

## WELCOME TO THE GUN SHOW

Should concealed weapons be allowed on college campuses? Read more about the proposed legislation and one staff member's take on it. >> PAGE 4 AND 8



## TOP 6 WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Want to get away? Choose from six great places in the area. >> PAGE 13

# THE PENDULUM

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Naw Thein, an ARAMARK employee, hands out a slice of pizza at Topio's, one of the many dining options on Elon's campus. But starting this fall, combos in Octagon will not come with the standard meal plan. TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer

## 'Meal swipe' gets new meaning

### ARAMARK changes affect students' eating options on campus

Sam Parker  
Senior Reporter

ARAMARK, Elon University's food service provider, is changing the way students eat with the introduction of two newly available dining packages, All Access and Block Meal plans.

The All Access option gives students unlimited access to all three dining halls on campus, while the Block meal plan provides a specific number of visits to dining halls per year.

According to Jeff Gazda, resident district

manager of ARAMARK, throughout the spring and fall 2010 semesters, Elon's Dining Services conducted a market-match process that involved in-depth customer research to gather feedback from 1,292 campus customers, which is approximately 44 percent of on-campus residents and 17 percent of the total student population.

"Our research told us that students were looking for better prices, value and increased flexibility from their meal plan," Gazda said. "So, our goal was to develop a customized meal plan solution that delivers those things."

Gazda said both the economic recession and The Elon Commitment's goal to enhance students' well-being also served as influences in creating the new meal plans.

"We want to align ourselves completely with the direction that Elon is going in," he said. "And one thing we realized we needed to do that was retool meal plans for the next step of the phase."

According to Gazda, the All Access meal plan

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## Redefining learning: Elon seeks ideas to enhance education on campus, remain accredited by SACS

Caitlin O'Donnell  
News Editor

A committee of Elon University faculty and staff has been charged with developing an innovative way of learning in preparation for a 2013 visit from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the school's accrediting body.

With input from other staff members as well as students, the idea proposal, also known as a quality enhancement plan or QEP will be finalized this fall and then implemented in preparation for the SACS visit.

"The QEP is something that the university will do that will enhance the learning for students," said David Copeland, professor of communications and a member of the committee developing the QEP. "It's

something that SACS expects us to spend significant amounts of money on. It is probably new to what we're doing and if not, will take something we're already doing and expand it beyond anything we've thought of before."

Since Elon last went through the reaccreditation process in 2003, SACS added the new requirement of the QEP along with other standards that must be met. Specific guidelines from SACS dictate how the QEP must be developed.

"It assures that your programs are up to certain standards, that all the elements within your school or university meet criteria," Copeland said. "By meeting criteria and SACS standards, it shows the government we meet qualifications and can get

student loans and grants."

Currently, the four-person committee is in the brainstorming phase and collecting ideas from students, faculty and staff, said Pam Kiser, professor of human service studies and co-chair of the committee.

"Right now, we're trying to get everyone's attention amidst everything else that is going on," she said. "This is on a very definite timeline imposed by our accrediting body, so we need ideas and we need ideas now."

Ideas can be submitted through e-mail to [qep@elon.edu](mailto:qep@elon.edu), or dropped into boxes soon to be placed around campus, Copeland said.

"They don't have to be well-formed," Kiser said. "That's the point of brainstorming, you don't critique."

This phase of the process will continue until the first week of April. At that time, the committee will take the ideas and pull out common themes that will then be put on a website for everyone on campus to view. During the summer, ideas will be narrowed down and brief papers prepared describing the best argument for why each should be selected as the QEP for Elon.

"We will ask people who are really knowledgeable or excited about them to write short paper descriptions," Copeland said.

By late November of this year, the focus of the QEP will be finalized. After being narrowed down to two or three ideas, senior staff will make the final

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QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN TIMELINE

MARCH 2011:  
Brainstorming phase

APRIL 2011:  
Evaluation of ideas

SUMMER 2011:  
Pitching of final three ideas

NOVEMBER 2011:  
Final idea chosen

SPRING 2013:  
SACS team arrives for evaluation



## Ease of mobility access differs between on- and off-campus residencies

Eva Hill  
Copy Chief

Students with mobility impairments who live on campus at Elon University have a special staff to ensure they are able to live and attend classes with ease. But students with these needs who live off campus may lack the same resources.

According to Susan Wise, coordinator of Disabilities Services, the university adequately obeys the Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA, building codes and minimum accessibility requirements.

"The Oaks and the Colonnades are the newest residence halls to be constructed, and they have elevators," she said. "The vast majority of the residence halls are older buildings and don't have elevators."

For students with temporary or long-term mobility impairments who want to live off campus, easy access and living arrangements may be more of a concern.

Freeman & Company, a real estate company with properties in Elon, Greensboro and Boone, does not have access for individuals with disabilities, according to Sybil Holt, executive property manager.

"We really don't have any access," she said. "But some of the apartments are built on ground level."

Wise said first-floor housing and ramps are ways Elon accommodates students with mobility impairments.

"Typically, a student with a mobility impairment who makes a request for housing will not end up in the older buildings," she said.

Ten to 12 percent of the college-aged population generally has some sort of disability, Wise said.

The university is unable to provide the exact number of students with disabilities, because many choose not to disclose the information, but there are several on campus who require specific accommodations.

"Elon has very few people who have disabilities and are not protected under the law," she said.

John Hagen, a Resident Assistant in Colonnades A, has only been an RA for one semester but has noticed the difficulties for students with physical disabilities to live on campus.

"I lived in North Area first semester, and there is no way a physically handicapped person could live in the area unless they were on the first floor, which completely eliminates the possibility of them becoming an RA," he said. "I feel as though all dorms should be able to accommodate such a situation by allowing disabled persons the exact same housing possibilities as every one else."

As far as access to classes is concerned, the Long psychology building is the only academic building on campus without an elevator.

Becky Olive-Taylor, associate



Junior Jess McDonald gets to class in the Academic Pavilion on crutches. McDonald broke her leg in February. EVA HILL | PHOTOGRAPHER

dean of academic support, said she is unsure whether there are plans to install one in the future.

Olive-Taylor said Elon makes class adjustments for students who have temporary or long-term mobility needs.

"Students who have a temporary mobility concern have their classes located on higher levels moved to the first floor," she said.

According to Wise, the ADA, which has been in existence since 1990,

requires all new buildings to meet the accommodations of individuals with mobility impairments.

According to Holt, Freeman & Company, the local apartment complexes, which include Oak Hill and Sheridan, were built after the ADA was put into place.

"When we built our apartments we didn't have to do the handicap code thing," Wise said. "Now, when you build units you have to have ramps and handicap access."

## Elon to be evaluated in 2013 by SACS accrediting body

QEP from PAGE 1

decision, that will then be implemented.

"They are not to be involved at this point," Kiser said. "It is meant to be a grassroots movement from top to bottom. It's very important that senior staff has to buy into it because this plan also has to be funded. There are definite expectations on the part of SACS that we

will get the money to make it happen."

According to Copeland, the QEP will touch every student at Elon at some point in their time on campus.

"It might be an experience for first-year or senior students," he said. "It wouldn't (affect) all students at the same time, but it touches everyone at some

point in their academic career."

Examples of other schools' QEPs included focus on critical thinking skills, ethical issues or experiential learning.

Before the SACS team arrives on campus in the spring of 2013, a final QEP must be sent to them in advance for review. While on campus, they will also review Elon's "compliant standards" which include the qualification of course instructors, sufficient funding for programs and facilities for student work.

"These standards are almost like the minimum that needs to be met," Kiser said. "The QEP is the extra part that goes beyond meeting the minimum standards in order to move forward."

If the plan is not approved, Elon will be given feedback to improve the QEP and strengthen it.

"Once the (SACS team) comes and approves the plan, then implement it for five years and they then come back to look at the progress of the plan," Kiser said.

"The idea is commendable that SACS is saying that we not only want campuses to prove they're meeting certain standards, but also constantly striving to improve," Kiser said. "We're that kind of campus anyway. We've never been a campus to sit on our laurels to say 'we've got this thing down pat.' We're taking a campus that is already very striving and adding this thing to it."

## Meal plan options restructured, unlimited plan now available

MEAL PLANS from PAGE 1

is the minimum plan requirement for freshmen and sophomores.

"If you have one of the All Access meal plans and just want to get a drink, walk in with some friends to socialize or get a meal in a retail facility and want to go sit in a dining hall, it's fine," he said. "Wherever you live or wherever you are, your closest dining hall is your home kitchen, living room and place to hang out, and we want to emphasize that to students."

Allison Metcalf Woodard, district marketing manager of ARAMARK at Elon, said the Block meal packages, available in increments of 200 and 300, will mirror the current system of meal plans in that meals will roll over from semester to semester and students will be able to swipe for friends and family.

Gazda said both packages will have a two-week change period so students are able to find the best fit and value for them.

Woodard said Colonnades, Harden and McEwen dining halls will close at 9 p.m. starting in the fall and all three will also offer the take-out system currently only offered at McEwen. She said these changes are the results of student feedback that individuals with busy schedules and limited dining time have requested hour expansions and to-go boxes.

Freshman Matt Dowdle said he believes the new meal plan packages, specifically the All Access plan, are not very cost efficient because they limit the number of retail combination meals

available to students.

"I do not like the new meal plan idea because as a student who eats at Varsity and Acorn more than 14 times a week, I feel the new options will limit me in my choices," he said. "I think the All Access plan will force me to pay more money while offering me less choices. I like the current meal plans better because they give me more bang for my buck and allow me to eat wherever I want when I want."

Sophomore Dan Enders said he thinks the new meal plan packages will provide students with more options for less hassle.

"I think overall it is a good change," he said. "It provides better value for meal plans and it encourages the use of the dining halls where healthier options are more available."

Sophomore Greg Gentile, on the other hand, said he feels indifferent about the new meal plans because he will not be required to purchase a package through the university.

"I personally care very little about the new plans because I wasn't planning on buying a meal plan next year anyway," he said. "However, if I were to buy a meal plan, I still don't think I would use the unlimited plan too much because I don't often go to the three dining halls. I'd rather eat somewhere quick for convenience."

Gazda said ARAMARK will be hosting student forums to discuss the changes at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 29 in Moseley 217.

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# New Middle Eastern studies minor will offer opportunities for students, the community

Marlena Chertock  
Design Editor

Sophomore Laura Tucker has lived in Saudi Arabia since her family moved there in 2002 for her father's job at a petroleum company. As an international studies major at Elon University, Tucker plans on pursuing her interest in the region of the Middle East. But Tucker and other students don't yet have the option to minor in Middle Eastern Studies at Elon.

"Other than the main religion courses or broad global and history courses, there's not many really focused and specific courses dedicated to Middle Eastern studies," Tucker said.

The Middle Eastern studies minor has been in the works since 2007. The curriculum review board is in the process of evaluating the program, said professor Brian Digre, international studies program coordinator.

"I feel confident that both programs will be available in the fall," Digre said.

## Creating a minor

There were several steps to get to this point. Digre traveled to Jordan, Israel and Egypt in the summer of 2008 on a six-week Fulbright-Hays seminar. The seminar allowed 10 U.S. professors to explore study abroad opportunities in the Middle East and enhance curriculum development at their universities, Digre said.

Digre also applied for a grant from the U.S. Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies in Foreign Language Program to help fund the establishment of the minor.

Elon provided matching funds for much of the grant,

which allowed Elon to support faculty who wanted to develop new courses in the Middle East, to enhance library resources on the Middle East and study abroad programs and to hire a full-time Arabic professor.

For two years, the grant paid more than half of Arabic professor Shereen Elgamal's salary. But now, Elon has made the position full-time and pays her salary, Digre said.

The department of foreign languages is exploring the introduction of elementary Hebrew courses for the minor.

Introductory modern standard Hebrew will be offered in the fall and introductory II in the spring, according to Scott Windham, department chair of Foreign Languages. The courses will be taught by a part-time professor.

"If enrollments are good, we will continue to offer more courses," Windham said. "At some point, we might perceive a need for a permanent position in Hebrew, although that process could take many years."

## Students already showing interest

Many students in the international studies major have already expressed interest in the region. Several students have asked for Digre's approval of each course individually to count for the unofficial Middle Eastern concentration. Tucker has taken this route.

The Arabic Language Organization was created by students as a result of increasing interest in the language and region, according to Elgamal and many students have expressed interest in studying abroad in the region, Digre said.

There are several study

abroad programs in place that will be related to the minor or concentration. There is a program at the American University of Cairo, Egypt, Council on International Education Exchange in Jordan and the University of Haifa, Israel that was just offered this year.

## Broadening experiences and views

The classes will offer students opportunities to learn more about cultures and regions they are not familiar with and that are not well-known, Tucker said.

Arab culture and the Middle East have been stereotyped, intentionally or not, by people, governments and the media, Tucker said.

It will be beneficial for students to form their own opinions from truths rather than statements they hear, she said.

"You see students living in Israel, Jordan and Egypt for a semester and coming back," Elgamal said. "These experiences are very important to campus. Instead of watching on television, they come back with experiences they encountered, actual people they interacted with. It's a different outlook on things when you hear things from someone who was there."

Tucker would agree. Living in Saudi Arabia helped shape her opinions and the way she views life and people, she said.

The minor will offer valuable career opportunities, according to Digre, as learning Arabic is important for careers today.

The outside community will also learn more about the region, Digre said.

