

THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2012 • VOLUME 38, EDITION 20

Policing for vandals

Vandals may face harsher consequences.

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Serving up sustenance

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Defensive doubts

Elon football team struggles with injuries on defensive side of the ball.

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HOME COMING 2012



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THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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Top and bottom left cover photos by Al Drago, bottom right cover photo by Merissa Blitz.



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Smith residence hall has been subjected to vandalism since the start of the semester, pg. 5

Homecoming celebrates Elon's history, traditions

Melissa Kansky
News Editor

Elon University's Homecoming weekend allows alumni to reflect on their experience at Elon, reconnect with friends and honor their contributions to the institution. While the campus has changed since these former students' graduation day, they still recognize the place they once called home.

"I was surprised by how much the same it is, and yet it's bigger," said alumnus Dave Clark, class of 1981.

Alumni were able to take a campus bus tour narrated by Earl Daniele, president emeritus, and Barry Bradberry, associate dean of admissions and financial planning. Both graduated from Elon University.

Elon departments hosted receptions to welcome their specific graduates.

In addition to academic-oriented activities, musical festivities, a football game and student organizations cultivated a lively atmosphere as friends reunited and reminisced.

Student Union Board and Student Government Association hosted the Homecoming concert, which featured Chris Webby and We The Kings. Those who attended the concert watched from Under the Oaks, a place significant to each student's Elon experience.

MORE online
For an interactive graphic featuring alumni's favorite moments at Elon, visit <http://pend.lu/hc2012>

"It's so good to come back and see friends again because the friends you make here you will have forever," said alumna Kristina McClain, class of 1997, who traveled from Charlotte with four other alumnae.

Members of the Class of 1962 celebrated their 50th anniversary at the Golden Alumni Luncheon. All alumni who have graduated more than 50 years ago are invited to attend as well.

Katrenia McCormick, Class of 1998, enjoyed watching Elon's Finest perform at the step show Friday night. The performance reminded her of her time at Elon.

"It was dwindling when we left and to see that stage full of people dancing, I was touched," said McCormick, who was a choreographer for the dance group when she attended Elon.

Celebrations also included the crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen.

HOMECOMING RESULTS

- *Homecoming King*: Sam Kahane (Center for Leadership)
- *Homecoming Queen*: Tracy McBride (Pi Kappa Phi)
- *First Runner-Up for King*: Steve Roth (Elon Local News)
- *First Runner-Up for Queen*: Katie Moulton (Elon Local News)
- *Second Runner-Up for King*: Emily Kane (Spectrum)
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AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Elon Varsity Cheerleader Jessica Harris, a junior, cheers on the football team at Homecoming.

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Oct. 24 - Oct. 30

<p>Wed., Oct. 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOVE, a Follow-up to KONY 2012: 6 p.m., LaRose Digital Theater 	<p>Thurs., Oct. 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campus debate on political issues: 6:30-8 p.m., Whitley Auditorium 	<p>Fri., Oct. 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerald L. Francis Center dedication: 11 a.m., Gerald L. Francis Center 	<p>Sat., Oct. 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woods of Terror: 5601 North Church St., Greensboro, NC. Tickets available in Moseley 207. 	<p>Sun., Oct. 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking about Graduate School? 1-5 p.m., GRE: KOBC 346 MCAT: KOBC 348 LSAT: KOBC 353
<p>Mon., Oct. 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Why We Believe What We Believe" Panel: 6 p.m., Isabella Cannon Room, Center for the Arts 	<p>Tues., Oct. 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burst the Bubble interest meeting: 4:30-5:30 p.m., Alamance 203 	<p>For the full calendar, visit The Pendulum online at: www.elonpendulum.com.</p>		

Flowers vetoes resolution against Chick-fil-A's presence on campus

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

After nearly two weeks of deliberation, Student Government Association Executive President Darien Flowers announced his decision to veto the resolution against Chick-fil-A's presence at Elon University.

The resolution, which passed 35-11 in a vote by the SGA Senate Oct. 11, argues Chick-fil-A does not align with the university's non-discrimination policy and advises Elon's administration to replace Chick-fil-A with a different vendor in the future Lakeside Dining Hall.

Flowers said he chose to veto the legislation because it stifles the free flow and exchange of ideas on campus.

"I believe that Elon, and each of us, will be better served by taking those steps that support a marketplace of ideas," he said. "I have confidence that each of you will evaluate every idea that is presented and will gravitate

toward and support those ideas that are best for our community."

He also expressed concern at the possible effects of the legislation.

"We are here to permit the free flowing exchange of ideas," Flowers said. "If we ask the administration to remove an institution because of its ideas, we are setting a precedent that is dangerous because it stops the free flow of ideas."

Flowers said his decision to veto the bill was influenced by the collective opinions of the SGA Senate and the student body, not his personal opinion on the matter.

"I have heard what the senate members thought on this issue on both sides," he said. "Students and faculty have been great and given me a lot of feedback for discussion."

The Senate members met Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in McCoy Commons in Oaks 212 to discuss and vote on the veto. To override the veto, two-thirds of the senate must vote against it.



SGA Executive President Darien Flowers exercised his right to veto the legislation against Chick-fil-A's presence in the future Lakeside Dining Hall. FILE PHOTO BY CLAIRE ESPARROS

Campus-wide debate triggers evaluation of Elon's business partnerships with external food vendors on campus

Melissa Kansky
News Editor

Students have expressed division over whether Chick-fil-A should con-

tinue being a vendor on Elon University's campus.

The executive committee of Elon's Board of Trustees has elected to create a study committee to research the

university's procurement policies and business relationships with external vendors. The study committee will present a report to the Board of Trustees later this academic year.

The current Chick-fil-A restaurant will remain open on campus while the policies are being developed.

Meanwhile, students have organized to voice their position concerning the restaurant's presence on campus.

In response to a student-authored reso-

lution opposing the university's relationship with Chick-fil-A, Student Government Association hosted a forum Oct. 11 that invited students, faculty and staff to express their opinions regarding the restaurant's presence on campus prior to the senate's vote. Strong opinions have been shared in open forums, SGA meetings, student media, online forums and in phone calls and emails to the university. Although the senate voted 35-11 in favor of the resolution to sever ties with Chick-fil-A and SGA Executive President Darien Flowers vetoed the legislation, a final decision on the matter has not yet been reached.

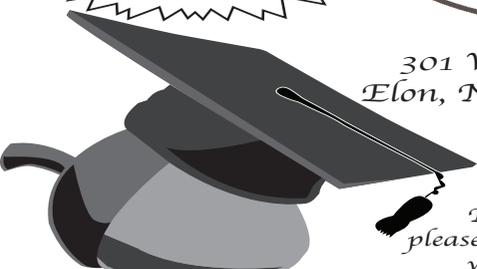
"My veto is advisory, just like anything SGA does," Flowers said. "The great thing about the university is we operate as a system of shared governance. We share a responsibility for how the university is run."

William Herber, Elon trustee and alumnus, and Connie Book, associate provost for academic affairs, will chair the study committee. President Leo Lambert and Board of Trustees Chair Wes Elingburg will appoint the other members of the study committee in consultation with Elon faculty, staff and student leaders.

According to a press release by Dan Anderson, vice president of university communications, the debate concerning Elon's relationship with Chick-fil-A will include discussions about the rights of free speech and expression and fostering an inclusive campus environment that supports every member of the campus community.

Those who wish to share their opinions may send an email to the study committee at vendorpolicy@elon.edu.

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Smith Hall vandalism met with heightened security, consequences

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

At the end of each week, Elon University police officers can be found both inside and outside the Smith Hall residence building, watching carefully for signs of vandalism. They're on the lookout Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, and their shifts last long past midnight.

Their increased presence in the area is an effort to curtail the destruction that has been taking place in Smith Hall

since the end of August, when a resident removed a fire extinguisher from its case and covered the first floor with its contents.

Since then, some Smith Hall residents have pulled the first and second floor drinking fountains from the walls, ripped emergency exit signs from the ceilings and smashed bulletin boards and ceiling tiles on the ground. They have dumped body powder on the staircases, launched bricks through the windows and slicked lubricant on doorknobs.

"I feel bad for the people who have to clean it up because it's not fair to them," said freshman Corey Glass, a third floor resident of Smith Hall.

Over the course of the semester, both Residence Life and the Campus Safety and Police Department have intensified their patrols of the

area, and several vandals have been held accountable for their actions, according to Laura Arroyo, associate director of Residence Life for residential education.

But some vandals continue to elude detection and Smith Hall is still enduring acts of vandalism. Last week, Residence Life held a meeting with the hall residents to emphasize the severity of the problem and encourage students to come forward with any information or concerns regarding the issue. Dennis Franks, director of Campus Safety and Police, participated in the meeting and explained the zero-tolerance approach the department will take if the vandalism does not stop.

"No matter what the offense is, if someone gets cited, they'll be taken into custody," Franks said.

But he said he hopes the meeting will encourage the vandals to change their behavior before the department has to take the next step.

"These meetings will help," he said. "Usually when you talk to someone face to face, it has a positive result. You can usually solve a lot of problems that way."

But some students aren't sure if the threat of harsher repercussions is enough to stop the vandalism.

"The dorm is still out of control," said sophomore Nick Foley, a second floor resident of Smith Hall. "I'm looking forward to seeing if these new policies actually help."

If the problem persists and the culprits remain unidentified, Arroyo said all Smith Hall residents will be billed for the damages caused to the building. In September, the repair costs totaled about \$2,000.

"The first thing we're going to do is try to hold any students accountable for the damages," she said. "Billing all students in the residence is a second resort."

