location is to people of all abilities. The location would then receive a letter grade on a digital

map, allowing those with mobility impairments to plan for obstacles in advance. Locations that receive an "A" would also be awarded a Leadership in Accessibility Design (LAD) plaque as further recognition.

Goldstein believes having LAD-certified buildings would speak to the university's missions of diversity, inclusivity and attracting a range of perspectives. He's interested in implementing this system on campus.

Martina believes Elon's administration may already be interested in making Elon's campus more man-

ageable for those with mobility impairments.

"I don't want to speak for the administration, but that they have taken an interest in the accessibility issue," Martina said. "They pride themselves on being accessible, and that they are interested in and have been interested in hearing what findings that team had and what possible solutions they have."

While Skillman is sure the people in her department would go to great lengths to make her workspace accessible, she remains unsure if others from "across campus" would do the same.

Faculty and staff from the School of Business and the School of Health Sciences, including Martina, are already brainstorming other real-world problems for entrepreneurship students to

solve in the coming semesters.

"It starts with being curious," Martina said. "It's not for other people to solve the problems of the world; each one of us can have a hand in it, and each one of us should have a hand in it. It starts with you. Be present, be curious, be engaged."



A design of the improved wheelchair students in the fall 2018 "Design Thinking for the Social Good" class are hoping to develop.

'Trojan Barbie' views ancient women under a modern lens

TROJAN BARBIE | from cover

Elon University's production of "Trojan Barbie," written by feminist playwright Christine Evans and directed by Assistant Professor Kim Shively, follows Lotte Jones, a British dollmaker who decides she needs to get "more involved in life." She leaves her doll repair shop for a cultural tour for singles in Turkey, and while on a tour of the ruins of Troy, finds herself swept away from the present day into a parallel universe — an ancient prisoner-of-war camp right out of Euripides' "The Trojan Women."

Junior Stacey Cohn plays the role of Hecuba — Queen of Troy.

"People are scared of the Greeks," Cohn said. "It's a big challenge to make relatable to a modern audience."

Shively believes that in order to prevent alienating an audience with Greek tragedy, it's important to capture the most human elements.

"The reality is, the performers we love live truthfully, with heightened stakes no matter what they're doing," Shively said. "That's why we're attracted to them — because they feel deeply, they experience everything deeply, and they share that experience with us."

Junior CJ Porterfield works as a dramaturg — or literary adviser. He helps the actors understand the context of the show so they can be informed on both Greek mythology and the plight of the Trojan women to get out of refugee camps as well as the modern day references to war.

"When they overlap, nothing has really changed in terms of the way we treat war and the reasons we go to war," Porterfield said.



Juniors Tommi Aleman and Magnus Carlstrom rehearse a scene from "Trojan Barbie" in costume on Tuesday, Jan. 15, the week the play opens at Elon University.

Under Susanne Shawyer, assistant professor of theatre, Porterfield and the other dramaturgs compiled a 65-page document that actors would be able to use as a reference. The play's contemporary characters interact with Greek history and mythology, and it's important the knowledge of the past informs the present-day cast.

In his research, Porterfield noted that there was ample information on Hecuba's son, Paris, but much less on Hecuba herself.

"All the identities of women in the Trojan War are based around men," Porterfield said. "Christine Evans asks why women survive war, but they're talked about the least. She's trying to bring that idea to the forefront and dramatize it on stage."

The script pulls from real-life

horrors from American-involved combat in different countries — from Vietnam to Iraq.

"Whenever they reference something horrific, it actually happened somewhere in the world," Porterfield said.

To understand the themes and stakes of the play, the cast and crew Skype-called Bart Pitchford, a U.S. Army veteran and Syrian refugee scholar. They talked about his memories working in refugee camps and used this information for their roles.

"You're often force-fed this narrative that is chosen by the media," Cohn said.

The violence that occurs in the show is stylized, movement and dolls are used to represent atrocities. Shively decided early on that there

would be no guns in the show.

"I trust that our audiences are intellectual and savvy and have great imaginations," Shively said.