The minor will bring in



PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Brian Digre stands with Mohammad, his SUV driver, in the sand dunes of Qatar in 2008.

extracurricular activities, speakers and visiting professors, according to Elgamal. The awareness and knowledge would automatically spread, she said.

The minor is more important in light of the recent protests in several Arab countries,

according to Tucker.

The prevalent and powerful stereotype of Islam and that every practicing Muslim is a terrorist needs to be combated, she said.

"Knowledge is power," Tucker said. "And without it we'll go on believing and continuing whatever we hear."

## Interdisciplinary coursework

The minor will include courses in religious studies, political science, philosophy, history, literature and art history. Some courses that will not be included in the catalog but will count toward the minor or concentration will be found under General Studies.

The interdisciplinary nature of the minor encourages students to look at an area from different perspectives and appreciate the region and the region's diversity, Digre said.

## Two Options

The proposed Middle Eastern studies minor will offer two different options for students:

- **International studies major concentration in the Middle East:** International studies majors must choose a regional concentration, currently one of four regions: Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. The major requires 44 semester credit hours to be completed, study abroad and foreign language proficiency.
- **Middle Eastern studies minor:** The minor, open to all majors, will be 20 semester credit hours.

# Belk embraces digital age with technological innovations

Ashley Fahey  
Copy Editor

From the introduction of the Kindles last semester to the transcription of library archives to an online format, Belk Library is beginning to embrace the digital age.

"Belk Library is looking at several technology innovations right now, all of which provide users quick, easy access to library info and resources," said Lynne Bisko, a non-print librarian at Belk. "We hope that technology will improve the visitor's experience and make it easier to find and use library resources when and where they're needed."

Some of the innovations Belk will introduce include a mobile website for the library, a mobile version of the catalog and increased usage of Quick Response, or QR codes, Bisko said. QR codes, according to the Elon University website, consist of "a matrix barcode, often referred to as a 2D barcode, that when read by a smartphone or a cell phone with a camera, displays data or goes to a website."

Bisko said QR codes are currently being used to allow users to access the entire DVD database of Belk. They will expand to post QR codes on copiers, Pharos printing stations and the DocSend station.

"In the future, we hope to offer a text message IM service, and to find additional uses for QR codes," Bisko said.

The six Kindles Belk purchased last semester are being used regularly by students, faculty and library visitors.

"We think the program has been very successful," said Shannon Tennant, a catalog librarian. "Kindles have been checked out by faculty and students

all of the community has been using them. We have a variety of titles and genres available to appeal to as many people as possible."

Tennant said the Kindles are checked out constantly and, so far, there have been no major problems with the rental program.

"The only problem, which isn't even much of one, is that Belk Library has second generation Kindles, and now that the third generation Kindle has been introduced, it is hard to find updates for the second generation," Tennant said. "But what we are looking to do now is to expand on titles offered on the Belk Kindles."

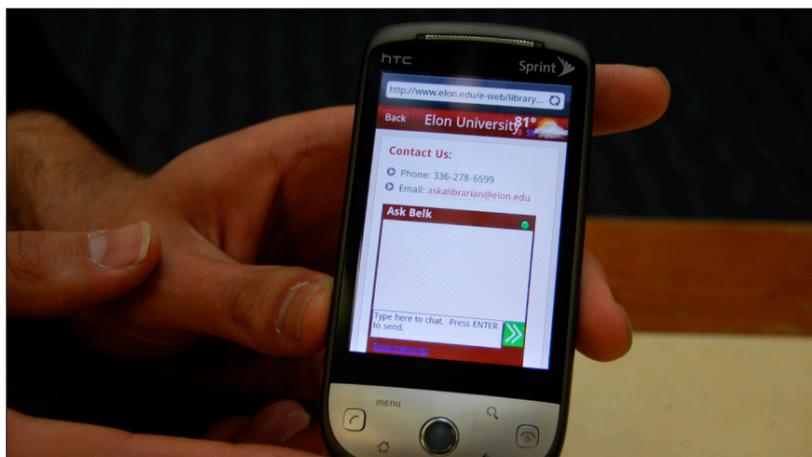
Even archiving at Elon is becoming a part of the digital world.

"I think for libraries and archives to remain relevant, online archiving is important," said Katie Nash, archivist and special collections librarian. "Specifically in the archives community, making collections available online is a luxury and necessity all at the same time."

Nash said Belk Library is using a program called Content Digital Management, or ContentDM, which is a database that stores and makes digital content accessible and organized in one place.

"Before ContentDM, we had separate websites with digital content and separate library catalog records," Nash said. "We hope to put all of the Thomas Jefferson Carret Essays in ContentDM, as well as embark on a large project to get the honors theses digitalized and available in Content DM."

One of the biggest issues with the evolution of technology in everyday society is the fear that print materials



JULIA SAYERS | Staff Photographer  
Belk Library continues to advance in technology and plans to introduce a text message IM service.

such as books, will become obsolete in years to come. But while Belk is expanding its digital and technological means, print material will still be relevant, Bisko said.

"We'll certainly see fewer purchases of physical materials, and we've noticed that already in the library," Bisko said. "However, many unresolved issues still exist related to copyright, access, quality and preservation. Plus, I think most students and faculty still prefer printed materials, especially when doing research."

The archives will also retain their original form, as there is a particular need to see certain archives in person as opposed to a digital format.

"Sometimes it is necessary to come to the physical location of where the item is housed because the digital copy is not sufficient," Nash said. "Just because there is a digital copy online does not

mean that people no longer come to a physical space of an archive."

Other advances that Belk Library has made over the past few years include blogging, widgets, instant messaging, podcasts and an increased social media presence, such as Facebook and Twitter.

Additionally, in the past 10 years, Tennant said the computer systems have changed three times.

But a desire to keep up with the times by developing technology comes with a cost.

"One of the conflicts we've faced is, of course, money," Bisko said.

According to her and Tennant, the university and library's budgets have been tightened as a result of the recent economic conditions.

"Luckily, many of the technological innovations don't cost a lot of money and can end up saving the library a lot of money in the long run," Tennant said.

# Law enforcement, students have mixed feelings about concealed weapons on college campuses

Anna Johnson  
Editor-in-Chief

Pencils, notebooks, textbooks and a M1911 pistol.

Of the above items, which one seems out of place? For college students in Utah and other states considering legislation to allow concealed weapons on college campuses, all of the items could be seen in the classroom.

Texas legislators are set to pass a bill that would allow professors and students with a concealed weapons permit to carry guns on campus.

Arizona, Nevada and Wisconsin, among other states, have proposed similar legislation. A similar bill was brought before the North Carolina General Assembly in 2009 but was defeated.

Utah is the only other state that allows students and professors to have a concealed weapon on campus. Colorado allows the individual colleges and universities to decide their own policies.

Proponents of the law say guns on campus could spur more violence, and the combination of alcohol and drugs

with guns on campus could lead to additional complications.

"I would feel on edge and uncomfortable and insecure especially on the weekends," sophomore Leigh Burgess said. "It would be a recipe for disaster."

Since concealed weapons were allowed on Utah campuses and select Colorado campuses, there haven't been any incidents of gun violence, according to Students for Concealed Carry on Campus.

A person may not be under the influence of any alcohol or drugs and carry a concealed weapon, according to North Carolina law.

"Allowing concealed carry on college campuses would have no impact on the laws regulating concealed carry at bars and off-campus parties," said the Students for Concealed Carry on Campus website.

Guns should be allowed on campuses but only by specific people, junior Leslie Johnson said.

"I believe that professors and administrators should have a gun in their desk or on them in the case of an event

## To receive a concealed weapons permit in North Carolina you must:

\* Complete a concealed carry course in North Carolina.

\* Apply in person at your local sheriff's office. You must bring your concealed carry course completion certificate and North Carolina driver's license.

\* Swear under oath that the information you provided is true.

\* Pay the license fee and the fee for fingerprinting. This is usually \$90.

\* The permit office has 90 days to review your request and you should receive notification within that time to pick it up back at your local sheriff's office. If you are not approved you will receive a notice in the mail.

like the one Virginia Tech had," Johnson said. "If students were to carry guns on campus, they should be selected through an intense process, go through extreme training and should not let it be known that they are carrying one. It would be like having an Air Marshall on campus."

During the course required for all residents seeking a concealed weapons permit, training is focused on gun safety and how to shoot, said LaVell Lovette, Elon Police Department chief. Nothing is taught, she said, on the circumstances of evaluating safety and target acquisition.

It would be difficult for students defending themselves to be distinguished from a campus shooter, said Chuck Gantos, Campus Safety and Police director.

"You wouldn't know who the good guys are and who the bad guys are," he said. "And that is a situation you don't want to be in. That's how the wrong people get hurt."

Since 1995, there have been 3,883 permit applications in Alamance County, according to the North Carolina Department of Justice.

# SGA participation, voter turn out reflects apathy

Melissa Kansky  
Assistant News Editor

Student government elections concluded Feb. 23 with 10 seats still vacant. After a two-day election period, approximately 36 percent of the student body voted.

"I think it reflects how people in society vote in the United States," said Jana Lynn Patterson, assistant vice president of students and SGA adviser. "I think we have some of the races uncontested, so unless it is a fairly highly contested race, people don't feel a need to vote in it."

Jordan McFarland, co-chair of the election committee, said he believes the voter turnout is representative of the student body's relationship to SGA.

"I think if we make our relationship with the general student body better, we won't have as many vacant seats because they would know what SGA is and what SGA does," he said.

While students filled all positions on the executive board, three positions in both the junior and senior class council are vacant.

Each class is responsible for a specific component of the university. Sophomore representatives organize the housing fair, juniors plan luminaries and seniors collaborate with institutional advancement and work to select the commencement speaker.

"Most active is the senior class," Patterson said. "And that's the least opposed (election)."

According to Patterson, as students become more involved in other activities at Elon, they become less involved in SGA.

"We've seen this as a trend in the senior class," Patterson said, "It dwindles as (students) get older. It indicates where people are getting involved in other things."

Although there are numerous vacancies, Hillary Srsic, one of the co-chairs for the election committee, said she is confident that all the vacant seats will be filled by April 1, the beginning of the Senate term.

"Usually vacant seats are filled fairly quickly," she said. "People come out of the woodwork."

All students interested in serving on SGA are encouraged to speak with executive president elect, Sam Warren, but Srsic said that those who campaigned are given priority.

## SGA and the student body

Although Srsic said she believed the positions would be filled shortly, Patterson attributed the disinterest to a potential lack of understanding concerning the roles of SGA and the amount of money SGA allocates throughout the year. SGA manages \$500,000 each year.

"People running SGA have a lot of say of what goes on (around) campus and control a lot of money in student organizations," Srsic said. "Because everyone is in a club at Elon, saying 'I

don't care who is in charge of the money' is kind of like saying 'I don't care if I get the money.'"

Patterson said she hopes SGA will continue to engage in conversations with the student body.

"I think Elon does a great job with engaged learning in the classroom," McFarland said. "But outside the class, it falls directly on the students, and if they don't feel passionately about what the subject matter is, I guess they will ignore it like anything else."

This year, 1,827 students voted compared to 2,237 votes cast last year. Srsic said she believes the decline is associated with the proposed outdoor pool last year. She said she believes students had a greater interest in a pool than changes in the SGA constitution.

"I wish that there was more outreach from SGA to student organizations to talk about what we do," Patterson said.

In addition to managing money, the members of the executive board are also paid.

"If they realize the four execs are paid a stipend there would be a different level of accountability," she said.

## Move to the future

Patterson said she believes the election period factors into the voter turnout. The two-day voting period is continued from the former manual voting process. It was to allow students to vote who didn't get to previously because of class times that conflicted with the voting schedule.

## Executive Board Results

The student body elected Sam Warren to serve as executive president.

"I am excited to be the voice of the student body," Warren said. "I'm excited that people heard my ideas and like them and excited to improve SGA and have a better year."

Elected executive board members also include Rachel Long, Nicholas Livengood and Joseph Garner, although two out of three of those races were uncontested. Long and Livengood ran unopposed for executive vice-president and executive treasurer, respectively, and Joseph Garner won executive secretary with 1,096 votes.

She said she is challenging SGA to look at 24-hour balloting because the majority of students who vote participate the first day.

"Psychologically, if you say there is one voting day, I think it will make it more urgent to people," she said.

According to Srsic, approximately 1,500 of the 1,827 votes, 82 percent, were cast the first day.

While Patterson acknowledged that the other 300 votes did count toward the total and did help whoever won, she said she thinks more people would participate if the process were quicker and students were only given one day.

# Proposed changes in School of Communications could require additional specializations to graduate

Becca Tynes  
Senior Reporter

The School of Communications administration is now considering requiring all communications students to complete a second major, a minor or a semester abroad.

"We're not yet sure that these changes will take place," said Paul Parsons, dean of the School of Communications. "They are on hold pending the upcoming general studies review."

The general studies curriculum is primarily focused within the College of Arts and Sciences, said Kenn Gaither, associate dean of the School of Communications.

"Because arts and sciences are at the core of an Elon education, the changes that occur within general studies will naturally affect the other schools," Gaither said.

Accreditation places the arts and sciences and communications as core related academic areas, Gaither said. This is why students in accredited programs must take a certain number of credits in the School of Arts and Sciences, he said.

These possible requirements are not currently being formally proposed, but Parsons said the majority of faculty and staff members within the School of Communications would support the idea.

"Three-fourths of the faculty was in favor of the proposition, while one-fourth was not," Gaither said.