Some residents of Smith Hall are angry at this possibility.

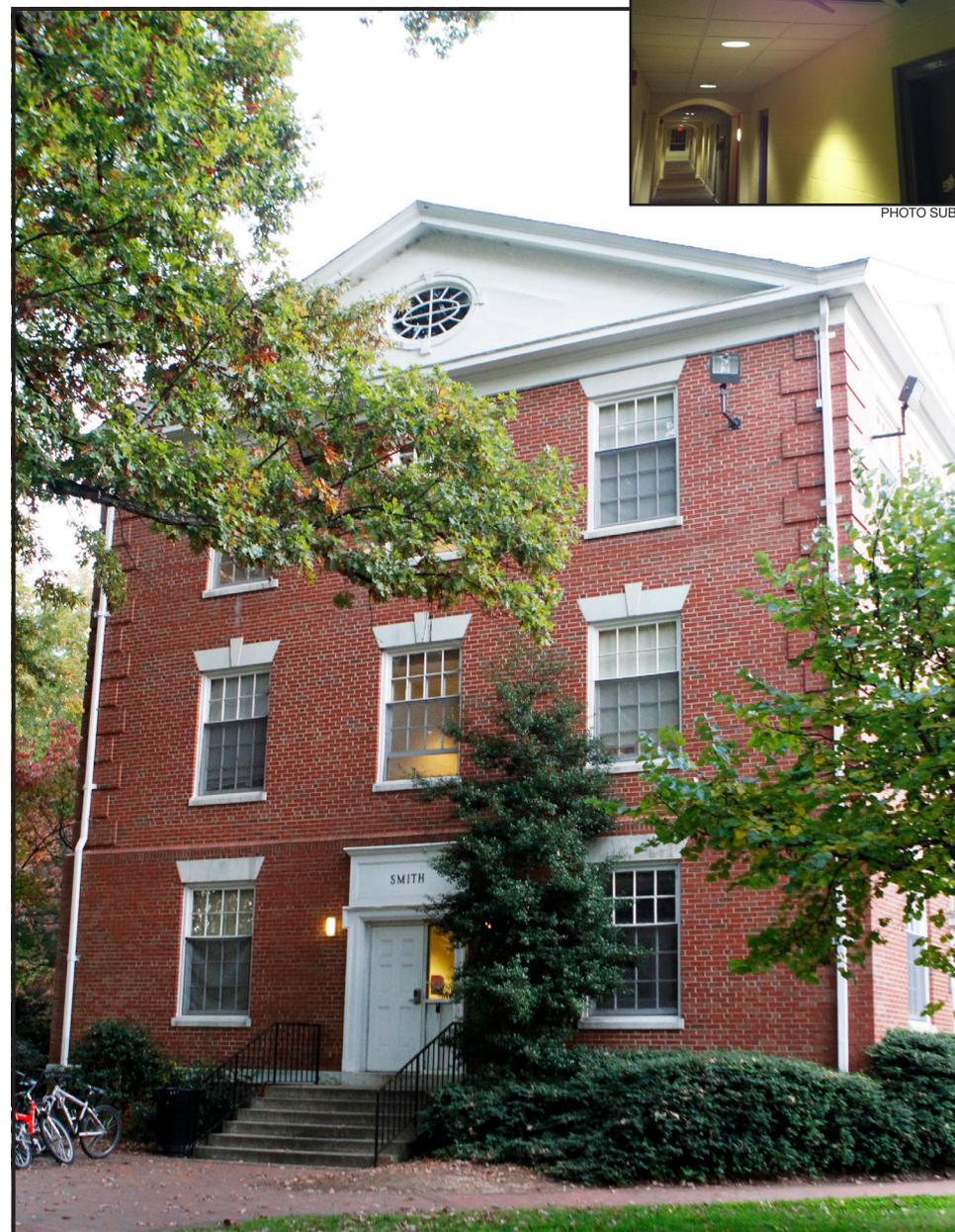
"It's frustrating, because I feel if I saw it happening, it would be my responsibility to report it," said freshman Reed Payne, a second floor resident. "A couple guys have claimed it's just a small amount of money, but paying no money is better."

Foley agreed and said he does not wish to pay for damages incurred by other Smith Hall residents.

"Ninety-five percent of us who live in Smith Hall are innocent victims of a vandalized living environment," he said. "The administration needs to find out who did this and punish them, not us."



PHOTO SUBMITTED



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Above: Campus Safety and Police officers patrol inside and outside Smith Hall on Thursday-Saturday.
Top right: The ceiling tiles inside the building are frequently broken and left on the floor.

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UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON

The Ins and Outs of Elon SGA:

Student government impacts daily functions, finances of university

Caitlin O'Donnell
Editor-in-Chief

On any given day, Student Government Association Executive President Darien Flowers will receive a phone call from the Office of the President requesting a meeting and one from a freshman complaining about a strange smell in Smith residence hall. He'll respond to the countless emails he receives on a daily basis, he'll attend meeting after meeting and he'll spend a few hours in his office in Moseley catching up on SGA-related work. All of this as a full-time student set to graduate in the spring.

Flowers is just one in a long line of SGA leaders who work both in the spotlight and behind the scenes to represent a student body of almost 5,000, direct campus policy and distribute money among student organizations.

"Amongst our peer institutions in the Southern Conference, my counterparts at other schools do not have the same opportunities to provide the kind of counsel that (SGA) does to the administration or to really have the administrative independence that we operate under," Flowers said.

Since he first became involved with the SGA three and a half years ago as a freshman, Flowers said he has witnessed both a blossoming

within the constituency representation and in the appreciation for the organization's role in student life.

"I think when I first came, the faculty did not really understand what our role was," Flowers said. "Over the years, with faculty, SGA has become more pervasive in their relationships with the community and I think we've done a lot to show faculty what we actually do and show that we're a resource."

While SGA does work with a faculty adviser, Jana Lynn Patterson, the decision making is left entirely up to the student-run organization. While Patterson ensures they pay close attention to the governing documents, including a constitution and by-laws, she encourages SGA representatives to pay heed to different perspectives, while not dictating their decisions.

"It's a student organization, these are their decisions to make and, as long as they're acting within the university's guidelines and their own guidelines, my role is to help facilitate their decision making process, not make the decision for them," Patterson said.

SGA staff

Elon's SGA includes a total of four councils — Executive, At-Large, Academic and



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

The Student Government Association representatives were elected in February and formally took office April 1, 2012. Senior Darien Flowers (right) won the position of executive president, working with junior Connor O'Donnell as executive vice president.

Organizational — all of which include popularly elected seats and carry equal weight in the SGA Senate, with one vote per senator. The Senate meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays in Moseley. Elected in February, representatives take office April 1 and hold their positions for one year.

Patterson said her favorite part of working with the more than 50 students on staff has been helping them embrace

their role as student leaders on Elon's campus.

"We talk about the ethics of representation and I've seen them do some pretty amazing things," she said. "It's helping them look at bigger issues and engaging with them around their concern for their student community."

Flowers has been involved with SGA in some way since his first semester on Elon's campus, when he ran for class senator. He said the experience has been crucial in developing his own style of effective leadership.

"That's the biggest asset to my development," he said. "The opportunity to see a wide variety of leadership styles and hone them down into what I think is the most effective."

Matters of money

According to Executive Treasurer Welsford Bishopric, this year SGA had a total

of \$505, 284 — half of the money collected through student activity fees — to allocate among student organizations. Allocation of funds is a long and intense process, Flowers said, which he compared to testifying before Congress.

"It is an extensive process," Flowers said. "That week in March is a long week for the executive treasurer and I think it requires the most work out of the four positions, preparing those meetings and then presenting the budget."

In March, the SGA budget committee has individual meetings with every student organization requesting funds to review their budget and funding requests.

"This is a time for (organizations) to be advocates for themselves and answer, 'Why do we need these funds?'" Flowers said.

The initial decision reached by the budget committee must then be presented to the Sen-

ate for a vote.

"The budget committee is only advisory," Flowers said. "We make recommendations but there have been times when I have seen the Senate alter both up and down the allocations given to organizations."

Once the two rounds of budget hearings are complete and the budget approved, the money is available for use by student organizations. There is another route available for the organizations who might have missed budget hearings or require extra funds.

Requests up to \$499 require only an executive allocation, which is approved by the executive council and Patterson, without requiring the approval of the Senate. Requests for more than \$500 require the advice and counsel of the SGA Senate prior to final approval.

Patterson said she believes there is some confusion about

The Four Councils of Elon SGA

Executive Council: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer

Academic Council: Represent the academic schools on campus, including Arts and Sciences, Business and Communication

At-Large Council: Leaders of each of the four classes (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer)

Organizational Council: Represent the more than 200 student organizations on campus, through organizational clusters



**NOT
ON OUR
CAMPUS**

FILE PHOTO BY HEATHER CASSANO

Last September, the Student Government Association passed a resolution against discrimination on campus, in line with the goals of the student-led Not on our Campus movement.

the role of SGA with finances on Elon's campus.

"This is a critical role," Patterson said. "I don't think people understand the care they take to do it and the thinking they put into it."

Impact on campus

Spend more than 30 or so minutes in Flowers' office and it's likely he'll pause the conversation, at least once, for an incoming phone call or email. In many cases, it's coming straight from the Office of President Leo Lambert, looking to chat with the SGA president about pertinent issues on campus.

"I can say that both formally and informally, I and my colleagues give advice and counsel to the administration on a wide variety of topics," Flowers said. "What we say and what we give our advice on is heard with open ears and is given thoughtful consideration."