"Trojan Barbie" uses dolls to convey complex ideas about the consequences of war. A marionette is used to represent a child who is killed.

"It's better than having violence on stage or a doll that looks like an actual child," Cohn said. "It leaves so much up to interpretation and lets the audience fill in the blanks. The audience can picture a thousand different scenarios, and it's best if you let them."

Tregellas, who plays Lotte, did her own research on the Syrian refugee crisis to increase her understanding. Her character interacts with the dolls on stage, and Tregellas has given thought to the connection dolls have with people. Dolls have the ability to make the audience uncomfortable, but they can also be a tool to connect them to the history and the storyline.

"Lotte has this need to repair things, and I think we all do in some sense," Tregellas said. "There's this maternal instinct that I think a doll brings out historically through women and this need to take care of something. If we can connect with a doll, a plastic thing that is so easily broken, what's stopping us from connecting to human beings?"

Shively has discussed humanitarian issues with the cast in many little ways throughout preparation for the show. The students have had only 16 days of rehearsal before the Winter Term show opens for 10 performances. They've prepared in class seven days a week, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., from blocking scenes to Skype-calling a veteran, but the frequent, reflective conversations are necessary.

IF YOU GO

Dates:

Jan. 18-19 and 21-22 at 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 20 at 2 p.m.
Feb. 5-9 at 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 9 at 2 p.m.

Location: Roberts Studio Theatre, Scott Studios at Arts West

*** Not suitable for audiences under 13 years old.**

"I continue to tie it into our daily news cycle," Shively said. "We're still debating issues over torturing prisoners when these things have been debated thousands of years ago. We're still making the mistakes of yesteryear."

"Trojan Barbie" captures women at a transition period after the war.

"It's important to make that connection," Tregellas said. "It's a Greek story of a war ending and what happens to the women, and that story is still happening now."

Depending on where audience members find their seats, they may experience guards patrolling by. They might have a spotlight blink or a light from a set tower shine in their eyes, evoking the sense of being watched. Some audience members will have women in the camp lying around them and be very close to it. Other audience members might have a barrier between them and the action of the play.

"It's often easier for us to live in a distracted state, focused on social media, focused curating the perfect life, focused on our own existential crises. And the lessons of the Greeks are still important and still valuable," Shively said.



In order to carpool with peers, Elon Elementary School students have to cross East Haggard Avenue.

ELEMENTARY | from cover

Arranging for change

Since ABSS is covering the costs of the new building’s interior, teachers are listing supplies they need for the year.

Ian Lewis, a first-grade teacher at Elon Elementary School, has been spending the school year sifting through his materials to decide whether his handouts, supplies and decorations will serve his 20 students in a larger space.

“My thinking is this is going to need to be transported to a new school, which is a strange concept,” Lewis said. “It’s in the back of my mind all the time that I won’t be here.”

Staff members are also planning in depth for the 2019-2020 school year. They are striving to minimize potential problems that could emerge from teaching in an unfamiliar setting.

“This particular year, we have an exceptional amount of planning and organizing to do to make sure all staff, students and parents know of the new procedures and routines that the new location and structure will require,” Davern said.

Since Samet Corporation will not finish constructing the building until the spring, Davern said the uncertainty surrounding the building’s final product prevents him from fully preparing.

Despite the unpredictability, Lewis incorporated the upcoming move into one of his lessons to prepare his students for the change.

“When we talked about communities in social studies, I was able to explain we’ll still be in the same community but in a different place,” Lewis said.

Lewis said his students had a positive reaction but could not fully comprehend learning at a new school every day.

Exchanging emotions

Since Davern has been working at the elementary school for eight years, he said he has created beloved traditions within the school’s walls.

“There is a rich history at Elon and many families that are connected to the school,” Davern said. “There are many memories and traditions that we have, and it will be hard to not be in this building anymore to enjoy them.”

Mary Ellen Dalhouse, a parent whose son attends fifth grade at Elon Elementary, said she will miss the school’s proximity to Elon’s campus.