Students who complete an additional major or minor are more marketable upon graduation, he said.

"We want students to be challenged across their years while at Elon," Gaither said. "To add another major or minor as a requirement for communications students does not

disrupt the academic pathway they are already on. It will simply make them more marketable when applying for jobs."

Deirdre Walsh, a sophomore in the School of Communications, said she agrees with Gaither. She said the potential requirement would bring out the best in all students.

"Students who have just a major in communications can only get so far in life," Walsh said. "You need other experiences and knowledge outside the School of Communications in order to succeed. This potential requirement will assist students with the experiences and knowledge necessary to succeed in any job after college."

220 students in the Class of 2010 graduated from the School of Communications, and 82 percent either spent a semester abroad or completed another major or minor, Parsons said.

"Five out of six students in our school are already either studying abroad for a semester or completing a double major or additional minor," Parsons said. "The one out of six students who did not study abroad for a semester or complete a double major or minor took a very unchallenging senior year course load."

The School's proposition is tied to the belief that students will do better while at school and in the future if they have greater academic depth, Parsons said.

"Our hope is that by the time our students are seniors, they still challenge themselves," Gaither said. "The challenge should be across every semester at Elon."

A draft of the proposed general studies curriculum will be released this spring, Parsons said, and changes within the school will be made pending the review.

# Students, faculty agree Elon is politically neutral

Kassondra Cloos  
News Editor

Students and professors at Elon University say that while political leanings on campus are visible, the institution as a whole is largely neutral.

According to CampusReform.org, a national organization for conservative student activists, many of the top U.S. colleges and universities have a leftist bias that needs to be exposed. Professors with extremist liberal agendas, the organization says, are detrimental to the academic process.

But while many other schools around the U.S. have been categorized as either politically conservative or liberal, students and professors say Elon is supportive of open-mindedness and is unbiased.

## CampusReform.org aims to "combat radical left"

CampusReform.org's mission states that the organization was designed to provide conservative activists with the resources, networking capabilities and skills needed to revolutionize the struggle against leftist bias and abuse on college campuses.

"CampusReform.org makes possible a new generation of student activism to identify, expose and combat the radical left now," its mission reads.

Even though Elon has a policy for academic freedom that gives professors the opportunity to be creative with their teaching styles and curriculums, Provost Steven House said professors do not take advantage of this to promote political agendas.

"I wouldn't hire a person like that," he said. "I don't think a good teacher does that and I think we've got good teachers."

While Elon is not profiled on the organization's "Conservative Guide to the Top 100 Schools," nearby Duke University's profile, compiled by 2009 Elon graduate Amanda Prevette, highlights many liberal aspects of the academic process at Duke.

According to the profile, 93 percent of Duke faculty and staff who contributed to the 2008 political campaigns donated to Democratic candidates.

"The purpose of showing

the faculty contributions is a way to show the possibility of liberal bias in the classroom," Prevette said.

Several faculty members are also highlighted in the profile for their liberal interests.

"In theory, there is nothing wrong with having multiple viewpoints on campus," Prevette said. "This is actually why we started pushing for campuses to bring a class on conservatism to counter the imbalance in curriculum, too. Many colleges offer courses on liberalism, socialism or Marxism, but rarely are there courses on conservatism."

House said faculty at Elon strive to encourage their students to be more open-minded and push them to ask questions that challenge their own beliefs.

Students should always be uncomfortable, he said. Faculty try to stretch students as much as possible.

"We have you ask questions you didn't want to ask," House said. "That's what this institution is about. That's why you pay a lot of money."

## The student perspective

According to several politically active students on campus, professors at Elon do not take advantage of their influential positions to promote specific agendas.

"In the classroom, most professors I've had try to be fair," said senior Nick Ochsner, executive director of College Republicans. "If they present their opinion, they make it clear it's their opinion."

Arron Jones-Williams, president of College Democrats, said most professors, particularly in the political science department, make an effort to stay neutral. Many, he said, even refuse to reveal their political affiliations to students.

"It's hard to technically tell whether there is an official bias because some professors won't tell you," he said.

Ochsner said while it would be difficult to find a conservative bias on campus, his conservative views have been strengthened by openly liberal faculty members.

Prevette, who was also a



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Despite claims that numerous colleges across the nation promote liberal ideas, students and professors say Elon is politically neutral.

leader of College Republicans during her time at Elon, agreed.

"I don't really think the political leanings of my professors influenced me," she said. "I actually came to Elon already a strong conservative and, if anything, I walked away from Elon stronger in my political persuasions."

While Campus Reform provides resources for students to oppose violence stemming from political disagreements, Prevette said she never experienced violent or unpleasant behavior while at Elon.

"Even the liberal professors I had were open to my views," she said.

Alex Lewis, vice president of events for College Democrats, also said professors' political impact on students is not significant.

"People are smart here," he said. "They think about things. The vast majority of people here are very smart and form their own conclusions."

## What professors think

"I don't care to create clones of myself," said Ismail Lagardien, assistant professor of political science. "When you're dealing with youth, they're not yours to manipulate."

Lagardien said facts and theories are not value-free; people are inclined to search for and choose facts that support their opinions. But, he said while it's easy to abuse the power one has while at the head of a class, his personal political ideologies do not influence the way he teaches. Rather, the goal is to open students' minds and show them a range of possibilities.

"The responsibility is not to change minds," he said. "I think we make a big mistake if we think students are stupid, if we think we can 'turn them around.'"

According to Mileah Kromer, assistant professor of political science and assistant director of the Elon University Poll, studies have shown that politically biased professors do not influence the ideologies of their students.

"Studies indicate students' beliefs are highly solidified (when they get to college)," Kromer said. "Any sort of small bias a professor might have will have a negligible influence."

Earl Danieleley, president emeritus and adjunct professor of chemistry, said while he was president of Elon, he made a point to offset Democrat speakers with Republican and vice versa. As faculty adviser for College Republicans for the

past 38 years, Danieleley said while he thinks two-thirds of Elon's faculty would identify as liberal, the university itself is largely politically neutral.

"I think that occasionally we'll have a young professor who influences students by his opinion," Danieleley said. "(But) as far as I know, and I've been on faculty for 65 years, it's been very rare that I've ever heard of any faculty member on this faculty taking advantage of class (to promote a platform)."

Kromer said in the event a professor assigns a "biased" reading, students should not automatically assume the professor wants them to believe it.

"We're interested in quality of education, not pushing agendas," she said.

Danieleley agreed, saying he does not think students should go to class to hear "political babble" from their professors.

"The classroom is sort of a sacred platform," he said. "You ought never to take advantage of students by propagandizing."

Just as House said that the purpose of attending college is to become more open-minded, Lagardien said he exposes students to different ideas and then, at the end of class, leaves it up to the students to decide.

"Always remember," he said. "We're not always right."

## Yearbook to expand online content with introduction of QR readers

Eva Hill  
Copy Chief

This year, Elon University's yearbook will be expanding its multimedia content with the addition of quick response, QR, readers in each section of the publication.

Elon will be one of the first yearbooks in the country to include the readers, said Shandi Foster, the local senior representative for Balfour Taylor yearbooks.

"It is a code that can be placed anywhere," she said. "You can use your phone and download an app and you can play streaming video immediately."

The yearbook is planning to use the QR readers to direct students and faculty to online video content, said Lauren Needell, yearbook editor-in-chief.

"You would scan it on your smartphone and it would pull up a webpage," she said. "We haven't fine-tuned it yet, but that's what we're thinking."

Foster said the online content is hosted by Balfour Taylor and is completely secure. The content will be able to be accessed by anyone with a smartphone, but for people who don't have a smartphone, there will be a URL at the bottom of the page.

Many publications are now using QR readers, according to Randy Piland, yearbook adviser and lecturer in the School of Communications.

"The technology on smartphones

allows the phones to read the codes, and this is a way to enhance the printed book and give it something fresh and new," he said. "It adds dimension to the yearbook."

For students to access the content on their phones, they take a picture of the barcode on the page and it opens in an app that immediately directs them to the Web.

Foster said Balfour Taylor, which is based out of Dallas, proposed the idea to Elon's yearbook in early February. She said everyone seemed to get really excited about the idea.

"I think it's going to make the yearbook completely interactive and spark a new interest for this generation," she said. "Anytime you can add technology into something, young people like it."

According to Needell, there will be five codes in this year's edition of the yearbook. The codes will be printed in each section: student life, academics, sports, seniors and news.

"The yearbooks are free and are covered by Elon tuition," she said. "They come out in the summer and are distributed to students in the fall of 2011. If seniors want a copy, they can send a shipping fee and will ship it to them."

Foster said this timetable is what made it possible for Elon's yearbook to have the QR readers before many other schools.

"Because Elon's book is finished

### Instructions for using the reader:

Take a photo of the code and download a QR reader application on your smartphone. You'll then be redirected to The Pendulum's home page. You can also follow the URL if you don't have a smartphone.

during the summertime and doesn't ship until August, Elon will be one of the first in the country to use QR readers," she said.

Needell said the video content is still being decided, but could include Elon-related events such as sporting events and the commencement ceremony. She said Balfour Taylor would save the content and people will be able to access it in 30 years.

"The readers are becoming more popular," she said. "They have been in magazines and advertisements, like Cosmo and Women's Health."

According to Piland, the timing was right and the yearbook staff took advantage of the chance to be one of the first college yearbooks to use the barcodes.

"We see an opportunity to try something new and it is a technology additive to a printed book, and it feels like it will be interesting to see how it turns out," he said.



EVA HILL | Graphics Contributor

# Lumen Prize applicants demonstrate passion, drive in pursuit of scholarship

Rebecca Iannucci  
Copy Editor

The application process for this year's Lumen Prize is testing the dedication of some hopefuls.

According to Paul Fromson, director of the Lumen Prize program, interested sophomores must have their applications submitted by the deadline of 12 p.m. Wednesday, March 16.

The Lumen Prize, which is currently in its fourth year, awards \$15,000 to rising juniors in pursuit of exceptional educational journeys, Fromson said.

Established in 2007, the Lumen Prize financially supports a maximum of 15 scholars, all of whom work closely with a mentor at Elon throughout their research. Scholars will ultimately present their projects.

"One thing about the intellectual life is that you don't keep it to yourself," Fromson said. "At the end of it all, you share it with appropriate audiences."

Many of Elon's 2010 Lumen Prize scholars will present their research at national conferences, such as the National American Chemical Society Meeting and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Other projects will be submitted to scholarly journals.

Fromson said the stakes get higher each

year, which is why only 15 students are selected.

"It seems to be a number that sustains an active interest in people pursuing it," he said. "It raises the bar higher for everybody."

The application process is rigorous, including a background statement from the applicant, a letter of nomination from his or her mentor and a letter of recommendation from someone who knows the student's capabilities.

"They realize the challenge that (the student is) setting for themselves," Fromson said. "It's more than just, 'She's a nice girl.'"

Kelly Little, a psychology major and 2010 Lumen scholar, said she recognized the difficulty of the application process.

"I'm grateful that it forced me to work ahead and get a good start on my research," she said. "But I'm not going to lie. There were times that I wanted to give up and forget the scholarship."

But for many students, the application process felt more rewarding.

"(It) gave me insight into what it's actually like to write a project or grant proposal in graduate school," junior Kelly Giffear said. "The revisions and dedication were strenuous, but in the end, the time and effort were worth it."

This commitment is common in many of the scholars, Fromson said. The students who are chosen have found a way to

communicate their passion.

"To submit a successful application, you have to demonstrate that you've already been thinking," he said. "They've already done their homework."

Sophomore applicant Lyndsay Burch has prepared by talking with other professors who have either been involved with the Lumen Prize or have had to apply for their own research grants.

Still, Burch said, the application process has been a test of her dedication.

"I've found it so difficult because it's almost never-ending," she said. "As soon as you finish one part, you're moving on to the next part."

Fromson said the rewards of the Lumen Prize are invaluable. The intangible gifts like heightened self-confidence make the project worthwhile.

"Ever since I was little, I knew I wanted to be a psychology major," said junior Ruth Robbins, a 2010 Lumen scholar. "I believe the Lumen Prize has provided me with a wonderful opportunity to conduct research so that I'm more knowledgeable about what I'll pursue once I graduate."

Fromson said the program has plenty of room to grow. As the quality of students' research improves, the number of chosen scholars may increase.

"Fifteen is a good number right now, but it might be appropriate to grow," he said.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Elon alumna named Burlington detective of the year

Sgt. Kelle Sisk, a 2003 alumna, was named the Burlington Police Department detective of the year. During Sisk's senior year at Elon University, she interned at the Burlington Police Department. She was hired by the department shortly after she graduated.

### Accounting fraternity places first in Best Practices Competition

Elon students Alex Dempsey, Madeline Benn and Jake Schoenfeld placed first out of six teams in the Enhancing Our Role in Environmental Sustainability and Social Responsibility category as part of Elon's chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, an accounting fraternity. Jamie Milliski, Sam Upton, Justin Wanner and David Campbell competed in the Helping Others Understand the Financial Information Profession category.

### Business scholarship application now available

Applications for the 2011-2012 Martha and Spencer Love School of Business Endowed Scholarships are available on E-net or by contacting Kristin Barrier at [kbarrier@elon.edu](mailto:kbarrier@elon.edu). Students must include a resume, OnTrack transcript and return the application by 5 p.m. March 18 to KOBC 100.