Since Patterson arrived at Elon and became involved with SGA almost three decades ago, she said the impact of SGA on the daily decisions of campus often goes unnoticed. She referenced past recommendations — such as price per meal swipe being too high and parking on campus — that have drastically influenced the direction the administration eventually takes.

"I think people feel like they only do it on these big issues that are brought to them externally but they do it every week," she said. "They really do represent people's opinions but, unless it's a salacious issue, people don't understand."

One such issue which has recently dominated discussion on campus and among SGA is the future of Chick-fil-A on Elon's campus. Spectrum, Elon's queer-straight alliance, has submitted SGA legislation that calls for the removal of the franchise because of donations to anti-gay groups. While approved in a vote of 35-11 by the Senate, Flowers vetoed the

legislation in a Sunday press conference. At the time of publication, the Senate had not overturned the veto, which is possible with a two-thirds vote.

While Flowers said the administration has asked for SGA's input on the matter, he is not sure how much sway SGA will have on the final decision.

"We have given our opinions as the Executive Staff, but this is one of those situations where it will go to the full Senate," Flowers said. "But even after the outcome, I'm not

SGA & Decision-Making: How else has the organization shaped campus?

- * SGA brought complaints to ARAMARK about the price per meal swipe, claiming students were paying too much. The food service provider responded by adjusting their prices.

- * Following the shooting at Virginia Tech, the SGA advised Elon's Director of Security on how to effectively modify security procedures on campus.

- * After the construction of Belk Library, SGA successfully lobbied for the library to be open 24-hours a day on weeknights.

- * SGA representatives successfully lobbied for the inclusion of Arabic studies at Elon.

Student Government Association

Information courtesy of Jana Lynn Patterson.

sure how they're going to decide."

While Flowers cannot remember a comparable circumstance involving such tense discussions during the time he's been on campus, he said the administration takes the input of the Senate and Executive Council seriously.

"I think often, nine out of 10 times, whatever our recommendation is is what the administration goes for," Flowers said. "Because, they say, 'You are the duly-elected representatives and, through your proxy, this is what the students want.'" §



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

In May, SGA approved a resolution stating the university's opposition to Amendment One, an addition to the state constitution defining marriage as solely between a man and woman. In the May 8 primary, 61 percent of North Carolina voters voted in favor of the amendment.

Grant awarded to Elon Academy provides financial support for sustainable gardening, science enrichment programs

Ethan Smith
Senior Reporter

The Elon Academy recently received a grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund to provide financial support for Elon University students to work with high school students in the Elon Community Garden through a gardening class.

The grant, which includes more than \$169,000 from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Student Science Enrichment Program, allows students to take a first hand look at growing food and the nutritional value it holds, according to Deborah Long, director of the Elon Academy.

Long said she noticed the lack of nutrition in high school students and recognized many students live in what she calls “food deserts”— a problem compounded by busy families who don’t have time to cook.

“Food deserts are areas where there isn’t a lot

of opportunity for students to get nutritional food,” Long said. “So they go to the local mini-mart or gas station and eat a lot of processed foods.”

The grant allows for hands-on education for students to transform how they look at and think about their food, Long said. Students will be engaged in learning about how to grow their food, the nutritive properties it holds and about a variety of topics from companion crops to how certain plants repel insects, according to Long.

“We wanted to do something more impactful than lecturing about the nutritional value of food,” Long said. “This way the students become involved in the process, and we hope to get their families and the community involved as well.”

Long said she hopes the garden could some day become an educational garden for the community to come learn about what’s grown there. Furthermore, she said she hopes for students’ families to work alongside them.

The process of being involved in how food is grown gets students thinking about their food and often allows them to enjoy healthy foods, Long said.

“We’re finding that a lot of the time students just automatically assume they don’t like a certain fruit or vegetable,” Long said. “But then they get in the garden and grow it and cultivate it, and they end up enjoying something they never thought they would.”

The grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund will provide three years of funding for Elon Academy students to be engaged in the garden, and the Elon Academy can re-apply for the grant after the initial three years.

The gardening class is one of 10 classes offered by the academy every year, and the grant provides funds for purchasing necessary items to be used in the garden and for the payment of student workers.

So far the grant has been used for class purposes, including purchasing gloves for everyone to use in the garden and buying a refrigerator to put in the building that will house Elon Hillel. The new kitchen will store foods that have been grown in the local garden.

“This is a win for everybody,” Long said. “We’re able to provide things that everybody needs with the grant, and it proves that even though Elon Academy is small, the impact is huge.”



FILE PHOTO BY MOLLY CAREY

The Burroughs Wellcome grant provides \$169,000 for Elon Academy students to learn about nutritional value.



FILE PHOTO BY MOLLY CAREY

Professor Michael Strickland teaches classes in the Community Garden at Elon University.



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Interim assistant chaplain aims to unite students through interfaith initiatives

Adriana Miano
Senior Reporter

When 2008 alumna Lauren Emery returned to Elon this fall, she noticed a change in the university's strides toward religious diversity.

"There is a renewed energy at Elon for creating a space where people can celebrate their own traditions and also learn how to interact with people who have different traditions from their own," said Emery, who now works as the university's interim assistant chaplain.

Though Emery hopes to help foster an environment that is wholly inclusive and welcoming of students from all religious backgrounds, she said she recognizes that this is a goal that will not be met overnight.

"Some people still don't feel that this is a place that is as accommodating of their traditions as much as it is of other traditions," Emery said. "There has been a great groundwork laid for respect and interfaith dialogues, but there's still a lot we can do."

In order to enhance religious diversity and acceptance, Emery will spend the next year working with religious life organizations on campus to better understand the needs of those groups.

She will also work closely with

the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge, which encourages a variety of religious organizations to work side-by-side on service projects.

"Our job isn't done until everyone feels that this is a perfect place where they can be accepted and have their own faith be respected," Emery said.

A 2010 survey by the Interfaith Youth Core revealed 30 percent of Elon students do not claim any religious affiliation, and Emery said she does not want this group of students to feel neglected by multi-faith initiatives.

"We don't want to overlook nearly a third of our student body," Emery said. "We want them to know this is a space for them as well. We are here to support religious life and those who aren't religious as well."

To best understand the needs of the students and their variety of backgrounds, Emery is instituting an open door policy at her office, and hopes students will come to her to voice their concerns and ideas, she said.

University Chaplain Jan Fuller said she feels Emery's familiarity with Elon and its students will serve as an advantage during the next year.

"She knows Elon, and she knows the culture, and she knows



GLORIA SOI Staff Photographer

Lauren Emery, the newly hired Interim assistant chaplain and Elon alumna '08, said she hopes to create a welcoming environment for students of all religious backgrounds. Emery assumed the position a few weeks into the fall semester.

what kind of students we have," Fuller said. "The bottom line is that she knows how to get things done around here."

In her time at Elon, Emery has acted as a Truitt Center representative to a variety of committees and taken over the organization of programs such as the interfaith

service trip to Morocco, according to Fuller.

"She's taken over some big chunks of the work," Fuller said. "She came at exactly the right moment."

Emery isn't hesitant to take the lead on interfaith projects and is eager to collaborate with students

in the future to develop new ideas, she said.

"Elon students know what they care about and are willing to get involved on the front lines," she said. "I'm most looking forward to working with students, letting them bring ideas to us and collaborating across different departments."

'Little Princes' selected as common reading for upcoming year

Melissa Kansky
News Editor

The book chosen for 2013-2014, "Little Princes" by Conor Grennan, continues to advance the mantra of the institution. The common reading selection reflects Elon University's commitment to developing global citizens, according to Jeffrey Coker, chair of the common reading committee and director of the general studies program.

"It deals with themes the campus cares a lot about, including diversity and global engagement," Coker said. "It also takes us to a region that we haven't been before and that we often don't think a lot about."

The common reading commit-

tee finished the selection process three months ahead of schedule because the members expressed unprecedented agreement on "Little Princes."

"Little Princes" describes the author's experience working at an orphanage in Nepal. While volunteering at the orphanage, he learns the boys housed there are not orphans, but rather victims of human trafficking. In response to this realization, Grennan works to reunite the children with their parents, inciting a journey through the foreign country.

The human trafficking element in "Little Princes" will provoke service-learning projects involving children and social issues, Coker said. Furthermore, he said he expects the reading selection to inspire additional campus program-

ming concerning the region and Buddhist and Hindu traditions.

But despite the serious nature of the topics presented, the author compliments the account with humor, according to Mark Enfield, assistant professor of education, who proposed the book to the Common Reading Committee.

"There is a sense of lightheartedness and hope at the end, but it's dealing with really unpleasant things and child trafficking and taking advantage of people in a disadvantaged situation," he said.

Still, Enfield agrees the book addresses Elon's objectives as an institution. The book's focus on education and the plight of disempowered individuals relates to The Elon Commitment, he said.

While the memoir illuminates the academic values of the institution, Coker said he believes certain aspects speak strongly to incoming freshmen.

The book features Grennan engaged in society, navigating an unfamiliar culture and serving those in the local community.

"The personal development theme is really strong, and we hope that will connect strongly with incoming freshmen," Coker said.

Coker said he believes students will also gain from meeting Grennan, who has already agreed to speak at Elon in September.

The opportunity to meet the author provides students with a holistic literary experience and reveals the human con-

dition woven into the text on the page, according to Coker.

Coker expressed disappointment that this year's common reading author, David Eggers, did not visit campus. When selecting the common reading book for the upcoming year, Coker framed the proposal to indicate the book would only be chosen if the author was willing to speak at Elon.

"I think for most students entering college, they tend to think of books as set documents written by distant people, and to have that interaction with the author and internalize literature written by humans just like us is a really important lesson for students to get right at the beginning of their college education," he said.