“It’s sad the school is not in the middle of campus because it’s a unique location for the college students and the elementary school,” Dalhouse said.

Julie Warrick, whose son attended kindergarten at the school 25 years ago and whose granddaughter currently attends the school, said she will miss the fond memories but is excited for better

facilities and resources.

“For the students, it will be so much nicer for them,” Warrick said. “They will keep up-to-date with technology, which will be a better experience for them and the teachers.”

Lewis has taught at the elementary school for two years, so he said he is not too emotionally attached to the space.

“There are obviously some growing pains when you move, and you have to get used to it,” Lewis said.

Davern said the school is excited about the change. He said the new location and updated facilities will create a more welcoming environment that increases students’ motivation to learn.

Envisioning the school

Elon Elementary School’s current building has been standing since 1953 and has not been renovated since 1989. The average age of the 36 schools in the district is 50 years old, making Elon Elementary School’s facility outdated.

Allison Gant, chair of the Alamance-Burlington School System Board of Education, said the current building’s old age has resulted in deficiencies that the district cannot afford to fix.

“Our facilities are in desperate need of maintenance and repairs,” Gant said. “We have 20 years of deferred maintenance in our county.”

Davern said the current building is too small to accommodate its 704 students.

The new school building, which is modeled after George C. Simkins Jr. Elementary School in Greensboro, is 94,000 square feet with the capacity to house 750 students in classrooms and 1,000 students in core facilities.

Davern said the increased capacity will provide more classroom space for students to focus on learning, more teacher workspaces for the school’s 46 teachers, more storage space for supplies and more space for events.

Contractors are building this new

facility on property 1.5 miles north of the elementary school.

Elon Elementary School is currently located next to Elon University on East Haggard Avenue, the main road extending from Burlington to Gibsonville.

During arrival and dismissal times, elementary school community members have to drive through campus to the elementary school while university students change classes and while faculty, staff and students drive to campus.

Lewis said the traffic congestion during the mornings and afternoons affect his travel time, so he has to leave earlier in the morning.

“If you get here at a certain time of the morning, you can be stuck in traffic for 10 minutes just to get in the back lot,” Lewis said.

Gant said the elevated traffic causes safety concerns for elementary school students when they cross the road.

“We have students who will cross the road, and we have police and crossing guards, but it can always be a challenge to walk across,” Gant said.

At the new location on Walker Road, residential neighborhoods surround the school instead of university buildings and traffic. The further distance will protect the school students’ safety, according to Vice President for University Communications Dan Anderson.

“Walker Road is not a main road,” Anderson said. “It dead-ends north of the property, so it’s not something people travel through on a daily basis.”

Anderson said the space will create a more welcoming and energizing environment that advances education.

“It’s just wonderful that Elon could give the next generation of students the opportunity to learn in a new school,” Anderson said. “Those early years for children are critical, and they deserve to have a modern school where they can be inspired to learn.”



The layout of Elon University’s proposed Elon Elementary School site to be located at 730 Walker Road.



Provost Steven House watches as students pick up their acorns during New Student Convocation on Aug. 25, 2018.

HOUSE TO STEP DOWN AS PROVOST

After a decade, Provost Steven House is stepping down at the end of 2019

Anton L. Delgado

Managing Editor | @antonldelgado

By the end of this calendar year, Steven House will be stepping down as Elon University’s provost. This news came a year and 11 months after President Emeritus Leo Lambert announced he would be stepping down.

“My plan was always to stay two years after Dr. Lambert left the position as president,” House said. “I have partnered with Leo Lambert since I came in 2001, and we have been a very strong team together.”

Though House will no longer be serving as provost by the end of 2019, he will remain executive vice president through the 2020-2021 academic year.

The 63-year-old and former biology professor, who has never taken a sabbatical, has confirmed he is not planning to return to the classroom following his retirement.

“I have a lot of energy, and I want to do things that I haven’t had the opportunity to do — my wife and I are now in a position to do it,” House said, later mentioning his hopes to travel.