### Elon's Bateman Team hosts Financial Friday Festival

The Elon University's Bateman Team will host the Financial Friday Festival from 2-4 p.m. outside of Moseley Center Friday, March 4. The activities include a competition testing members of various organizations to complete financial tasks and a performance by Black and Blue, an Elon student band.

## Calendar: March 2-March 8

### MARCH 2

\* Must-Have-Mozart: 7:30 p.m., Whitley Auditorium  
\* H. Shelton Smith lecture with Gail O'Day: 7:30 p.m., Yeager Recital Hall

### MARCH 3

\* A Dialogue with three Ethiopian-Israelis: 11:30 a.m., Moseley 216  
\* The Silk Road: Discovering China's Religion and Art: 7 p.m., LaRose Digital Theatre

### MARCH 4

\* SUBlive presents Jacob Danieley: 8:30 p.m., Irazu  
\* Department of Music Chamber Ensembles Concert: 7:30 p.m., Whitley Auditorium

### MARCH 5

\* Job Search Boot Camp: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., location TBD

### MARCH 6

\* Sunday Worship: Ecumenical Protestant Service, 10:30 a.m., Holt Chapel  
\* LEAF weekly worship and fellowship: 5 p.m., Holt Chapel

### MARCH 7

\* Mark Stankard, Toplu: 5:30 pm., Isabella Cannon Room  
\* Destination D.C.: Alumni discuss living and working in D.C.: 7 pm., Koury Business Center 101

### MARCH 8

\* College Coffee, 9:40 a.m., Phi Beta Kappa Commons  
\* Semester study abroad open advising and academic planning session: 2-3:30 p.m., Carlton 113

**For more dates and information about campus events, visit the calendar on the Elon website.**

**who's in your network? april 4, 2011**

# Editorial

## New construction's first victims: Nature's giants

What dominates Elon's campus even more than the bricks and white columns? The towering oaks, of course. The word Elon literally means oak, as most students know. Oaks, and other types of trees, define the landscape of Elon's campus. We become official Elon students and graduate under their leafy canopies.

But as the university moves forward with its next phase of construction, these crucial staples on campus are some of the first victims. At the Elon Town Center construction site, developer John McDonald said two of the trees will be scaled back and one will be taken down because it won't survive the construction conditions.

On the site of the new multi-faith center in the Academic Pavilion, there are two Southern Red Oak trees that Neil Bromilow, director of planning, design and construction management, said are more than 100 years old. He said they lie directly in the middle of the planned building and will have to come down.

The Moseley Center expansion and demolition of Story Center will also impact dozens of trees, as will the new Station at Mill Point, the new name for the senior village, across from the Elon Fire Department.

Tom Flood, director of landscaping and grounds, said these areas aren't of real concern, since the trees that have grown there are of a fast-growing variety and are only as old as the buildings. But what about those trees whose lifespan has lasted as long as the university itself?

Brad Moore, associate director of planning, design and construction management, and Bromilow emphasized that there is a plan for the large trees that need to be torn down. They described a process that would include harvesting, cutting and curing them to be used as lumber within the construction of the new building.

"That's the ultimate case of recycling," Bromilow said.

While demolition and construction aren't supposed to start for several months, students who were here last year will recall Elon was in the process of tearing down several very large trees to make way for the new Colonnades dormitories on an interesting date last year, Earth Day. Bromilow said this has no impact on when the university decides to cut.

"The faster we start, the quicker we finish, the quicker we have beds," he said.

But with one of The Elon Commitment's goals being to promote sustainability, one has to question the need to build so much more and tear down so much natural vegetation.

Flood said small trees around campus will be relocated, if possible, and that the university plants nearly 180 new trees each year since the probability of a tree living is very slim.

Whatever the eventual plan is for those who have a vision of the green, leafy Elon can only hope the process of landscaping around these new projects is as impressive as the buildings themselves.



TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer  
A tree in the Academic Pavilion next to those that will fall victim to construction projects later this year.

### TO COMMENT ...

We appreciate original responses to Pendulum articles. Feedback of 500 words or less can be sent in several ways.

Letters to the editor and columns can be e-mailed to [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) or sent to 7012 Campus Box, Elon, N.C. 27244. 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.elon.edu/pendulum](http://www.elon.edu/pendulum) where commentary can be quickly posted.



LIBBY MCGUIRE | Cartoonist

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Drs. House and Lambert:

This letter is being written regarding the recent tenure decision of Dr. Lisa Marie Peloquin. As students, we are absolutely appalled by her denial of tenure, and cannot fathom how Dr. Peloquin's dedication to the university, its students, and her identity as a scholar does not coalesce with Elon's visions of engaged learning and the teacher-scholar.

It should come as no surprise to you that Dr. Peloquin is an incredible professor. Her evaluations are consistently stellar, and with good reason. She is uncompromisingly intellectual, virtuous, challenging, creative, and caring -- all qualities of a great professor. Students who have

not even taken classes with her have heard how wonderful of a teacher she is. She challenges students to reach their utmost potential as emerging scholars and, of equal or perhaps greater importance, mindful and humanitarian citizens of the world. She believes in us, and we believe in her.

Lest this be viewed as a popularity contest, Dr. Peloquin's encouragement of her students extends far beyond the classroom and her end-of-term reviews. She has mentored Fellows and non-Fellows alike in independent research projects. She has met with students during office hours to discuss all manner of concerns, problems, joys--anything on a student's mind or heart is always welcomed with compassion and understanding. She advises

the sociology honor society of her own accord, taking time to facilitate meetings, organize social events, and serve the community. There is absolutely nothing she would not do in the name of her students or her discipline. Likewise, Dr. Peloquin has served on several university-related boards and committees, and her service to Elon is absolutely incomparable.

Dr. Peloquin's commitment to her students is unparalleled. Now, we stand in support of her as she has done for us so many times in the past. We ask earnestly and humbly that you reconsider before submitting your decision to the Board of Trustees.

Thank you for your time,

Anonymous students

### THE PENDULUM

Established 19

The Pendulum is published each Wednesday the academic year. Advertising and edit copy deadline is 5 p.m. Friday before publication. Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed and e-mailed with a telephone number for verification. Submissions are accepted as Word documents. Pendulum reserves the right to edit obnoxious and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will be returned. You can reach The Pendulum by e-mail at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu). If you have questions or concerns about an article, contact the section editor. Please do not respond to reports directly.

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### MORE ONLINE: OPINIONS

Spring break is just a few weeks away, so how's that bikini body looking? Make a resolution to get in shape and follow the stories of five Pendulum staffers as they tackle their own New Year's goals at:

[www.pendulumresolutions.wordpress.com](http://www.pendulumresolutions.wordpress.com)

There's always more to read on the Opinions blog. Check it out at:

[www.pendulumopinions.wordpress.com](http://www.pendulumopinions.wordpress.com)

Sunday was Hollywood's biggest night. Nicole Monge discusses how this year's movies reflected our society and culture.



MORE ONLINE

# Opinions

## Texas legislature proposes allowing guns on campuses



**Kassondra Cloos**  
Guest Columnist

Incidents involving firearms make up less than 1 percent of all fatal accidents nationwide, according to the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action. But that statistic was calculated before senators in Texas proposed allowing college students to bring guns to campus. If this bill and others like it are approved, that number will skyrocket.

Many proponents of the bill, including students, say that a gun-free campus is a free-for-all for mass murderers. Permitting students to carry firearms, they say, eliminates this problem since other gun-wielding students can neutralize threats with their own weapons. In reality, though, allowing guns makes it more difficult to pinpoint who is bringing a weapon for reasons other than defense.

Currently, guns stick out. If they're in the wrong hands, they make people feel uneasy. In the right hands, some people feel safer. But if 20 people brought shiny new pistols to biology class, it would be impossible to tell whose intentions are good and

whose are not. It would make everyone feel jittery at the sound of a loud noise or the sight of a sudden movement.

Granted, not everyone would run out and buy a gun just for the sake of having one. But some people will, hoping to be the hero in the unlikely event of a campus tragedy. Some of these students, despite legislators' move to require eight-hour training sessions in conjunction with the law, will undoubtedly not be the best of marksmen. It will literally take a student's death to force legislators to reconsider. Anti-arms students would judge those who carried guns and inevitably creating a visible split between the two groups on campus, likely stirring more serious conflicts.

Many students at Elon, like freshman Sierra Ferrier, were astonished that this law is even being proposed, let alone heavily supported.

"I think it is a bad, bad idea to even have something like that available," Ferrier said. "I don't see it as self defense in a school setting, like at Elon."

Ferrier raises a good point. One of the main problems with allowing college students to carry guns is the issue of responsibility. At Elon, students with cars are required to attend sessions about car safety on campus. Are institutions going to require students to attend sessions about gun safety? When is it OK to fire? When hundreds of people are dying

every year in drunken driving accidents, it's hard to avoid thinking about the worst-case scenario, in which a drunken student foolishly fires a gun into the air and a classic shooting scene from an old western movie becomes a tragic reality.

Even students who have been eye-witnesses to college shootings do not think more guns are the answer. In a New York Times article, a student caught in the middle of a campus shooting in Arizona said he did not think having two people firing at each other in public would solve any problems. Rather, this would just cause more confusion, chaos and danger.

Allowing guns on college campuses will only add to the uneasiness of walking at night. With the knowledge that anyone could have a gun at any time, that shadow turning the corner just got a whole lot scarier.

### MORE ONLINE: OPINIONS

Elon students share their feelings on guns on college campuses.

<http://bit.ly/TPOGuns>

JEFF STERN | Online Editor-In-Chief

## Finding and fighting the roots of a social problem



**Ashley Jobe**  
Columnist

There is a significant portion of this society that we will never know. We won't know what they would have said, and what they would have done with their lives, if given the

chance.

We won't know what those people will be capable of, but we will know what they would have looked like. Beautiful, mauve, tan, brown, caramel. They would have, collectively, made up a pigmented, ethnic people - versions of their culturally diverse mothers.

But they aren't here. They're gone.

According to the website [blackdignity.com](http://blackdignity.com), approximately the same amount of black children are aborted as are born each year. Since 1973, abortion has reduced the black population by more than 25 percent. Approximately 80 percent of abortion facilities are located in minority neighborhoods, and an black baby is three times as likely to be aborted as a white baby.

In the black demographic, abortion tallies prevail over deaths that occur as a result of AIDS, accidents, violent crimes, cancer and heart disease combined.

The bottom line is that abortion of black children has resulted in the No. 1 cause of death in the black community in the United States. Black women make up 13 percent of the population but receive more than 35 percent of the abortions nationwide. Shocking doesn't even begin to describe these statistics. These decisions to terminate pregnancies are singlehandedly decimating this particular demographic.

Black women, individually, have no obligation to make decisions on behalf of a number of people to whom they are not related, but with whom they share physical characteristics. Of course, no one woman speaks on behalf of every woman who must grapple with abortion. Each woman has her own story to tell, her own reasons for the decisions she has made. Of this I am sure, and am

firmly dedicated to acknowledging each woman's individual freedoms.

But it is troubling that it appears that the pigmentation of one's skin has the potential to affect whether he or she makes it into this world. In fact, it is not that at all. The problem is in no way merely skin-deep. The systematic disadvantages this particular racial category is subjected to are the factors that lead unwanted pregnancy to run rampant in those communities. Could it be that racial categorization is coincidental, not causal?

Perhaps it is the lack of equal access to education, or the lack of access to preventative pregnancy measures. Indeed, there are women who have wanton, inconsiderate sex without regard for the consequences, but what of those without the tools or knowledge to protect themselves?

Perhaps it is the fact that more than half of American black children are raised in a single parent household, 91.4 percent of those parents being mothers. The U.S. Census Bureau has startling statistics, data and articles that support these statements.

Maybe these women hope to avoid becoming a statistic, or confronting a future where their single parenthood may force them to succumb to limited opportunities for a successful life.

To bring new life into the world is to be able to provide financially and be supportive in every way possible for one's offspring. If a woman isn't in the position to ensure the best education for her child, to raise it in a complete, loving family, to feed, clothe and uplift it emotionally, I'm sure she would feel a significant amount of apprehension about claiming sole responsibility of the potential child.

But there is no excusing a woman's knowledge of her personal circumstance. If she knows she is not ready to be a parent, she should know she is not ready to have sex. But what seems to be true is that history repeats itself. Those that cannot remember or do not acknowledge the past are doomed to repeat it.

There is no answer, no conclusion to this issue. The origins are unknown, and no one cause is the reason for these dilemmas. I hope only to bring awareness to the troubling fact that so many have to make this life-changing decision in the first place.

## Planned Parenthood provides vital services



**Alexa Johnson**  
Columnist

To believe that Planned Parenthood is a one-stop shop for abortion would be a grave error, one that apparently 240 members of the House of

Representatives made two weeks ago when they voted to cut government funding for Planned Parenthood.

The idea was apparently to ensure that taxpayer dollars would not pay for abortions, that the "godless" organization of Planned Parenthood should not be awarded for "preying on minorities" and manipulating young women into aborting the slowly-forming fetuses inside of their bodies.

Except the problem with this is that Planned Parenthood isn't an abortion horror house. It is a family planning center that supplies educational material and contraceptives, in addition to cancer and STD screenings to women, many of whom would be unable to afford these services on their own.

Unfortunately, this anti-choice, anti-abortion, anti-woman thought has begun to spread in the last few weeks.