Affirmative action policies hang in balance of Supreme Court decision

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

Affirmative action is on the chopping block, and where the cleaver falls is up to the Supreme Court justices. Justice Elena Kagan removed herself from the case because of a conflict of interest, leaving eight justices to make the critical decision.

Conservatives in the High Court, including Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Antonin Scalia, criticized the race-conscious admission policy of the University of Texas at Austin Oct. 10. The case was brought forth by Abigail Fisher, a student who was denied admission to the university in 2008.

Fisher claims lesser-qualified African American and Hispanic students were admitted ahead of her, a practice she argues is unconstitutional. If the majority of the Supreme Court sides with Fisher, the affirmative action policies used by many colleges across the country may either continue in an altered form or cease to exist at all.

Private institutions like Elon University reserve the right to structure their admissions policies as they see fit, and most would likely remain unscathed if the Supreme Court deemed affirmative action policies unconstitutional. But according to Robert Parrish, assistant professor of law at the Elon School of Law, such a ruling could alter the campus demographics of colleges across the state of North Carolina.

“We will see a huge decrease in matriculation of minority students, especially African Americans,” he said. “That would affect a whole generation of students.”

Parrish cited matriculation rates of minority students at University of California Los Angeles, San Diego and Berkeley after the state outlawed race-based admissions policies in 1993. The rates have fallen between 25 and 40 percent, he said.

Such statistics lend credence to the idea that inclusive and diverse campus environments cannot be created through race-neutral admissions, an argument stated by many colleges. Lisa Keegan, interim dean of admissions at Elon, said she thinks at least some levels of diversity can be achieved by other means.

“I’ve never worked at a large institution that receives 50,000 or 75,000 applications, so I have no idea what that would be like,” she said. “Everyone has different approaches, but you can make sure you remain accessible to all students through college fairs and you can maybe look at it from the recruitment angle.”

Parrish agrees there are other ways to foster diversity on college campuses, but only to a certain degree.

“When you go to a race-neutral policy, you can in some ways manipulate student diversity in a way to maintain diversity to some extent, but in every way, it’s been less effective than affirmative action,” he said. “There are methods for trying to increase diversity, but none of those

methods have been perfect and it takes the combination, the cocktail of methods. What we’ve seen so far is no one idea has worked.”

But sophomore Bridget Creel said she thinks affirmative action should not be an option afforded to colleges trying to build a diverse student body.

“I don’t think ethnicity should play a role in college admissions at all,” she said. “If you have the grades and the work ethic, that should be all that matters.”

But if minority enrollment rates were to decrease in North Carolina’s public universities, Parrish said students might be deterred from applying to those schools.

“I would say anecdotally, I see a number of students who come to this university in particular because they see it as a place that diversity matters,” he said. “I do think there is a contingent of individuals that may not come to a university knowing it’s not a diverse place.”

In his opinion, the same might be true for minority students.

“Minority students will feel less likely to come to a place that doesn’t seem to value diversity very much,” he said. “No one wants to feel like the spokesperson of their race.”

But the Supreme Court may not slash the policy entirely. The justices debated the definition of “critical mass,” a term coined in the 2003 *Grutter v. Bollinger* case. The court ruled institutions of higher education could employ affirmative action policies to obtain a “critical mass” of

Previous Supreme Court cases involving affirmative action in schools

1978: *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*

- Eliminated racial quotas, but allowed race to be considered in order to achieve a diverse student body.

2003: *Gratz v. Bollinger*

- Supreme Court ruled University of Michigan violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment because it used an overly mechanized system to enroll minority students.

2003: *Grutter v. Bollinger*

- Supreme Court upheld the decision to allow colleges and universities to use race as a factors in their admissions policies

2012: *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin*

- Fisher claims lesser-qualified African American and Hispanic students were admitted ahead of her, a practice she argues is unconstitutional.

minority students, and Justice Samuel Alito stressed the need for a more concrete enrollment standard.

“‘Critical mass’ is a very mushy standard, and the conservative majority in the court isn’t comfortable with it,” Parrish said. “The court is going to either say diversity at the higher state level is not a compelling interest or it will nibble at the edges and limit what these programs can do and limit the role of race in admissions decisions.”

Though the justices’ decision, which will likely be made before June, won’t greatly affect private schools, Keegan said she thinks these institutions are following the case just as closely as public institutions.

“Private schools are not under the microscope in the same way, but it will give everyone pause as they think about the admissions process,” she said. “I’m proud of the way we have such a holistic view of our applications.”

Elon professor engages students in local science cafe

Ethan Smith
Senior Reporter

The Fat Frogg gets a makeover once a month and is turned into a gathering place for the community to learn about modern science without the jargon that lulled them to sleep in high school physics.

Alamance County’s science cafe, called Tectonic Plates, meets the second Tuesday of every month and was developed from a relatively new concept of

science cafes, according to Dave Gammon, associate professor of biology. It seeks to make science accessible and engaging, he said.

“Science is one of the biggest drivers of the economy, of improving our standards of living and of providing meaning for important issues,” said Gammon. “But the general public is too often fearful of science or do not see its relevance in their personal lives.”

Tectonic Plates was designed to engage the community in the spring of 2012, according to Gammon. He said he believes the science cafe hasn’t yet taken off locally yet, but said he feels as though science cafes are gaining popularity nationally.

“I would love to get people to come who don’t consider themselves science people,” Gammon said. “Overall, I think our society would be better off if scientists spent more time interacting with the general public and the general public spent more time interacting with science.”

The name of the cafe came down to combining the image of meeting at a restaurant while still maintaining a scientific edge.

“Periodic Tables was already taken by a science cafe in Durham, so it came down to either Tectonic Plates or Molecule Meals,” Gammon said. “About a year ago, I took an informal poll of every scientist I could find in McMichael, and Tectonic Plates won.”

The Fat Frogg was picked as the location for the science cafe because it provided a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere for the community to gather in, Gammon said.

The October session’s gathering concerned the economy, and is the second in a series of four events this semester. The next event is Nov. 13 and will cover the exploitation of the Mayan calendar with a talk by Tony Crider, associate professor of physics at Elon.

Professor Gammon is seeking to get even more community members involved with the science cafe. He is taking suggestions for the Dec. 11 session of Tectonic Plates.



DAVE GAMMON

Seniors prepare for life after graduation with transitional courses

Ben Donahue
Senior Reporter

Elon University seniors and freshmen have one thing in common: classes designed to prepare students for the next chapter of their lives.

Elon has long emphasized transitions in and out of collegiate life, according to Pam Brumbaugh, director of experiential education.

Brumbaugh, who has maintained her role at Elon since 1987, said courses that assist students in adjusting — whether coming or leaving — have been around since she started working at the university. The senior transitional courses, which help near-graduates develop professional habits such as interview decorum and resume assistance, have been further developed and ex-

panded in recent years.

“In the winter of 2008, the experimental education department of Elon decided to increase the availability of these courses and put them under the moniker of transition strategies,” Brumbaugh said.

Brumbaugh, who initially operated the program, said there are now around 30 senior transitional courses offered across academic disciplines. The transitional courses, which run for a full semester, function similarly to Elon 101 or Global Experience freshman courses in that many professors teach them and they can tailor the class to their areas of expertise. Students enrolled in such courses have a wide range of options, Brumbaugh said.

“We try to offer these courses with a great deal of variety,” she said. “There are varied times of the day and topics covered by different professors, but the base habits of graduate professionalism are the same.”

Rhonda Kosusko, associate director of career services, took over the job of managing the transitional courses from Brumbaugh



Tom Nelson teaches a transitional course in the school of communications, which help upcoming graduates develop positive professional habits.

Transition programs help freshmen adjust to life at Elon

Michael Bodley
Reporter

In search of a soft landing, freshman transition programs ease students into university life.

For the majority of Elon freshmen, this semester is the first time they have lived away from home. When they oversleep, Dad isn't there to wake them up. When they catch a cold, Mom's chicken noodle soup is nowhere to be found.

There is a support system. Freshmen are not alone. Sometimes, it just doesn't feel that way.

According to Jennifer Brigman, a counselor at Elon, the homesick feeling many freshmen experience is actually grief. It's completely normal, she said.

“Homesickness is a loss of what was,” she said. “I don't think it has as much to do with home as it does a loss of familiarity.”

Brigman leads Soft Landings at Elon, a group for freshmen and transfers who are

struggling with the transition.

“It's not me educating them,” she said. “It's them sitting there and talking and trying to make connections with each other.”

For many freshmen, the contrast between school and home is stark.

“Everything is so different here,” said freshman Gina Ubertini. “The landscape, the food and especially the weather.”

Like many freshmen, Ubertini misses the sights and sounds of home. She compensates by keeping memories of Massachusetts close to her heart, particularly those of her family.

Ubertini's mother was recently diagnosed with breast cancer, which has made the transition more difficult. The cancer prevents her mother from flying, so the distance between them can only be bridged by a 13-hour car ride.

“It's hard,” Ubertini said. “I miss my family so much. I talk to my mom every single day.”

Ubertini isn't the only one. Freshman Matt VanDerveer calls his family often, too.



Associate professor Tom Nelson prepare students for interviews and money management.

this fall.

“Career services certainly emphasizes transitional aspects,” Kosusko said. “This is reflected in the transitional courses whose purposes are to help seniors prepare for things such as graduate school or their first job out of college.”

Tom Nelson, associate professor of communications, teaches a transitional course centered around mass communications. He said he enjoys teaching the course and thinks the courses are genuinely valuable for seniors.