In response to the provost position’s upcoming vacancy, President Connie Book is assembling a provost search committee and hopes to finalize its

members by the end of this month. This committee will make recommendations on the choice of a search firm, review candidates and select a group of finalists. Book is anticipating a committee of 12 to 15 individuals that will represent the faculty, staff and academic council.

According to House, he has given several “confidential recommendations to the president” regarding whom he believes should be on the search committee.

In February, the committee will be hosting campus listening sessions focused on the qualifications and qualities that students and other members of the community want to see in their next provost.

“I would hope that they would find somebody sort of like me,” House said. “The person should be student-centered and faculty-centered to a fault. This person should want to work with the faculty to create a teaching and learning environment that is special for students.”

House’s commitment to Elon is what the community will remember him for, Book said.

“The next provost is going to have some big shoes to fill,” Book said. “Steven House has set a great example of what it means to be a servant leader, really putting students and Elon at the center of every decision.”

Despite this staffing change coming less than year into her presidency, Book says she is ready for the transition.

“Change happens — ready or not,” Book said. “When there is change, we are excited for the new ideas people will bring to our community.”

The history of House

House first joined Elon in 2001 as the founding dean of Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences. In the eight years he held the position. In 2009, House was appointed as provost and vice president for academic affairs. Six years later, in 2015, House was promoted to provost and executive vice president.

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Full coverage of games can be found
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SPORTS

HEARTBREAK ON THE HARDWOOD



Elon men's basketball head coach Matt Matheny takes off his jacket as the game against the Hofstra University Pride heats up on Saturday, Jan. 12.

JARED BUNDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Three tough losses in one weekend leave basketball looking for silver linings

Jack Haley
Sports Director | @jackhaley17

There is no denying that college sports are full of heartbreak. Blown leads, comebacks that fall just short, losing to teams you should beat and not quite pulling off an upset — very seldom does college basketball provide a loss that is easy to swallow.

Both the men's and women's basketball teams had two home games in four consecutive days. Jan. 10-13 could have proved to be a springboard for the two Elon University teams early on in Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) play.

Coming into Thursday, Jan. 10, men's basketball was 1-3 in the conference. A win against James Madison University at home on Dec. 30 to get the team in the win column was a good sign for the Phoenix. But the team couldn't reflect on what it had accomplished as basement-dwelling Elon had a big test in front of them: the Northeastern University Huskies, the team picked to win the league, who came to Schar Center 1-2.

In the first half of that game, it looked as though it was going to be another long night for the Phoenix. Down 16 points with just under 18 minutes to play in the game, it seemed all but over. But the Phoenix slowly but surely gained ground on the Huskies. A 13-0 run got Elon right back in the game and gave them an extra boost to try and get across the finish line.

The Phoenix even took its first lead of the game with under three minutes to play on a layup by senior guard Sheldon Eberhardt. The energy in Schar Center was palpable. The brand-new building felt like it had life.

But any good playwright will say there is no great fall without a buildup.


As the clock wound down to the final minute, Elon wrestled the lead away from the Huskies. Senior forward Tyler Seibring stepped up and buried both of his free throws to give Elon a two-point lead with just over a minute to play.


Northeastern, on its next possession, had the ball stolen by Eberhardt. It seemed like the Huskies sealed the deal. That was all Elon needed to get a huge win and hopefully spark the season moving forward with a big win.

Instead of fouling sophomore guard Nathan Priddy, who brought the ball up to the front court and proceeded to dribble out the clock, Huskies junior guard Donnell Gresham decided to take the game in his hands.


It was as if it happened in slow motion. As Priddy turned his back to the basket no more

THIS WEEKEND'S SCORES

 **81-70**
was the score of the Elon men's basketball game against Northeastern on Thursday, Jan. 10.

 **74-71**
was the score of the Elon men's basketball game against Hofstra on Saturday, Jan. 12.

 **76-68**
was the score of the Elon women's basketball game against the College of Charleston, which they won on Friday, Jan. 11.