Republicans in Ohio are trying to pass a "heartbeat bill" that would prohibit abortions once there is evidence that a fetus has a heartbeat, which usually occurs around 10 weeks. The bill is in clear violation of Roe v. Wade, which states that women have the right to abort until a fetus is considered "viable," or can potentially live outside the mother's womb with artificial aid.

In Iowa, Republicans are trying to define life as beginning at conception.

In Texas, a bill was passed last week requiring doctors to perform an ultrasound hours before a scheduled abortion and inform the mother about fetal details, such as if it has organs or limbs.

The latest state to join the free-for-all is Virginia, which recently introduced a bill that requires abortion clinics to be regulated the same way hospitals are, rather than a doctor's office setting, which would be admirable, except that some of the

provisions are unnecessary and could result in the closing of 17 out of 21 clinics in the state.

This is problematic to say the least. It is folly to assume that someone who needs an abortion badly enough will, if given no other choice, try to get rid of the pregnancy on her own, or find a place that is not safe or clean to have the procedure performed.

To take measures beyond supplying a woman with reading material on her other options and to attempt to manipulate rather than support her, is wrong. It is unfathomable that people have such little trust in women and that they think a female should not have the right and ability to weigh her options and decide to carry out her pregnancy, a decision that will affect her future in a very real and radical way.

But perhaps even more disappointing than the government's clear distrust in the intelligence and rationalization skills of the female gender is that no one appears to be acknowledging the irony of the situation.

The government at the national level is cutting funding to an organization that promotes safe sex and gives women contraceptives if they are having sex, to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

But the government at the state level, in some areas, also wants to make it difficult or even impossible for the same women to take care of unwanted pregnancies.

There seems to be a logic issue here.

Perhaps the first thing the government should be focusing on, instead of debating when life begins, or if removing a bundle of cells is wrong, is that in addition to married and unwed adults, teens are also having sex, whether they are fed abstinence-only education or not.

Creating a comprehensive sex education course that high schools would be required to teach might go a long way in preventing pregnancy or abortion from even becoming an issue.

But until that happens, or more accurately, if there is even the slimmest chance that Americans can stop being uncomfortable educating the youth about a very real aspect of life, the government should think more carefully about stripping women of their rights and control of their bodies.

# Style

## Acappalooza brings universities, voices together



HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor



HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

**Gabriela Szwecow**  
Design Chief

Elon University's all-female a cappella group, Sweet Signatures hosted Acappalooza, the 9th annual a cappella event, at 7 p.m. Feb. 26 in Whitley Auditorium.

All three of Elon's a cappella groups performed, as well as groups from other colleges and universities.

Sweet Signatures performed "Tainted Love" by Soft Cell and their newest song, "Shark in the Water" by V.V. Brown.

Elon's all-male a cappella

group, Rip\_Chord, performed "Fix You" by Coldplay, "Lay 'Em Down" by Needtobreathe and "I Want It That Way" by the Backstreet Boys.

The women of Sweet Signatures extended invitations to other campuses a cappella groups. The UNC Greensboro Sapphires, the University of Maryland Pandemonium, the University of Georgia Accidentals, the Duke University Out of the Blue, the Virginia Tech Juxtaposition, the UNC Greensboro Spartones and the James Madison University BluesTones all shared the stage.



TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer

### MORE ONLINE: STYLE

#### VIDEO:

A profile on Anna Hunsucker, the president of Sweet Signatures.

<http://bit.ly/TPOsweetsigs>



MARGARET CISSEL | Multimedia Editor

Top: Virginia Tech's all-male a cappella group, Juxtaposition, performed at the 9th annual Acappalooza hosted by Sweet Signatures. The group made the trek from Blacksburg, Va., to Elon for the event. Above: Rip\_Chord performed Coldplay's "Fix You" and other arrangements at Acappalooza. The event, hosted Feb. 26, featured a cappella groups from across the East Coast. Top Right: Senior Sam Gyllenhaal of Elon's coed a cappella group Twisted Measure croons during their set at Acappalooza. All of Elon's a cappella groups participated in the event.

## Sweet Signatures releases album on iTunes

**Julia Sayers**  
Staff Photographer

Elon University's all-female a cappella group Sweet Signatures has had a busy and exciting year. The group, consisting of 17 women, released an album on iTunes this year, was nominated for three awards and was selected to be on two national compilation albums.

The album, "Love Affair," is a collection of songs that Sweet Signatures has recorded in recent years, including "Used to Love You" by John Legend and "Go Ahead" by Alicia Keys.

"It's just a collection of some of our most favorite songs in the past few years," said Anna Hunsucker, president of Sweet Signatures.

Sweet Signatures spent the first week of summer recording the album in Durham and the CD came out in November. The CD was nominated for Best Female College Album in the Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards, through the Contemporary A Cappella Society of America.

Individual songs on the album nominated for CARAs included "Tainted Love" by Soft Cell for Best Song and "Goodbye" by Kristinia DeBarge for Best Female Arrangement. Kate Austin, who graduated last May, arranged the

song. The group finds out in April if it won any of the awards.

The single "Tainted Love" was also selected to be on the national compilation album "Sing." The album is considered to be a celebration of a cappella. Sweet Signatures was also chosen to be on the "Best of College A Cappella" album, "BOCA 2011." A cappella groups submitted their albums and the best were selected by judges from CASA. When a group is chosen, it signs a contract and purchases a certain number of CDs to sell.

"BOCA features some of the best groups in the country," Hunsucker said. "One group was even on NBC's 'Sing Off.'"

Sweet Signatures annually hosts "Acappalooza," an event which invites a cappella groups from up and down the East Coast to perform. The show is normally held in the fall but due to conflicts, it took place in February. This year, groups from Georgia, Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina participated. Along with Sweet Signatures, Elon's two other a cappella groups, Twisted Measure and Rip\_Chord, also performed.

"It's not a competition. It's a night to celebrate singing and meet other groups," Hunsucker said.

On April 16, Sweet Signatures will hold their spring concert. This year



HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

Elon's all-female a cappella group Sweet Signatures hosted and performed at Acappalooza after a successful year filled with awards and recordings.

marks the group's 10th anniversary.

"We're expecting alumni and the (Sweet Signatures) founders to come," Hunsucker said. "It's going to be a huge celebration."

In addition to performing at Elon, Sweet Signatures has also been hired to perform at weddings.

Auditions for Sweet Signatures are

held in the fall, typically during the second week of school. The auditions start as open call auditions where hopefuls sing a verse and chorus of their choice. If they get a callback, they will sing a song and will be taught a verse and chorus to sing. New members are selected in a separate audition after their callbacks.



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Elon senior Holland Felts competed in and won the Miss Lake Norman Pageant Feb. 9. It was Felts' first win at a pageant. Felts will go to Peace College June 18 for a week of preparation for the Miss North Carolina Pageant.

## Student on her way to Miss North Carolina Pageant

Sarah Carideo  
Senior Reporter

A beauty pageant is typically far from the concerns of an average second semester college senior. This is not the case for Elon senior Holland Felts, though.

Felts took home the crown at the Miss Lake Norman Pageant Feb. 9, and will compete in the Miss North Carolina pageant this coming summer.

The Miss Lake Norman pageant is open to women between the ages of 18 to 24 in Iredell, Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln, Mecklenburg and Rowan counties and serves as a qualifier for the Miss North Carolina and Miss America pageants.

Felts began competing as a senior in high school after her friends' constant encouragement to try it. She was drawn to the benefits of the competition such as the scholarships awarded, instead of the glamour aspect.

She said she was most interested in the chance for a service platform.

"Mine involved Think Pink, which promotes breast cancer awareness and education," she said. "I lost my grandmother to breast cancer so it's important to me."

According to the website, "The Miss Lake Norman Pageant(...) provides young women(...)the opportunity to promote their voices in culture, politics and the community while earning valuable scholarships."

Once Felts started college and became involved with cheerleading, student government and Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, she took a break from competing.

"It's really time-consuming and you need to have time to fully devote to it," she said.

Felts decided to start again this year with the Miss Lake Norman Pageant.

Her strategy to win was to be "very confident, but not overly cocky."

She is the second winner of the Miss Lake Norman Pageant and said it was a special moment when she was crowned because her friend won last year.

The women are given scores in five categories: Talent, Private Interview, Evening Wear, Swimsuit and On-Stage Question which are each a different percentage of the final total score.

Felts said her favorite part of competing was the private interview with the judges.

"It's a chance to truly let them get to know who you are," she said.

Felts also said that the most nerve-racking part is the talent portion. She met with a coach three times per week to improve her stage performance. Felts gave a classical piano performance of "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2" by Franz Liszt.

She said she couldn't give up or get frustrated with the piano and instead needed to remember that it can be peaceful for her.

Otherwise, she said she is very self-motivated when it comes to the gym and eating so staying healthy isn't a problem.

Felts said she has to be very disciplined and decide between going away a lot on the weekends and being dedicated to her training. Sometimes, her social life takes a hit as a result.

"I surround myself with support," she said. "And my parents have been really supportive, of course."

In regard to the media portrayals of the stereotypical pageant girl, Felts said it's not accurate at all.

"The girls are very respectable, pretty, sweet, driven and usually compete for the service and leadership opportunities."

According to Felts, the competition is not solely based on looks.

"A lot of the prettiest girls don't win," she said. "There's an interview and a resume requirement for a reason."

Felts will head to Peace College on June 18 to prepare for the Miss North Carolina Pageant. She said the hardest part will be that she isn't allowed to communicate with the outside world except during visitation times.

When asked if she hopes to win Miss America, Felts said she was just going to concentrate on Miss North Carolina for now.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Top: Felts played "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2" for the talent portion, which accounts for 35 percent of the total score.  
Above Right: She was excited to win the Miss Lake Norman Pageant. She was crowned by her friend who won the pageant last year.  
Above Left: Felts said she is self-motivated and disciplined. She hits the gym and eats healthy to stay in shape for the pageants.

# Choreography leaps, spins and soars into life at Elon University's Senior Thesis Dance Concert

Ashley Fahey  
Copy Editor

The eight senior dance majors of the Class of 2011 were all required to make a thesis based on their own personal dance style and creativity. Each senior dance major choreographed, costumed, directed, promoted and planned every detail in his or her piece, from the first thesis conception to the final performance.

"The biggest challenge for the concert wasn't even necessarily choreographing, but it was the balance of being a performer, choreographer and artistic director all at the same time," dance major Kara Griffin said. "We have faculty guidance, but it's our responsibility to do the planning, marketing, fundraising, budgeting, forming a production team and crew and anything else to make the show run smoothly and professionally."

All 10 pieces were different, reflecting each choreographer's individual style and creativity. Some pieces, such as Griffin's "A Half Made Whole," were inspirational and reality-based, exploring human connections and relationships. One piece was a collaboration of the whole class with professor Jen Guy Metcalf, and another was duet by Griffin and Andrea Work. Other pieces, such as Jenna Farley's "Time Steps," involved flair and wit.

"I have always had the dream to dance on Broadway, so I have been dreaming about this piece since I began choreographing," Farley said. "(My) piece is a culmination of the major points in theater dance history, from the early 1900s to today. I have studied

and worked very hard to gain an understanding of the connections theater dance has had throughout its entire history."

The process that the eight senior student choreographers went through in order to achieve their final products was long and time-consuming. Six months of researching and rehearsing led every dance major to a 10-15 minute long formal piece performed at the concert.

"For me, the biggest challenge was conveying my ideas and story through movement," said Erin Fitzgerald, one of the senior choreographers. "A few sections of my piece came easily and I was very pleased with where my work was going. I personally love to start and finish projects, but being able to maintain a consistent level of enthusiasm and passion throughout the choreographic process is very difficult."

Whether it was the glittery vest tops, clown makeup or gymnastic agility that made up Meg Ralston-Asumendi's "Selves on Shelves" or Ann Sterling Dale's strength-driven "A Battle Waged," the audience in the Black Box watched as out-of-breath dancers made the impossible look effortless. But pulling off this task was not simple.

"Because we're all so busy and wearing so many different hats for the show, we work down to the wire," Griffin said. "Our pieces are finished and polished before the show, but because it's live theater and we're a low-budget student show, things can change up to a few minutes before show time."

Each piece had original twists and turns that required additional time on the part of the choreographer, such as

Alex Pepper's "Rhapsody in College." Pepper's thesis was entirely on film, in which he and his dancers performed throughout Elon's campus in a lighthearted, humorous and relatable manner.

Other pieces included voiceovers, monologues performed by the dancers and even a live drummer as in Andrea Work and Griffin's piece "A Cunning Encounter." Each piece reflected the individual voice of the choreographer.

"The most rewarding part of choreographing for our thesis concert is that it has been a group effort the entire time. My senior class is incredible," Farley said. "I am proud to be able to call myself a senior dance major and have this show attached to us. It shows the caliber of our dance department and the education we have received while here at Elon."



Right and below: Senior dance students choreographed 10-15 minute dances featuring other student dancers for their theses.

BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer



## European a cappella explores biblical themes

Ashley Watkins  
Reviewer

Harmonious voices rang through Whitley Hall night as the international a cappella group Nordic Voices performed a two-part concert complete with 12 arrangements.

Nordic Voices is an a cappella group comprised of six graduates of the Norwegian Academy of Music and the Norwegian Academy of Opera. The group was formed in 1996 and has since had concert tours throughout Norway and around the world in locations such as Taiwan, Stockholm, Germany and the United States. On Feb. 24, Nordic Voices visited Elon.