“I think that seniors are aware of everything in broad strokes but oftentimes they are not aware of where the resources are and where to apply them,” Nelson said.

Nelson's course educates students about the details concerning post-graduate life.

“Classes like this are good for those students

who have great anxiety about getting a job post-graduation,” said senior Samantha Siberini, who is in Nelson's class. “You never know what little thing could make a big difference, so transition strategies classes may provide helpful tips that will take you past your competition.”

Senior Kara Frasca, also enrolled in Nelson's class, said she was enthused about the topics they have covered so far.

“We've done mock interviews and work on our presentation skills, which is helpful,” Frasca said. “Later on in the semester, we talk more about ‘real life’ issues like money management, real estate and stock investments.”

To Frasca and Siberini, the few extra hours of class each week are well worth it, giving seniors at Elon a tangible way to explore topics related to post-graduation.

“I talk to them on a daily basis,” he said. “It's something that I feel is important.”

For those suffering from intense feelings of homesickness, Brigman has some suggestions.

“Share stories with others,” she said. “A lot of times people don't do that because they're embarrassed. If they open up, they can get encouragement, find stories that are similar and feel normal.”

Peter Tulchinsky, an Elon 101 professor and director of Campus Recreation, has his own solution to homesickness. Joining an organization is a requirement of his class.

“It gives more structure and focus,” he said. “Being part of a group helps ease that transition.”

Anthony Hatcher, a past Elon 101 professor, said he agrees.

“When you get to college, suddenly you find your time is your own, and you have hours and hours,” he said. “People tend to waste that time.”

When it comes to time management,

Tulchinsky said he believes it's important for students to prioritize their day based on when they feel most focused: morning, afternoon or night.

“I really try to make sure that, from an academic standpoint, you're doing your work when your energy level is best, so you've got the most focus,” he said. “If you've got two hours in between classes, instead of going back to your room and taking a nap, go to the library and get some work done.”

In today's age of constant connectivity, students working in the library are never more than a text away from their parents. Hatcher wonders if the “constant thread” of communication might be contributing to homesickness in freshmen.

“Initially, this might be a good thing, but I wonder if some of the homesickness could be alleviated if it gradually tapered off,” he said. “Maybe over time, you try in your head to make that transition, that this is my new home.”

Disagreement does not equal hatred

Chick-fil-A debate should not be allowed to divide student body

We know. You're probably tired of talking about Chick-fil-A. Both our campus and the national news are always talking about it. Everyone feels pressured to take a side or risk being alienated from everyone else. One side thinks Chick-fil-A hates gays, while another thinks that gays hate Chick-fil-A.

But is that really the case? Is our culture filled with as much open hatred as so many believe it to be? That depends on how you define hate, which is the core issue at hand. Hatred has a meaning, and our ability to recognize this and respond to it will determine if our campus will survive and grow or become destabilized through division and disunity.

We as Elon students cannot allow this debate to irreparably splinter our campus into permanent factions because of a difference in opinion. Opinions are what make our university strong: they show we rationalize ideas differently. We see what others may not have noticed. Arguing an opinion doesn't always require agreement, just recognition and respect of opinions different from yours.

The ongoing media interest in the Chick-fil-A debate here on campus has spurred the constant exchange of opinions, both respectful and dismissive, by students, community members and alumni over the potential removal of the Chick-fil-A franchise from campus.

Take a minute to read some of the comments on The Pendulum, Huffington Post, Fox News or

Perez Hilton articles about the debate, and you will notice not only an increasing lack of respectable exchange of opinions, but an increasing condemnation of the opposing sides.

Individuals have taken to verbally attacking one another online over the propriety of the Chick-fil-A franchise remaining on Elon's campus, citing their personal beliefs about same-sex marriage, Chick-fil-A's history of financially supporting conservative causes and discrimination against the LGBTQ community as justification for their claims.

This behavior is quickly creating an "us versus them" mentality within our campus, a sociopolitical divide that could spell permanent damage to our community as a whole. But herein lies the problem: disagreeing about something does not equal automatic hatred of the opposite side. Furthermore, agreeing to disagree does not mean one is unwilling to defend his or herself, or lacks an informed opinion. Unfortunately, it seems these ideas are not being given proper consideration in the midst of the current discussion.

We communicate using similar words, but often mean to convey completely different ideas. One person has one opinion, while someone else has another. Misunderstanding the reasoning behind a person's opinion does not equal hatred. Disagreement does not imply that we allow our opinions to be driven purely by emotion. It means we are coming from very different philosophical



FILE PHOTO BY MERISSA BLITZ

Students at the SGA sponsored forum on Sept. 23 exchange opinions over whether Chick-fil-A should remain on campus. The initial exchange of contesting opinions over Chick-fil-A has now taken a negative turn on Elon student media outlet websites.

foundations. We view the world in fundamentally different ways. One of us may be right while the other is wrong, but that doesn't mean either of us hates the other.

Remember the people whom you may be arguing with over this issue are your classmates, co-workers, professors and colleagues.

But most importantly, they are your friends. These are the people that the majority of your college memories will include. Do you want to potentially ruin your relationships with these people just

because they didn't agree with you?

Regardless of your personal opinions on Chick-fil-A, the recent veto of the SGA vote conducted last week or the final decision to be made by senior staff, with an issue as contentious as this, it is simply impossible to please everyone. We must remember that whatever decision is made, whatever complaints or negative attention we may receive, Elon University will still be here. The Chick-fil-A debate represents a very small chapter in Elon's history. Our students will

continue to excel and bring further prestige to the school we call home.

The real strength of the Elon community lies in its ability to come together in moments that would normally divide other communities and our commitment to uphold our values even when it may be inconvenient for us to do so.

The old "you are either with us or against us" mentality has no place at Elon. Our university thrives on its community of tolerant people, not the symmetry of their beliefs.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Nuggets Worth Pondering

As a recent Elon alumna, I frequently find myself telling others about all the wonderful things happening on this campus. I must admit I was less than impressed by SGA's recent motion to remove Chick-fil-A from campus.

Like many others, our university is ever-changing and searching for new ways to be better. That said, in this situation it seems the proposition of the student government is out of touch with the wants of the student body.

Students genuinely enjoy the products provided by Chick-fil-A.

There aren't many off campus vendors on campus so this one is especially appreciated. It seems that more than any other group, students express value for the right to free speech.

Chick-fil-A's president Dan Cathy has the right to speak his mind and delegate funds as he

sees fit. I don't personally agree with his views or money management but I do love those chicken nuggets.

Removing Chick-fil-A for being "closed-minded" is, in my opinion, pretty closed-minded. As Elon strives to improve the community, it should take into consideration

the value of diverse perspectives. I am ashamed to think that it may become the "Elon way" to discriminate against others based on their views, whatever they may believe.

Louisa Sloan, Elon University '12
UNC Social Work Candidate

Racist policy still exists under cloak of affirmative action

“Check one: Caucasian, Hispanic, Asian, African-American, Other.”

This statement can be found

on almost every college application, scholarship or job application in the United States today. We as a nation claim to be more forward thinking than we were 50



Kaitlin Dunn
Guest Columnist

years ago. We say we are above racism, and we are fair to every race.

But if we were truly a nation of equal opportunity, why should every person have to identify their race to be considered for a position?

On Wednesday, Oct. 10, the Supreme Court heard the case of Fisher vs. University of Texas. A Caucasian woman who was denied admission to the university claimed it was because of her skin color.

The eventual decision could be a groundbreaking one that overturns the racist policy of affirmative action once and for all.

Fifty years ago, when people who were not of Caucasian descent applied for anything, they were often turned down because of the color of their skin.

Therefore, the policy of affirmative action was created in order to allow more diversity in American universities and in the workforce.

Back then, the idea could be justified. It made it so potential employers

or admission workers could not discriminate against a person on the basis of skin color. But today, it is being misused. Now, in order to provide diversity, there is increased potential for less-qualified candidates receiving opportunities based on the color of their skin. Does this scenario sound fair?

By saying that we still need affirmative action, we are implying that without it, one race will be automatically elevated above another. That type of outdated thinking is what is holding our country back.

Supporters of affirmative action believe the policy to be necessary due to people of African American or Hispanic descent having historically lower college enrollment rates. Furthermore, many believe that affirmative action serves as a manner of remedial compensation for the legal and social disadvantages minorities endured for decades in American society, such as substandard primary education. This is very much not the case.

We would be far better off providing better primary education for everyone, than giving disadvantaged students higher education than they are qualified for. If a student enters a college that they have not been adequately conditioned for, how is that helping them to succeed?

The past is over. As we as a nation struggle to overcome the wrongs that were committed, we are taking a step backward by committing them again.

We are all one race—the human race. We should not have to be divided into sectors of African Americans, cau-



Proponents of collegiate affirmative action policies rally outside the United States Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS

casians or Latinos. We should not analyze what race statistically scores better on standardized tests or has higher college admission rates.

We do not analyze who has higher graduation rates between brunettes and blondes, nor do we analyze tall people versus short people. So why should the color of our skin be a deciding factor?

It is unfair that any ethnic group should be able to exclude others from clubs and sororities and be given higher preference in the college appli-

cation process, yet if any one group dared to exclude somebody on the basis of race, they would automatically be labeled as chauvinistic and racist. Nobody should be excluded from anything. Black, white, gay, straight, male, female, “other”; we are all equal and should be judged solely on our merits and talents, not by our biological features.

Skin color has no bearing on a person’s intelligence, diligence or anything else of importance in society. Therefore, it should not be an inquiry

found on any type of application.

The people that are admitted to any given college should be the ones who have earned the highest grades, been the most involved in after school activities, completed the most volunteer work.