 **75-70**
was the score of the Elon women's basketball game against UNCW on Sunday, Jan. 13.

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MATT MATHENY
HEAD COACH



ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

Elon women's basketball head coach Charlotte Smith shouts plays to her team during the game against the University of North Carolina Wilmington Seahawks on Sunday, Jan. 13.

than five feet from head coach Matt Matheny, who was standing on the sidelines, Gresham started his move from the corner. Darting up right past the Elon bench, Gresham perfectly timed his steal and finished on the other end, tying the game.

Everyone but Priddy saw the move. It's not his fault; it was a mistake, and things happen. But that's sports. It's impossible and unfair to pin an entire game on one play or one player. But it is fair to say this play was heartbreaking.

Seibring called the sequence "once in a career." But the last thing the team needed was to be on the wrong side of that type of play.

Elon would go on to lose that game in overtime, but the team couldn't dwell on that much, as it had to welcome in league-leader Hofstra University 48 hours later.

The mantra for the team has been "better now than March," as Priddy said following the loss to Northeastern — that making mistakes now is better and less costly than during the conference tournament. But the team needs more than silver linings pulled out of mistakes to build on; the team needs wins.

Saturday night came, and with that, a brand new challenge. The Hofstra Pride came into Schar Center scorching hot. The Pride were undefeated in CAA competition, coming off a triple-overtime game against the College of William and Mary two nights earlier.

Elon quickly fell behind — this time 7-0 in less than two minutes. The difference this time, compared to the game against Northeastern, is the team righted the ship quickly and even took an eight-point lead into halftime.

Elon finally relinquished the lead it held for nearly 15 straight minutes at the halfway mark of the second half. Elon stayed close, within two scores for the last four and a half minutes of the game. With just two seconds left in the game, Elon again found itself in a position to win. Seibring was open at the top of the key. He got the shot off with plenty of time: up it went, bouncing once off the front of the rim and falling to the left of the basket.

Falling in a devastating way once again, Elon was two bounces of the ball from being 3-3 in the CAA. Instead, it stumbled to 1-5.

What truly put the cherry on top this weekend was the women's game on Sunday.

The women found themselves in a reverse role as the men in their Sunday matinee matchup with the University of North Carolina Wilmington; they were the ones that led the majority of the game, not the ones giving chase. The team lost the 16-point lead it had on a buzzer-beater to end the third quarter.

As time ticked down, Elon needed an answer down four points. Junior guard Lexi Mercer heaved up a prayer on an inbounds play and connected, giving a jolt to the Phoenix faithful. UNCW answered with a layup, and Elon needed a three to extend the game into overtime. Mercer was able to get a shot off but was unsuccessful, and the women became another victim of a painful ending at Schar Center.

While this loss was not a good one — not that there is such thing as a "good" loss — the women's team has had some moderate success this year already. Undoubtedly, this one hurts, but it will not sink a season.

LOOKING AHEAD IN SPORTS

WOMEN’S TENNIS

HOME = ● AWAY = ○

JANUARY

16

N.C. A&T
10 A.M.

16

N.C. CENTRAL
2 P.M.

19

GARDNER-
WEBB
1 P.M.

20


FURMAN
12 P.M.

23

DUKE
3 P.M.

23

MOUNT
OLIVE
6 P.M.



FILE PHOTO BY ELON NEWS NETWORK

MEN’S TENNIS

18

APP. STATE
9 A.M.

18

N.C. A&T
3 P.M.

29

CLEMSON
1 P.M.

05

CAMPBELL
2 P.M.




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JANUARY

FEBRUARY

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

20

WILLIAM &
MARY
2 P.M.

25

TOWSON
7 P.M.

27


JAMES
MADISON
2 P.M.

01

DREXEL
7 P.M.

03

DELAWARE
2 P.M.



ABBY GIBBS | PHOTO EDITOR

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MEN’S BASKETBALL

19

WILLIAM &
MARY
4 P.M.

24

COLLEGE OF
CHARLESTON
7 P.M.

26


UNCW
4 P.M.

31

DELAWARE
7 P.M.

02

DREXEL
7 P.M.



ZACHARY OHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY



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