The group uses a wide variety of vocal techniques and creates new ways of singing and using the classically-trained voice.

Nordic Voices consists of two sopranos, one mezzo-soprano, a tenor, a baritone and a bass.

The concert was broken into two parts, "Lamentation" and "Consolation."

"These songs come from the time in history when the city of Jerusalem was under siege," said baritone Frank Havroy. "Inside the city, a court officer named Jeremiah wrote texts about the daily life of the people," he said. "How they were coping with the hardships such as having no water, no men and losing their most treasured possessions. The text was then set to music at a later date and is essentially lamenting the absence of God."

The audience appeared enthralled with the singing.

"I could not believe my ears when they began to sing," said freshman Courtney Canizares. "I don't usually listen to music like this, but I was completely engaged in their performance," she said. "They were practically flawless, and I left with a much better appreciation for this style of music than I came in with."

The second part of the concert included more contemporary pieces including Norwegian folk songs, a religious song and a lullaby. These songs took more liberties and had more variety in vocal techniques.

The singers could be heard making different noises using their mouths and tongues. This type of singing is sometimes referred to as throat singing. The result was a full sound that made it seem like more than six people were singing.

"I thought they sounded great and what they did with their voices was amazing," said freshman Stephanie Preve. "The range that each individual had was very impressive, especially the control they had of their voices."

Other than a five-minute delay to wait for the train to pass, the concert went smoothly. When the last piece was finished, the group received a standing ovation and thunderous applause. It was so much that they returned and performed an encore of another Norwegian lullaby, arranged by Havroy.



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Nordic Voices, an a cappella group of Norwegian music school graduates, visited Elon for a one-night-only concert. The six-member group performed 12 songs in Whitley Auditorium Feb. 24.

## 'Swim to Florida' pushes off to a strong start

Lauren Ramsdell  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

There's no overland swimming route from Elon, N.C., to Jupiter, Fla. There's no 600-plus mile-long waterway that cuts swaths from South Carolina and Georgia to the peninsula.

Despite what seems like an insurmountable obstacle, this setback won't stop Elon University students from going the distance.

Like U-Swim in the fall, in which students can choose another college or university to "swim" to, Swim to Florida in the spring is a competition through Campus Rec's aquatics program where students sign up and swim the distance from campus to one of three baseball spring training sites in Florida. The distance is measured by a lap in the pool, with one length of the pool counting as one mile.

This year's competition lasts from Feb. 14 to March 16.

"You can swim in a bikini, you can swim in a Speedo, you can swim in any kind of bathing suit that's appropriate," said senior lifeguard Anna Hulett.

After their laps, swimmers must tell the lifeguard, like Hulett, how many laps they swam. The lifeguard then records the laps and totals up the distance. Some swimmers are already close to halfway to their destinations.

The Atlanta Braves' camp is the closest to Elon, 610 miles away in Orlando, Fla., The Philadelphia Phillies are just slightly further, in Clearwater, Fla. 685 miles away, and the Florida Marlins are training



LUKE LOVETT | Graphics Editor

in Jupiter, Fla., 739 miles from campus.

"Once you (swim the laps) you get a free T-shirt," Hulett said. "Pretty simple and pretty fun."

It would be feasible to try to swim to all three locations, but there's a strict rule of only one shirt per participant. But if you don't make it to your goal distance, there's no reward.

For each half-hour of swimming for a 155 pound person burns 223 calories, according to Harvard Medical School. Swimming is also less stressful on joints than running or weightlifting.

Beck Pool usually sees around 150 people participating in Swim to Florida. A week into the contest there were 60 people signed up. There's still time to sign up before the final day, but waiting too long might make the endeavor difficult.

"Our shortest distance is 610 miles, so you could swim 610 miles in a day, if you really wanted to," Hulett said.

## RecycleMania 2011: Elon University competes for higher green standards

David Turkel  
Reporter

Elon has undertaken a number of changes to create a more environmentally friendly campus, including the 2008 hiring of a sustainability coordinator and the recent addition of an environmental and sustainability studies minor. It is in this tradition that Elon is participating in RecycleMania, one of the many recycling competitions in the United States.

RecycleMania, as the name gives away, is a 10 week recycling competition, with 630 colleges and universities competing in a number of categories such as highest recycling rate and least amount of trash per capita. It is well known on a national scale, with major sponsors such as Alcoa Inc. and Coca-Cola Co.

According to its official website, RecycleMania's primary objective is to increase recycling participation by on college campuses. Studies conducted by RecycleMania have shown that 80 percent of participating schools have undergone a noticeable increase in recycling during the event. It's also a university-wide competition, as the recycling of faculty and staff are factored in with the recycling of students.

But RecycleMania's goals go far beyond a short contest. Another one of the six goals of the competition is to "act as a catalyst for colleges and universities to build and expand waste reduction programs on campus."

Senior Molly Strayer said

she certainly hopes that the competition can foster this kind of spirit of sustainability at Elon. Strayer is one of the key figures behind RecycleMania at Elon, and is working hard to promote it around campus.

One method being used by Strayer to promote RecycleMania on campus is a residence area recycling competition. The recyclables from all eight residence areas are collected each week, and are compared to each other, according to Strayer, on a per-resident scale, so areas with larger populations don't have an unfair advantage. This competition provides students with an additional incentive to recycle beside improving the environment; the winning area will get its name on the school RecycleMania trophy, and will also get pride and bragging rights for the year, Strayer said.

The residence area contest is just one aspect of the promotional campaign being put on by the RecycleMania team led by Strayer and Director of Environmental

Services Dave Worden.

There is a website for RecycleMania At Elon, where students can learn more about the competition and check Elon's progress compared to other participating schools.

There are also additional sub-programs to provide students with more incentive to recycle occurring right now. There is a Get Caught Conserving! contest, in which students can post pictures of themselves doing anything environmentally-friendly to the Elon Sustainability Facebook page to enter a drawing to win Phoenix Cash. Students can also be entered into this drawing if the RecycleManiac, the RecycleMania mascot, sees them recycling on campus.

The RecycleMania team is working hard to promote recycling on campus. These promotions don't necessarily translate to results, though, as the weight of recyclables collected on campus so far are significantly down from the 2010 RecycleMania campaign. But if Elon's sustainability team has its way, these numbers won't stay down for long.

### MORE ONLINE: STYLE

VIDEO (Video-only story):  
Hear students' reactions to the beautiful spring weather.  
<http://bit.ly/TPOspring>



BRENNAN MCDAVID | Multimedia Contributor

## New student group gives voice to those without

Stephanie Butzer  
Reporter

Many people don't know how much of the population autism affects. The neurological disorder affects one in a 110 children. There is a wide spectrum of the disease and so far, no cure or prevention has been discovered.

Autism is more prevalent than ever at the present time

period. But awareness and support for Autism has also been increasing. At Elon, there is a national organization called Autism Speaks U.

This new chapter is emerging and looking forward to creating an impact at the university.

The over-arching program, Autism Speaks, is a national organization based in New York. Autism Speaks U is the university component.

"Autism Speaks is doing a lot to spread awareness and advocacy for the individuals, and for the families and friends to help make it a easier, normal, more enjoyable life," said junior Katy Burns, president of the club.

She first became interested in Autism Speaks while doing student research at the Doherty Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership

in the Business School.

"One of the professors, Kevin O'Mara, recently wrote a paper with another professor, Gary Palin, on the thought of teaching innovation and entrepreneurship to people with neurological disorders and in turn that would bring a better life to them in the end," Burns said. This really sparked her interest in the subject.

Although Autism Speaks U isn't an official student organization yet, the group hopes to become one soon and is in the process of putting ideas together for fund-raising. Currently, they are working under the Doherty Center in the Business School. As a subgroup of Autism Speaks, Autism Speaks U is striving to spread awareness and advocacy with the help of other support groups such as Special Olympics.

The club's events start up in April. April is Autism Awareness Month, and is recognized worldwide, even by the United Nations.

"Students all over the country take part in it," said Burns. On the first and second day of April, there is a celebration called Light It Blue. Burns described, "University campuses light up the entire campus blue. It's like Think Pink." In addition to universities, the Sears Tower, John Hancock Building, and other major structures, companies, and cities spread blue light around the area.

Autism U held its first event Monday, Feb. 28 with a showing of "Autism the Musical." In this documentary, children reveal

their problems both at home and at school. Most of them shared stories about bullies in the classroom who called them "losers" or "dumb" because they had to be in Special Education classes. While working on the musical, called Project Miracle, these children bonded with others like them and grew stronger out of the experience.

Through various exercises, they learned how to interact appropriately and put on a successful musical. The acts included a wide assortment, including singing, acting, and playing instruments. All of the children excelled in their designated areas and proved to themselves, their parents, and their peers that their abilities are just as special and unique as those of children without autism.

Another documentary Autism Speaks U plans on showing is called "Temple Grandin." This woman is an inspiring figure who struggles with autism. She has done much research and currently works as a professor at Colorado State Professor.

"She was on Times Top 100 People a couple years ago," Burns said.

Autism Speaks U is fairly new, only beginning last November, but it has a lot of events coming up. The group, which consists of Katy Burns, Catherine Rossi, Eryn Grewe, Michele Pebole and Katie Jordan, all have an identical goal for their club, as stated by Burns. "Our initial goal is to gain awareness and get involved with the community."



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sferguson@peacecorps.gov.

# How to: pack lightly and efficiently

**Lauren Ramsdell**  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Whether you're flying out to Cancun or spending the week back home in Des Moines, spring break is a welcome relief from the stresses of college. Regardless of the destination, though, everyone needs a quick and efficient way to pack clothes.

## 1. Start with tops and T-shirts

Take the most delicate and easily wrinkled items and fold them first. The fewer folds, the better. Then place those on the bottom of your suitcase, working up from the most delicate to least delicate. The weight of the heavier tops will flatten out

the thinner ones, reducing wrinkles.

## 2. Move on to pants, skirts and dresses

Guys, you have it easy on this one. Simply fold your pants and trousers in half at the waist, leaving the legs long. Stack these in your suitcase on top of the shirts, and alternate which side you put the waistbands on. This will eliminate bulk at one end of the bag and distribute weight evenly.

If the legs or waistband dangle over the edge of the suitcase, that's fine, just fold them back into the bag.

Ladies, follow those same rules, but with a twist. After you've packed up all your pants, start with dresses and skirts. The premise is

the same, so fold them along the waistband and lay them in the suitcase, folding over any cloth that hangs on the outside of the bag.

## 3. Shoes and jackets

It's recommended to wear the heaviest or bulkiest shoes on the day of travel, as well as any heavy sweaters or coats. Especially if you're flying, this can save you from the airplane air conditioning. If you're driving, you can always take them off in the car.

Tennis shoes can be wrapped in a plastic grocery bag, and dress shoes, flats or sandals can be pushed into crevices in your suitcase that are not filled with clothing. Just be sure to lay the shoes heel-to-toe to conserve space.

## 4. Socks and underwear

Socks should be pushed into tennis shoes or any closed-toe shoe to make use of the space where a foot normally goes. Since socks aren't that big and don't need much care, filling in empty spaces with socks is completely acceptable.

Underwear should be rolled, not folded, and placed in outside pockets of the suitcase or bag. Rolling conserves space and prevents them from getting bunched up and bulky in transit.

## 5. Miscellany

Accessories such as belts can be placed in the suitcase on top of pants or skirts. Handbags, if you take more than one on your travels,

should be placed inside of one other like nesting dolls. If you must carry a handbag while you travel, make it large enough to carry the essentials, but small enough to easily transport.

Clutches with removable straps that can be turned into cross-body bags are excellent for traveling.

Jewelry, makeup or toiletries should be placed in separate Ziploc bags and placed on top of the clothes. If anything leaks, the bag should catch it.

*Follow these simple tips and your vacation will be well organized and neat. You will be ready for an awesome spring break, and won't have to drag along a heavy, overpacked suitcase.*

## Top 6 'off the beaten path' weekend activities in the Triangle

**Bonnie Efir**  
Features Editor

There are only so many Mimi's meals and visits to Alamance Crossing an Elon student can handle. Despite the plethora of chain restaurants and shopping complexes in and around the Elon and Burlington area, it's easy to become bored with the same old weekend activities.

Luckily, Elon University is conveniently located in the Triangle of North Carolina, and is only about an hour drive away from some exciting weekend adventures.

To mix up the weekend routine, venture off the beaten path of Huffman Mill to find the hidden gems in the Triangle area that will keep the mid-semester blues away and keep your weekends fun and fresh. You may have to drive a little farther, but it may be well worth it.

### 1. Cat's Cradle music venue, Carrboro. Distance from Elon: About 33 miles.

Cat's Cradle, a small music venue in the heart of hipster Carrboro, offers live music and entertainment every weekend and some weeknights. From local indie-folk bands like The Bowerbirds to bigger, more well-known alternative bands like Citizen Cope. From jazz to indie to rock, there's bound to be something for almost everyone. For the schedule and tickets, check out Cat's Cradle online at catscradle.com. To make a night of it, try one of the local gastropubs or organic eateries before the show. Downtown Carrboro is known for its boutique restaurants, cafés and earthy eateries. Carrburritos Taqueria, Open Eye Café and Milltown are just a few of the many organic restaurants in the heart of cozy Carrboro that support local farmers and offer a wide variety of fresh food with options for vegetarians, vegans and carnivores, alike.



MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer  
Cat's Cradle in Carrboro has live music of all different genres every weekend and some weeknights.