Affirmative action is discriminatory. Not reverse discrimination, not equal opportunity: It is discrimination in its purest form, and until we realize this and repeal the policy of affirmative action, our nation will never truly move forward.

Tolerant citizens take stand for acceptance in midst of homophobia

It is rare that social media has the potential to restore the little faith I have left in the world.

Endless animosity toward every decision regarding Chick-fil-A has left me cranky and flustered. But to my horror, I recently looked up trending topics on Twitter to find the topic “signs your son is gay.”

I read the demoralizing comments accompanying the homophobic hashtag: ‘he steals his sisters Barbies.’ ‘He dribbles the basketball with two hands’, or ‘he

those are just a few examples. Unsurprisingly, the majority of the tweets that can only be described as ignorant took extra care to imply clear animosity behind their misspelled messages.

Unlike the proponents of that particular hash tag, I do not go about my mornings thinking of crass tweets to add to trending Twitter handles. Apparently, others had the same mindset and offered up a distinctively different theme to combat the insensitive commentary.

Errors aside, this trend, coupled with the common stereotypes of LGBTQ characters on popular television and an Android app called “Is My Son Gay”, got me thinking about how long society will depict gay men as feminine stylists and lesbians as butch, motorcycle-riding environmentalists?

Users began contesting the homophobic stereotypes, and soon the previously intolerant Twitter handle was hijacked by tweets of acceptance and perseverance such as, “He understands how essential equality and human rights are to a sustainable and just society, more so than many of his peers.”

Accompanying my delight over the idea of acceptance trumping ignorance was my discovery of a video slowly making its way across the Internet. The YouTube clip shows a Catholic preacher reciting Bible passages while condemning a new statute, defending LGBTQ people by adding them to the list of minorities that should be protected from discrimination.

In a time when religious figureheads are constantly receiving national attention for denounc-

ing acceptance of homosexuals, this man made a stand for acceptance.

Hate is often louder than love. For one weekend, amidst the sea of disapproval directed toward Spectrum and the Student Government Association, I was able to find hope through others who were brave enough to welcome difference.

These small victories, embedded against a culture of hate, can save lives. Every word said on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube or anywhere else on the Internet can change a person’s life. It only takes one hateful comment to end a life, but it only takes one act of kindness to save one.

Hopefully, this small victory can let someone in doubt know that there are people who care more about them than the hateful labels society has given them.



Jonathan Black
Columnist

Debates continue about Turkey joining EU

Tupper Allen
International Reporter

ISTANBUL — For the financially strapped European Union, there is one lingering question: Should Turkey become the newest member of the EU?

The European Union is comprised of different countries, each represented in legal decisions. There have been no additions to the EU since 2007. Turkey initially applied to join the EU in 1987, and is still considered a candidate country.

The country's location is part of the debate. Turkey is a Euro-Asian country, although the majority of it resides in Asia. But the majority of the debate is political.

Fuat Keyman, a professor of international relations at Sabanci University in Istanbul, spoke on the topic of Turkey joining the EU. He commented on the significant growth of Turkey and appeared excited when the topic of

the potential 2020 Olympics in Istanbul was mentioned.

Keyman has a lot of national pride but was able to speak from both sides about the debate. He said many Turkish people see admittance into the EU as a golden ticket and the main aspect missing from their country. But he said some citizens have not yet adjusted to the Western world. The country is still in a transitional stage.

According to Keyman, many Turks view admission into the EU as a chance for a better life. Even though Turkish people have a strong desire to join, the EU said they still have many developments to make before the issue is discussed again.

As a whole, the country has experienced significant growth in many aspects. Currently, the Turkish economy is doing better than the overall European economy.

Alexandra Giordanella, a junior Elon University student taking the Cultures of Islam course in Lon-

don, said she thinks it would be an intelligent decision for Turkey to join the EU.

"Turkey has a prosperous economy and is a good role model for the Arab world," Giordanella said.

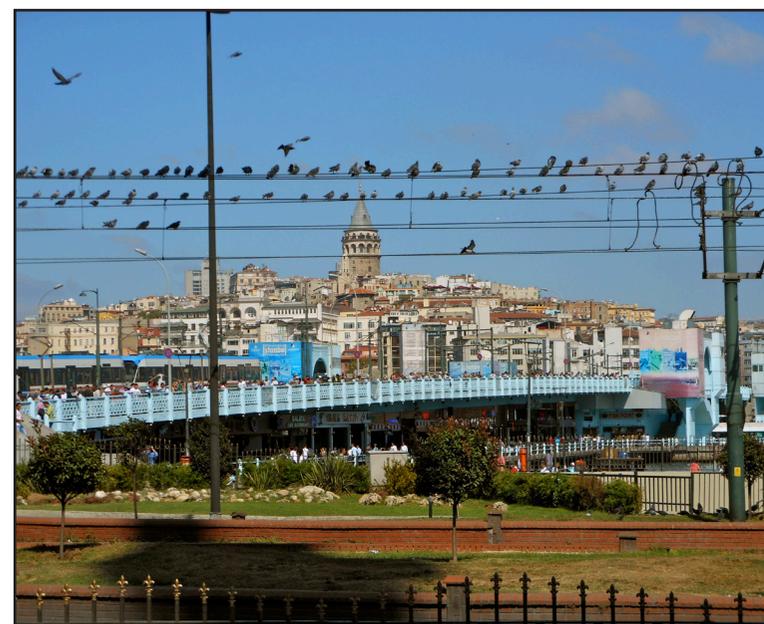
She said the country must take hold of its internal struggles before pursuing membership as a westernized country as well as a great location for trade between Europe and Asia.

Although Turkey has made several developments, other countries are hesitant about its admission into the EU. Voting in the EU depends on the size of a country, and Turkey would automatically have the most votes.

Religion is a seldom discussed part of the debate. Giordanella said Turkey is predominantly Muslim and the EU is mainly Christian.

"If Turkey is admitted to the EU, it will send a positive signal to the wider Muslim world," said Faissal Hameed, a Muslim professor living in the United Kingdom.

"I accept there are issues sur-



TUPPER ALLEN | International Reporter
Turkey first applied to join the European Union in 1987, but geographical and political reasons have prevented the country's acceptance, despite its prosperous economy.

rounding human rights and the large population of Turkey, but I feel these will, in the long term, be outweighed by the benefits that

Europe will procure from a modern Muslim country with a dynamic economy and a young population joining its ranks," Hameed said.

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CLEO DAN | International Reporter

Spanish citizens march in protest of the economic situation in their country, including cuts in financial support and high unemployment. Demonstrators advocate rebelling for rights and dignity, saying, "Not one step back."

Spain's economy causes continued protests

Cleo Dan
International Reporter

SEVILLE, SPAIN — For students, walking home through the center of town from a late afternoon class occasionally involves navigating through an organized, yet noisy, public protest on the cobblestone streets of Seville.

Shiny banners denouncing the government's newest austerity plan, shrill sounds streaming from plastic whistles, grumbling megaphones and strategically placed clusters of police are slowly becoming part of the regular street scene in the historic city center of Seville. The street demonstrations manifest as peaceful parades of frustrated citizens employ their freedom of speech as a channel through which to communicate with the Spanish government.

Mariano Rajoy, Spain's current conservative prime minister, is the principal figure on the receiving end of anti-government sentiments expressed by protesters. Spain's economic situation carries substantial weight in the ongoing eurozone crisis. Suffering from significant debt, the government recently announced its plans to remedy the financial catastrophe through

a series of domestic spending cuts, an agenda which has been met with opposition from the public in all regions of the country.

"The government had two options: spending cuts or raising taxes," said Antonio Rodriguez, a Spanish citizen and professor of business at the Council on International Educational Exchange. "They chose the cuts. For a conservative government, this choice was fairly expected."

The proposed program to reverse the national deficit will mean considerably less financial support for both the health care and education systems, which affect Spanish citizens and their futures.

"I believe these are the public sectors that should be untouchable," Rodriguez said. "These laws will certainly have an effect on the citizens."

Maria del Mar Colchero Becerril, a student at the University of Seville who has spent her entire life in this Andalusian city, said she believes the new austerity policy will provoke a Spanish diaspora of college graduates seeking better employment opportunities elsewhere in the world.

The high unemployment rate in Spain is

just another issue provoking citizens to react negatively against the government. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate was 25.1 percent as of August 2012, which is an increase from 11.3 percent in 2008.

"Educated people are the means through which the country will move forward, but without a solid educational system in Spain, the future looks bleak for us," Becerril said.

In both the United States and Spain, the promise for affordable higher education remains a key issue in political debates and public dialogue. Although the average cost for attending university is considerably higher in America, tuition rates in Spain have climbed to rates most Spaniards find unacceptable.

"Post-graduate education fees are absolutely brutal," Rodriguez said.

Throughout Spain's major cities from Bilbao to Madrid, street protests voicing resentment against the proposed austerity plan have become increasingly frequent and better organized. Recently, street protests in Madrid transformed from a nonviolent conglomeration of citizens into a hostile display of antagonism as protesters and police brawled in the streets.



CLEO DAN | International Reporter

Protesters blame politicians for the struggling economy, calling them corrupt bank thieves.

Across Spain, video coverage of police battering citizens with bats and rubber bullets aired on local nightly news channels and newspaper headlines referenced the chaos in Madrid.

Rodriguez said he believes the recent violent aspect of the Madrid street protests is an inevitable consequence of the mobilization of citizens against the central government's social spending cuts.

"This is a desperate situation," Rodriguez said. "The people are fed up. These protests are not the only things that will occur. We will most definitely see more."



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer
Perkins has 80 ostriches on his property.



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer
Jake Perkins helped create the Williamsburg Volunteer Fire Department, near Reidsville, in 1965. He no longer rides the truck, but he keeps a radio in his front pocket.

Local ostrich farmer keeps history alive

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

About 30 years have passed since he planted the flat metal ostrich sign in the grass next to the road. Its painted feathers were shiny and black back then, and over the years, it has tempted many curious drivers heading north on Route 87 to pull into Jake Perkins' dusty gravel driveway in the Williamsburg Township outside Reidsville. A sign mounted on a tree next to his house advertises ostrich meat and eggs for sale, and transactions are made on his screened gray porch.

Today, the metal ostrich is still standing, but its black paint, like Perkins' business, has faded. A boom in the ostrich industry in the late 1980s spurred more than 350 North Carolina farmers to buy and breed their own birds, but many North Carolinians were more enthused by the bird's appearance than the idea of eating its meat. Now, fewer than 25 ostrich farms remain in the state.

But Perkins, who turned 89 Oct. 19, isn't too bothered by the market's decline. Though he invests much time and energy in the 80 ostriches

he keeps across the road, some of his grandest adventures happened long before his first three birds began strutting alongside Route 87.

He traveled the South Pacific with the U.S. Army Gasoline Supply Depot during World War II, graded tobacco for the state government and founded the Williamsburg Volunteer Fire Department under the auspices of the community.

Many years have passed since then. The annual reunion of Perkins' fellow Army veterans was once a boisterous gathering of 135 men, but with only four company members remaining, the party is almost over. The members of the Volunteer Fire Department now span three generations; the remaining founders can be counted on one hand.

But Perkins doesn't dwell much on the past or the future. Even as his heart begins to tire, he still works hard for himself and others. His two most important tools are at the ends of his wrists, and he works best with a wad of tobacco tucked in his cheek. He punctuates most sentences by swiftly spitting on the ground.

Time slows for no one, though. Years stack

up like abacus beads, every row an era in history. Few beads are left in the row colored by war stories and road trips, tobacco hauling and tradition building. Perkins is one of the last men standing.

40 states, and then some

Born in 1923, Perkins spent his childhood running in and out of the house that is now decorated with pictures of his children and grandchildren. He was his parents' only child, and he learned how to farm by watching his father. He fell in love with the outdoors and the feeling of satisfaction that followed a long day pulling tobacco or tending the fields.

"It's the best life in the world," he said

After high school, Perkins enlisted in the U.S. army and was deployed to the South Pacific. He returned home and married his high school sweetheart, Gwen. When his family grew to include his two sons, Ronald and Charles, his foremost responsibilities became fatherly in nature, but once a year, Perkins' Army brotherhood took priority. The annual Army reunion drew together men from almost every state in the

country, and though the location often changed, the men always returned to their favorite places. Perkins hosted the reunion four times.

"I guess we covered about 40 states," he said. "I liked all the states. There were some I hadn't seen, and I enjoyed all of them. It was a great experience in every one. Words and money can't express or pay for what I've seen with the Army boys."

He traveled every summer, too. From July to February, he crisscrossed the Southeast grading tobacco for the North Carolina government. The farmers were busy and the markets were crowded: The crop was in high demand.

"We had to go down the rows of the farmers' tobacco and describe it according to group, quality and color," he said. "We would start in Florida or Georgia and end up in Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana or places out west where the burley tobacco was grown."

When Perkins wasn't grading other farmers' tobacco, he was inspecting his own rows of Bright Leaf, a variety that grows particularly well in the sandy soil of central North Carolina.

"On Thursday nights the men used to play



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Perkins has been farming tobacco and ostriches for more than 30 years. He keeps the birds in a pen behind the barn across the street from his home.

bluegrass music all night long, and at last it got to be couples, but at first it was just a stag party,” said Wallace McKinney, a Williamsburg tobacco farmer whose father was good friends with Perkins. “Then everyone would go around and listen to bluegrass and talk to all the neighbors and farmers. There was a sign that used to hang up — my oldest brother made it — and it said, ‘We are the champions of Haw River.’”

Each Thursday night, the already faint line between friend and family dissolved a little more. Since then, few have ever redrawn it.

“It’s a very clannish community, handed down from one generation to the next,” Perkins said. “Everyone is neighbors and knows everybody. And in case of sickness, disaster or any ailments, they don’t ask for help. The help is always there.”

A community of firefighters

In 1965, a disaster struck. After a house burned down in the Williamsburg community, the help was there as promised. But the men of the community feared the consequences of another fire, and after some discussion, they formed the Williamsburg Volunteer Fire Department.

The men’s first test was a junkyard fire, and together, they passed. The second test, which took place the next Sunday, was far more difficult. As a train was passing between Ruffin and Round Summit, the hotbox on one of its freight cars spit some embers into the brush beside the tracks. The flames sprinted off in all directions. When Perkins got the call, 10 miles of track were burning.

“I was leading the choir at church and we disrupted the service,” Perkins said. “The people in church had a very short sermon and the women fixed lunch and brought it to us. I had to stop the train from running so we could have access to the railroad to get the fire out. We knew we accomplished something when we could go and put the

fire out and minimize the loss.”

The department’s one fire truck carried only a few men, so the rest of the members arrived at the scene by car.

“Whoever left with the fire truck would throw out a lime bag each time we made a turn,” said Donnie Brown, one of the three remaining founders. “That way, everyone knew where we went by seeing that lime bag in the road.”

When the firemen began hosting fundraisers to finance the department, the community members eagerly showed their support. They gathered for turkey shoots, cookouts, horse shows and tractor

and selling such valuable birds excited Perkins, Brown and his oldest son Ronald. The three drove together to a small town near Raleigh, and each returned with three ostriches. All together, the nine birds were worth nearly \$20,000. Perkins paid \$5,600 for two hens and one rooster.

“I didn’t know what to expect,” he said. “It was an adventure and a gamble and we thought it was a good venture, financially.”

At first, the ostriches gave the men a run for their money. When Brown brought the birds back to his farm, he set one of the roosters loose in the pasture.

Everyone is neighbors and knows everybody. And in case of sickness, disaster or any ailments, they don’t ask for help. The help is always there.

-Jake Perkins

pulls. Each fall, the firemen prepared a cavernous pot of Brunswick stew to sell by the pint, and they almost always found themselves scraping the bottom of the pot at the end of the night. Over the years, the events became community traditions.

Birds of a different feather

Around that time, Perkins’ tobacco fields grew to cover 100 acres. When the plants turned yellow-green, he packed load after load into his curing barns and watched with satisfaction as the bright leaves shriveled into a dark, pungent commodity.

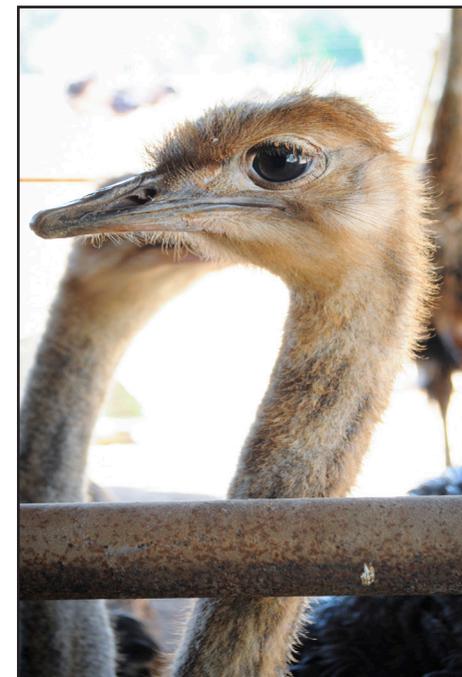
But by the 1980s, Perkins was in search of a new business venture. The ostrich industry was becoming increasingly lucrative, and a breeders’ market was rapidly developing within the state. At that time, a fertile egg sold for \$1,000, and a rooster was worth \$2,500-3,000. The prospect of breeding

“He got to running and he ran right through the fence and got out,” Brown said. “Some of my firemen came to help me get him, and when they finally caught up to him, he was lying flat on the ground. Someone was doing CPR on him, trying to revive him, but he didn’t make it.”

Though it took some trial and error, the Perkins and Brown families learned to breed and raise the birds. They sold their young hens and roosters to other men vying for spots in the breeders’ market, and they charged the premium prices they once paid.

As the industry boomed, ostrich meat was touted as the heart-healthy alternative to beef and pork, and it held great appeal to a certain demographic of people. Unfortunately, that demographic didn’t include the majority of North Carolinians.

“It’s certainly a shame it didn’t really catch on because a lot of people who tried the ostrich meat



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

There are fewer than 25 ostrich farms in the state.

found it really wasn’t all that bad,” said Brown’s wife, Wilma. “I guess some people eat with their eyes.”

The last 20 years

Like most health food fads, the demand for ostrich meat eventually tapered off. The breeders’ market soon followed suit, and the Browns sold their last birds in the early 1990s.

But Perkins continued to care for his ostriches and keep an eye on his incubators. He watched as their community grew to span several generations.

“The ostriches all defend their group,” Perkins said. “When there is danger, one male bellows and all the others answer.”

And the same is still true of the volunteer fire department. Its six trucks often venture outside the community now, but the men are always there when the people of Williamsburg call. For 47 years, the department has remained in the hands of the original founding families. Perkins’ son Ronald and his grandson Steven, who serve as chief and assistant chief of the department, continue the community traditions that Perkins began with his fellow men. This year, the Brunswick stew will be sold Oct. 27.