### 2. Saxapahaw General Store and Café, Saxpawah. Distance from Elon University: About 31 miles.

The Saxapahaw General Store really is off the beaten path, but many patrons would argue it's worth the trip. As a gas station, general store and café, those at the general store call the place "Your local five-star gas station." If you're into fresh and organic food, the Saxapahaw General Store may be a great weekend meal option. The general store is co-owned by Jeff Barney, a butcher and self-taught cook, and Cameron Ratliff, a teacher and self-taught biscuit maker. Their vision for the store as they bought it in 2008, is to create a spot where the people of Carrboro could come together for the essentials — gas, food, drinks and basic needs, in order to create community within their village. The Saxapahaw General Store and Café prides itself on being a steward of local foods and eco-conscious goods. The café menu includes all kinds of food from a hummus and veggies wrap to steak and eggs offered during weekend brunch. Visit saxgenstore.com for more information, directions and the full menu.



JACK DODSON | Photographer  
Saxapahaw General Store and Café sells local and organic specialty goods. Tummy Tea is one of the local goods that is sold.



JULIA SAYERS | Staff Photographer  
Weaver Street Market in Carrboro, N.C., is a community-owned grocery store that offers organic food options.

### 4. Weaver Street Market in Carrboro, Hillsborough and Southern Village in Chapel Hill. Distance from Elon: Varies by location.

Weaver Street Market is a co-op, a community-owned and operated business, supports local farmers while cultivating community roots and coming together to celebrate eating local and organic food. Weaver Street Market has three locations and offers a variety of shops, cooking classes and farmers-markets that support their cause of sustainable farming and other eco-friendly initiatives in the Triangle. Once the warm March weather arrives, the Weaver Street Market in any of its three locations would be an interesting place to visit to buy vegetables, shop for local goods and maybe even take cooking classes. For more information and directions, visit [www.weaverstreetmarket.coop](http://www.weaverstreetmarket.coop).

### 3. Kayaking on Lake Wheeler, Raleigh Distance from Elon: 66 miles.

For a day of kayaking, boating and picnicking head to Lake Wheeler outside of Raleigh for a leisurely day of nature play. Kayak and boat rentals are available daily, as are free picnic areas equipped with grills. Visit [Raleighnc.gov](http://Raleighnc.gov) for price information on boat and kayak rentals and directions to the park.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS  
Lake Wheeler, near Raleigh, is a great spot for kayaking, boating, picnicking and fishing. Kayak rentals are available if you don't have your own.

### 5. Triangle Greenways in Raleigh, Durham, Cary and Chapel Hill. Distance from Elon: Varies by location.

Unfortunately, Burlington was not constructed with pedestrians or outdoor activity enthusiasts in mind. Fortunately, though, the Triangle Greenways give Triangle residents beautiful nature trails where they can walk, hike run and bike. With trails in Raleigh, Durham, Cary and Chapel Hill, Elon students have options as to which trail to blaze, and can mix it up to experience each trail — a great way to have an active weekend with the relaxing element of nature. Visit [trianglegreenways.org](http://trianglegreenways.org) for information on the trails and directions to each.



JULIA SAYERS | Staff Photographer  
Battle Branch Trail in Chapel Hill, is one of the many walking trails and greenways in the Triangle Area. The greenways provide a great place to walk, hike, bike and run.

### 6. Dead Broke Farm in Raleigh. Distance from Elon: About 53 miles.

For a day of outdoor adventure, pull on your boots and giddy up to Dead Broke Farm outside of Raleigh for guided horseback riding trails. Whether you're a beginner rider or an equine enthusiast Dead Broke Farm's website said they have guided trails and horses suitable for all riders — the timid and the bold. With miles of trails through the woods and fields, hours can be spent aback a horse exploring the outskirts of Raleigh. For more information on guided trail rides visit [Deadbrokehorsefarm.com](http://Deadbrokehorsefarm.com).

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Track and Field records highest finish in school history

Elon Women's Track and Field team recorded its highest finish in program history in the Southern Conference Indoor Championships Feb. 27. The team finished with 84 points for a fourth place finish, trailing Appalachian State University, Western Carolina University and Georgia Southern University.

Senior Veronica Day won the SoCon title in the triple jump with a record leap of 40'2," which gives her a second SoCon title after she won last year's long jump.

In the 4x400 relay event, Bria Bell, Veronica Leudke, Sarah Skogen and Amy Salek finished second and set a school record with a 3:50.41 time.

The Phoenix will begin its outdoor season when it travels to the UNC Wilmington Invitational March 11.

### Evans and Ford honored by conference

Women's basketball sophomores Kelsey Evans and Ali Ford were named to the second team All-Southern Conference team by the Southern Conference Sports Media Association.

Ford has led the Phoenix offensively for second straight season, averaging 16.4 points per game. Her 74 3-point field goals made rank third in the SoCon. Last season, she was the Freshman of the Year in the conference. With 24 points in the SoCon Tournament, Ford would record 1,000 points for her career.

Evans has been an inside force for the team this season, scoring 11.7 points per game to go along with 8.9 rebounds. She also stands second in the conference with 62 blocked shots this season. For the season, Evans has recorded nine double-double games.

### O'Shea garners pitcher of the week honors

Junior pitcher Erin O'Shea was named the Southern Conference pitcher of the week for the week of Feb. 21.

Her effort against the University of South Carolina Gamecocks was the reason for the award, as she pitched seven innings and allowed just one run and one walk. She now holds a 3-0 record on the season.

It is the third straight week that a softball player has earned player of the week honors, with Emerald Graham and Lauren Taylor earning player of the week and pitcher of the week in the previous two weeks, respectively.

# Softball splits in weekend series, prepares for the Stetson Classic

Jack Rodenfels  
Sports Editor

Sometimes all it takes is a change of mindset.

Such was the case for the Elon women's softball team as it traveled to Columbia, S.C., for two games against the University of South Carolina Gamecocks Feb. 26.

While losing its first game 2-0, the Phoenix rebounded to defeat the Gamecocks 8-1 in the nightcap.

"The main difference in the games is that we made adjustments hitting," head coach Patty Raduenz said. "We came out the second game with more energy and were able to take advantage of their pitching mistakes to get a victory."

The pitching mistakes came right away, as Gamecocks freshman pitcher Julie Sarratt only lasted one-third of an inning and gave up three runs. The Phoenix tacked two more runs on the board in the second inning, and increased its score to 5-0.

Elon kept the pressure on the Gamecocks pitching and defense for the entirety of the game.

Junior pitcher Erin O'Shea pitched a complete-game six-hitter while only allowing one run. O'Shea improved her record to 3-0 on the season. In addition to her work in the pitching circle, she got a hit and an RBI in the top of the first inning.

"It's important to go into hitting with a complete slate," O'Shea said, describing her unique dual role of pitching and hitting. "No matter what I'm doing on the mound, I need to remember that if I am a successful hitter, it will just help my cause while pitching."

Raduenz said her pitchers are multifaceted, and can both pitch and hit.

"We're blessed to have three pitchers on our staff who can hit," Raduenz said. "They know how



Senior outfielder Emerald Graham watches a pitch in a Feb. 20 game from East Field. MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

to concentrate while pitching and while hitting, and know how to channel their energy in each."

Last season, the women's softball team went 38-21 and won the Southern Conference tournament and got an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. Although Elon lost both games in the NCAA tournament, the experience the team gained has helped so far this year.

Elon is 8-2 overall this season, and has outscored its opponents 57-21. With six of its 19 players seniors, the Phoenix has proven leaders that have been around the program and know what the team needs to do to win.

"Last season, our team was very close both on and off the field," O'Shea said. "With new girls brought into the system, we're beginning to get that cohesiveness and put it together on the field for success."

With last year's successes, Raduenz said the Phoenix has a target on its back this season after winning the conference championship last season. Elon can't go through the motions and just expect to win, though. The team is seeking more consistent play from the beginning to the end, Raduenz said.

"We have to really work at steady play throughout the game," Raduenz said. "We can't simply expect to put up runs in the sixth or seventh inning and win. It's important to start our games stronger and play consistently throughout."

The Phoenix gets a chance to work on its consistent play, as it travels to DeLand, Fla., for the Stetson Classic this weekend, where Elon will play five games in three days against Tennessee State University, Binghamton University and Stetson University.

### Looking ahead:

Friday 11 a.m.  
vs. Tennessee State University

Friday 1:30 p.m.  
vs. Binghamton University

Saturday 11 a.m.  
vs. Binghamton University

Saturday 4 p.m.  
vs. Stetson University

\*all games played in DeLand, Fla.

## ONE ON ONE SPORTS

### How much do we really learn from the NFL combine?

Conor O'Neill and Andy Harris  
Sports Commentators

The NFL combine workouts have concluded, and now the draft is right around the corner. Ok, not really, as the festivities in Radio City Music Hall do not begin until April 28. But the combine workouts, always a fixation of football fans, raise an interesting question of just how important are the workouts?

**Conor O'Neill:** On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest, I put the importance of the combine at a two. I know there are a select few in the past (Titans running back Chris Johnson, most notably) who have amazed people at the combine with their athleticism. But those exceptions are few and far between. Mel Kiper Jr. tries to sell us every year on the player who gained the most at the combine, and how he will be a force in the league because of his physical attributes. I'm not buying it, and will somebody please tell me what team Kiper played for. As football fans, we need to remember that for every Johnson, there is at least one Vernon Gholston.

**Andy Harris:** Well if we're going to use a 1-10 scale, then I'll go with a 6. While I agree with your main point that we can only glean so much from the combine (after all, we've had multiple seasons to evaluate these players), it is impossible to understate its impact on the draft. Many teams put a lot of stock in the results of the combine, and a great, or

terrible, showing can influence a player's ranking come draft day. In other words, it's rare for the combine to reveal much about a player's NFL career, but it does give us plenty of insight as to where he'll be drafted.

**Conor:** I like those points, and maybe I was little harsh on the combine earlier. But I would argue that the personal interviews with prospects are the most important aspect of the event. This is the one time that team officials can sit down with players and gain a feeling for their character and work ethic, which are both more important than how many times Stephen Paea can bench 225 pounds (49 times, for the combine record). Just listen to the legend that the Colts knew they were taking Peyton Manning first overall when he came to their interview with him with a legal pad and conducted an interview of his own.

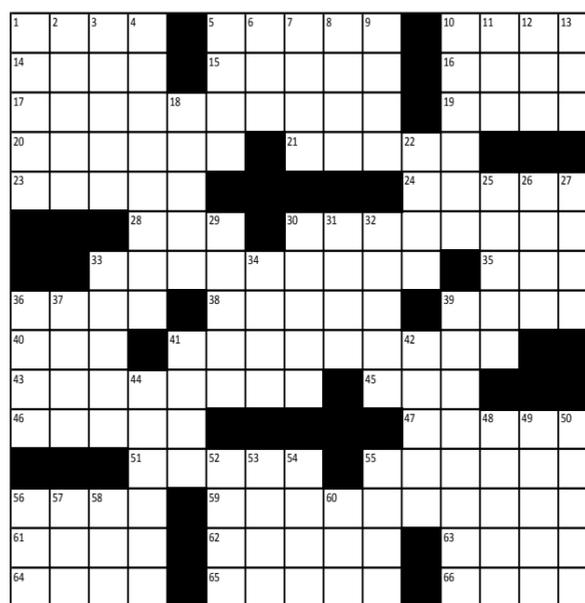
**Andy:** You're absolutely right. Unfortunately, these interview sessions are rarely touched on by the media. Let's face it, we'd rather watch footage of 280 pound linemen repeatedly lifting objects twice our body mass than listen to a quarterback who projects as a career backup discuss the fundamentals. While it's important for teams to quantify a player's physical tools, it is often what lies between the ears that really sells a front office on a prospect.

## Captain Planet

by Steve Ferguson, Class of 2011

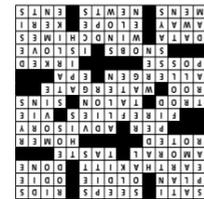
### ACROSS

- 1 Hindu goddess of longevity
- 5 Soaks through
- 10 Eliminates
- 14 Course of action
- 15 60's hit, nowadays
- 16 Garfield mutt
- 17 "Santa Baby" artist
- 19 Finished
- 20 Careless
- 21 Kind of bud?
- 23 Learned or repeated, to Shakespeare: Obs.
- 24 *The Iliad* author
- 28 The "p" in mpg
- 30 Media bulletin
- 33 Hit #1 on the Billboard 200 in 2009
- 35 Compete (with "for")
- 36 Walked over
- 38 Hawk's gripper
- 39 Commits a moral offense
- 40 Friend of Winnie the Pooh
- 41 1972 scandal
- 43 Animal dander, e.g.
- 45 U.S. wildlife preservation org.
- 46 Vigilante group, maybe
- 47 Vexed
- 51 Obnoxious people
- 55 Words preceding "baby, don't hurt me"
- 56 Numerical information
- 59 Outdoor fixture, at times
- 61 On the road
- 62 Run away and marry
- 63 Singer Hillson
- 64 \_\_\_\_\_ Health (fitness magazine)
- 65 Tiny lizards
- 66 Tolkien's tree creatures



### DOWN

- 1 Achilles' weapon
- 2 Site of 1836 Texas battle
- 3 Deck used in divination
- 4 Courageous
- 5 Dirty pond
- 6 Antelope's cousin
- 7 Change
- 8 Middle Eastern flat bread
- 9 Comprise a tennis match
- 10 Where one bucks animals
- 11 "\_\_\_\_ declare!"
- 12 Loud sound
- 13 Observe
- 18 Bill of *SNL* and *Superbad*
- 22 "\_\_\_\_ is Sparta!"
- 25 Form of entertainment
- 26 \_\_\_\_\_ Go Bragh (Irish motto)
- 27 Caraway seed breads
- 29 Mark again
- 30 Woody of *Antz*
- 31 Perfume brand
- 32 Exact satisfaction for: Obs.
- 33 Nonsensical people
- 34 Inevitability
- 36 Ensnare
- 37 Chocolate caramel brand
- 39 Resembling a nighttime twinkler
- 41 Architect of St. Paul's Cathedral
- 42 Outlandish
- 44 Written works
- 48 Susan G. \_\_\_\_\_ (name associated with breast cancer)
- 49 Chris who won 18 Grand Slams
- 50 Armaz and others
- 52 Actor Wilson
- 53 Liver fluid
- 54 Ms. White of Disney fame
- 55 Stops play, in hockey
- 56 Beaver's creation
- 57 Wonder
- 58 Fun in the sun indicator?
- 60 Elon grad. program



# Women's basketball clinches No. 4 seed for SoCon tournament, best in program history

Julia Miller  
Reporter

The Elon University women's basketball team defeated the College of Charleston Cougars 61-51 in its final regular season game Feb. 26, clinching the No. 4 seed in the upcoming Southern Conference tournament which will be played in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The last time the two teams faced off, the Phoenix needed overtime to defeat College of Charleston. This time, although the teams traded leads six times and the game remained close, Elon took a solid lead for six minutes into the second half.

Sophomore forward Kelsey Evans got her ninth double-double of the season with 13 points and 10 rebounds. She also led the team in steals and blocks with three each. Junior guard Aiesha Harper also had 13 points, along with six rebounds and three assists.

"I'm very proud of this team," Elon head coach Karen Barefoot said. "We overcame a lot of adversity throughout this game."

Sophomore guard Ali Ford, the team's overall top scorer,

ran into foul trouble early in the first half and played only 13 minutes.

"It felt good that we have a team that can step up and play without (Ford)," Barefoot said. "We showed a lot of poise."

Another obstacle came when freshman forward Candice Silas received a concussion with 27 seconds left in the first half. She remained conscious and was removed from the court in a stretcher.

"I don't know when she'll be back, if she'll be back for the tournament," Barefoot said.

The Phoenix now turns its attention to the SoCon tournament

March 3-7.

The win gives the Phoenix a 12-8 conference record and secured the No. 4 seed, the highest in school history.

Preseason expectations put the team at No. 7 or No. 8 in the conference.

"I'm amazed, but I'm not surprised," Barefoot said of the No. 4 rank. "This team doesn't stop. They're fighters, they're believers, they're very passionate, they give all they have all the time."

As the No. 4 seed, the

## Looking ahead:

Saturday 9 a.m.  
vs. Furman  
University

\*game played  
in Chattanooga,  
Tenn.



MARK CAPOZZOLA | Graphics Editor

Phoenix received a first-round bye and will be playing its first game Saturday, March 5 at 9 a.m. against No. 5 Furman University, whom the team defeated twice during the regular season.

Last year, the Phoenix held the No. 10 seed and fell 57-38 to No. 2 Samford University in the second round.

Unlike last year, the Phoenix will bypass the first day, when only the bottom six teams play, as well as the second, giving them two more days to prepare than last year.

Barefoot is relying on the bye to provide her team with

some much-needed rest.

"We played 29 games three games a week," she said. "This is a good week for us to really get prepared."

Some of the goals the team has accomplished include a winning season, getting the first-round bye and winning its conference games.

As the second-highest scoring offense in the SoCon, the Phoenix looks to bring its 68.2 points per game average to the conference tournament. Elon is ranked third in field goal percentage in the Southern Conference, at 42.1 percent.

Barefoot hopes the team's

depth will be a benefit during the tournament.

"We play at least nine or 10 people, where a lot of teams only play about six or seven," Barefoot said. "It's one heartbeat, one team. You can't shut down one member of the team and hurt us."

Although the Phoenix has lost five of its last eight games, Barefoot believes the team has what it takes to create some noise in the conference tournament.

"They have to believe (in themselves)," she said. "They feel like they can win this and that's a good sign."

# Men's basketball propels into conference tournament

Conor O'Neill  
Assistant Sports Editor

A month ago, the Elon University men's basketball team was in the midst of its worst stretch of the season, a five-game losing streak. A three-game home stand saw the Phoenix drop all three games by a combined 40 points.

But that trend has been reversed leading up to the Southern Conference tournament, as the team has won three of its past four games, including Saturday's Feb. 26 72-57 win against Georgia Southern University Eagles.

Momentum is paramount for the team as it enters this weekend's SoCon Tournament as the No. 4 seed in the North Division, according to head coach Matt Matheny.

"A lot of credit goes to our veteran leadership because we went through a tough stretch," Matheny said. "We lost a few in a row, and our veterans got together and said we want more and they have led the charge down the stretch."

While the play of some individuals have stood out, particularly senior guard Chris Long's career night of 30 points and 10 assists in the team's win against UNC Greensboro, the team's effort against the Eagles that had four players record double digit scoring efforts had Matheny excited for the tournament.

"We have different guys who can score," Matheny said. "I think we are a potent offensive team."

The Phoenix has

consistently scored points in bunches this year, ranking second in the conference with 74.3 points per game. In its past four games, the Phoenix has increased its average to 81.3.

Long operates as the point guard for the Phoenix, and has responded with a higher level of play. In the last four games, Long has averaged more than 21 points while sitting out for just nine of a possible 160 minutes of game time.

"It's just the system, it is very effective," Long said after the Feb. 19 victory against UNCG. "You have to pick your poison when we are running the system effectively."

But Matheny also knows that defensive intensity is what can take a team to the top of the conference tournament, despite the clichés.

"Defense wins championships, and that's a coach-speak kind of phrase, but it is a fact," Matheny said.

He added that the team showed that intensity in the second half of the game against Georgia Southern in holding the Eagles to 5-for-17 shooting performance in the second half.

"Particularly in the second half against Georgia Southern we defended as well as we have, and that's going to be a key component to our performance in the conference tournament," Matheny said.

Elon begins the tournament at 9:30 p.m. on March 4, with a matchup against The Citadel, who earned the No. 5 seed from the South Division with a 6-12 conference mark.

When the Phoenix traveled



FILE PHOTO BY HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor  
Senior forward Scott Grable is shooting 56.7 percent from the field this season, while starting every game this season for the Phoenix.

to Charleston, S.C. for its only game contest with the Bulldogs this season, Elon came away with a 79-72

victory.

As the Phoenix ranks near the top of the conference for offensive scoring, The Citadel

stands as the second worst scoring offense in the league, with an average of 63.7 points per game.

# Sports



Sophomore forward Lei Lei Hairston visits with Rose Holland, a cancer patient at the Cancer Center at Alamance Regional Medical Center. Hairston visits the Cancer Center every Tuesday. BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

## Sophomore forward leads team off the court and into the community

Lei Lei Hairston inspires teammates to volunteer at local cancer center

**Gabriela Szewcow**  
Design Chief

The Cancer Center at Alamance Regional Medical Center is usually filled with cancer patients, family members, doctors and nurses. But lately, there has been a new crowd inside the Cancer Center's walls.

The Elon women's basketball team began volunteering at the center the second week of February, and it's all because of sophomore forward Lei Lei Hairston.

During lunch one day in December, Hairston decided she wanted to give back to the community. She and her teammate, sophomore forward Kelsey Evans, began thinking of ways in which they could help.

"Initially I really wanted to reach out to children, but then I started talking to Coach (Ken) Butler about it, and he suggested reaching out to the hospital," Hairston said.

Assistant coach Ken Butler set up a meeting between Hairston and Vivian Langley, director of patient relations, management development and diversity at Alamance Regional Medical Center.

"(The call) was just out of the blue," Langley said. "(Coach Butler) asked if there were any volunteer opportunities for the basketball team. They wanted to give back to the community and he asked if they could do that here."

Langley was the one who suggested the girls volunteer at the Cancer Center. She thought the patients would benefit from having young, healthy women around.

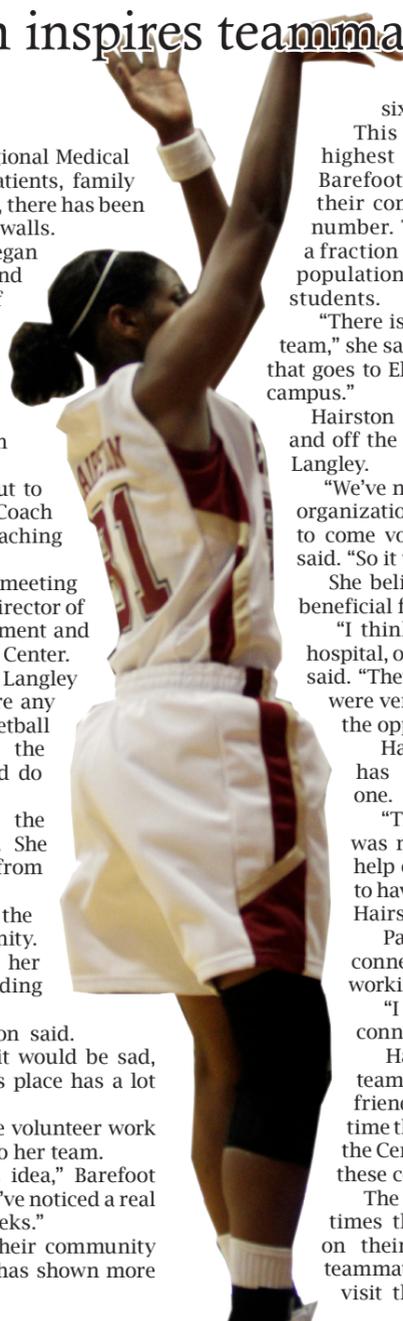
Hairston liked this idea, and the girls took advantage of the opportunity. After Hairston presented the idea to her teammates, the response was a resounding "yes" in support of the volunteer idea.

"It's been awesome so far," Hairston said. "You would think at a cancer center, it would be sad, gloomy and depressing. But really, this place has a lot of life to it."

Head coach Karen Barefoot said the volunteer work has already brought a positive change to her team.

"I'm excited Hairston took on this idea," Barefoot said. "It has brought the team together. I've noticed a real difference in my girls in the last few weeks."

She said the girls have embraced their community work, and as a result, the community has shown more support of the girls' team.



"The community is our sixth man," Barefoot said.

This season marks the team's highest attendance rate since 1989. Barefoot believes the girls' dedication to their community has really helped that number. The girls on her team represent a fraction of what she believes is a student population full of passionate, driven students.

"There is a high level of character on this team," she said. "And that's the kind of person that goes to Elon. You can feel it all across the campus."

Hairston represents that energy both on and off the court, according to Barefoot and Langley.

"We've never had anybody from a service organization or a local school say they want to come volunteer in our facility," Langley said. "So it was unique for us to have that."

She believes the volunteering has been beneficial for all parties involved.

"I think it's been positive for both the hospital, our patients and the students," she said. "They really seem to like it. And they were very motivated and very excited for the opportunity."

Hairston agreed that the experience has been an all-around rewarding one.

"The whole idea around volunteering was not only to impact a patient and help out any way that we can, but also to have the patients impact us, as well," Hairston said.

Part of her goal was to really connect with the patients she would be working with.

"I was hoping people would make connections here," she said.

Hairston said she and her teammates have already made friendships in the short amount of time that they have been volunteering at the Center. They hope they can maintain these connections in the future.

The girls visit the Center at different times throughout the week, depending on their schedules. Hairston and her teammate, junior guard Jermile' Batten visit the Center every Tuesday. A few

members of the team volunteer twice a week.

While volunteering at the Center, the girls help patients with any needs, including providing a warm blanket or something to drink or eat. In addition to providing physical things, Hairston quickly realized that a pressing need for these patients is company.

"Even something as simple as a conversation, I've found, is very helpful to get them through what they're going through," Hairston said.

Langley said the employees and patients are more than happy to have extra hands and young energy around the Center.

"The staff have been very receptive to have the extra help and have the young ladies here," Langley said. "So I think it has been a win-win for everybody."

Langley noted the large impact that Hairston has had on patients who come to the Cancer Center, even in the short amount of time that she has been volunteering there.

"I told her she doesn't realize the impact she has on people, especially children, and people who might be sick and not feeling well," she said. "I told her that her presence and her team's presence could really be positive for (the patients)."

Hairston said she hopes this volunteer activity is just the beginning for the women's basketball team in terms of community involvement. She hopes the team can continue the volunteer tradition next semester and even next year.

"Hairston is doing something really special that we hope will be a tradition for the team," Barefoot said. "(She) hopes to pass the baton on to a younger teammate when she graduates from Elon."

Both Barefoot and Langley believe Hairston's willingness and drive are apparent, especially through the service idea she brought to her team.

"It speaks very highly of Hairston to want to get involved in the community," Langley said. "I think she has a lot of energy and wants to give back. And I'm glad we have her."

### MORE ONLINE: SPORTS

**VIDEO:**  
Follow Lei Lei Hairston to the ACU  
and to the hoops.  
<http://bit.ly/TPOlelei>

ZACHARY HORNER | Multimedia Editor