Perkins doesn’t ride the fire truck anymore but he still keeps a radio in the front pocket of his denim overalls. It sputters and beeps when the department receives a call, and he listens intently for short bursts of information. His dog, Jim, barks whenever he hears a siren.

He helps out the department when he can, but now his farm is his main responsibility. Every day, without fail, he crosses the road and tends to his ostriches.

He is particularly fond of Rufus, one of his oldest roosters. He used to be the dominant male in his pen, but he has since stepped back and let the younger generations take over.

Students, alumni serve up sustenance, hope

Rebecca Wickel
Features Editor

What started in Raleigh more than 13 years ago and moved across the globe has returned once again to North Carolina. Stop Hunger Now, an international relief organization, made its annual visit to Elon University in partnership with the Kernodle Center for Service Learning to package 55,000 meals for children and their families.

Nearly 150 student and alumni volunteers came to East Gym Oct. 20 to package meals for shipment, likely to a developing country.

The event's co-coordinator sophomore Samantha Murray said the event is about more than providing to thousands of starving people.

"We try to incorporate reflection into all of our service events," she said. "The Kernodle Center is not biased, religiously or in any other way, but we still want people to be able to think about what they're doing and what it means to them specifically. For a short, one

time event, it's still good to think about why you're doing it."

Volunteers were encouraged to sign a banner declaring why they care about hunger. For the first time, they were also able to write their feelings on a white board, which they were photographed with for a slideshow.

For many students, reflecting on hunger issues is what drew them to the event.

Senior Lauren Hoerr visited Washington, D.C. for an alternative spring break trip last March, where she learned about hunger and homelessness in the nation's capital. The experience encouraged her to become involved with Stop Hunger Now.

"It opened my eyes to hunger issues in our country and world wide," she said. "A person's creativity and imagination can really blossom when hunger isn't their biggest worry, and it just creates a world where better solutions are created."

Some students were returning to East Gym having worked with Stop Hunger Now previously.

"I thought it would be really important to get a few service hours in and give back to the community somehow," junior Julia Okada said. "I became interested in hunger in high school, so when I heard about this as a freshman I decided to come out. I've done it all three times."

Senior Lindsay Swenson is also a veteran volunteer. As the coordinator of Campus Kitchen at Elon, she has worked with Stop Hunger Now since her freshman year, and thinks many of her peers do the same because of the university's attitude toward service.

"I think our service learning presence at Elon is huge, it's a part of our culture and it's an integral part of everyone's personality to help out other people," she said.

But it's not just at a volunteer event that students can make a difference. According to Swenson, fighting hunger is something anyone can do on a daily basis.

"If everyone pitches in, we can tackle it. Maybe you can go work at Loaves and Fishes. You have a



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer
Stop Hunger Now, the international relief organization founded in Raleigh, came to Elon University Oct. 20 to help students package 55,000 meals to be donated.

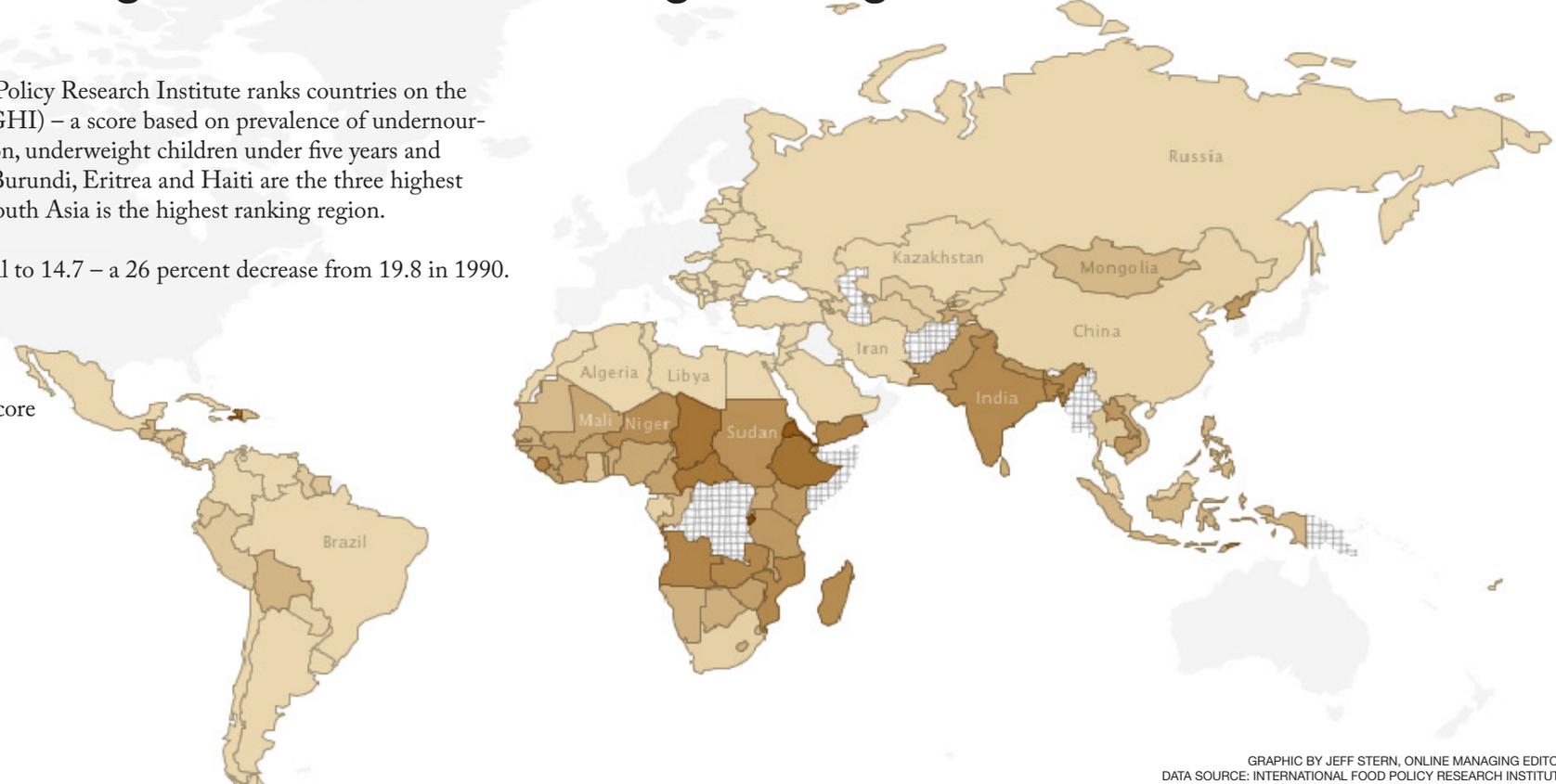
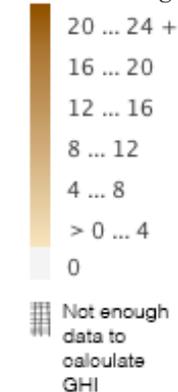
food budget, you can add an extra few bucks to pick up some cans of soup. We need the donations, other people need the donations. Everybody pitching in that little bit really helps."

2012 Global Hunger Index indicates "hunger on a global scale remains 'serious'"

The International Food Policy Research Institute ranks countries on the Global Hunger Index (GHI) – a score based on prevalence of undernourishment in the population, underweight children under five years and under-5 mortality rate. Burundi, Eritrea and Haiti are the three highest ranking countries and South Asia is the highest ranking region.

The 2012 world GHI fell to 14.7 – a 26 percent decrease from 19.8 in 1990.

Global Hunger Index Score



We the Kings lead singer highlights band's new goals

After the release of their 2008 single, "Check Yes Juliet," We the Kings found mainstream success outside of the familiar realm of pop-punk. Before their performance at Elon University's Homecoming concert Oct. 19, The Pendulum caught up with lead singer Travis Clark to hear more about the band's success.

Q: Have you been to a lot of other college campuses?

A: We tour all the time. I'm singing to people who are our own age, so we're just friends. It's one big family. It's really nice to just have no filter, not that we get up there and just use vulgarities or say a bunch of really immature things. It's that I don't have to think about having to filter, and that's a really cool thing for a singer and for someone who wants to talk in between songs. It's a really cool quality to have from college shows.

Q: You guys came out with a new album last summer, "Sunshine State of Mind." Where did the inspiration for that come from?

A: With our next record, we're going to really have no boundaries as far as what genre the record is in. We have songs that sound like they could be off Coldplay's next record. We have songs that sound like they could be off The Killers' next record, or Kings of Leon. It's kind of all over the place and I love it.



Hunter Thomsen, lead guitarist for We the Kings, takes the stage at Elon University Oct. 19. MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Q: So the one coming out will touch on a lot of different genres?

A: We're not having a filter. Sometimes we'd be so worried about what the fans would think about this. But the fans have stuck by us through the good and the bad and I think they will really appreciate us for once just doing what we really want to do. And it sounds incredible so far. It's so nice to go into the studio and have a completely relaxed and unbiased point of view when we're

writing songs. If something doesn't sound We the Kings-ish, we don't care. We're going to do it because it sounds awesome. That's ultimately what growing up is all about. I think we're applying that to the music.

Q: How far along are you guys on that album?

A: We have a ton of demos, but we have five songs that I've showed the guys that we're all super excited about. I remember when we wrote "Check Yes Juliet," it was the first time I was like, "Oh my gosh, something about this song is very special." And I felt it again on each record on a specific song. On the second record that we did, it was "We'll Be a Dream," which we had Demi Lovato sing. On the third record it was a song called "Sing Like Me." On this record, there's a song called "Art of War" that is so beautiful. I'm so happy that my brain pulled it together for a week and got this out because it's really amazing. I love this song and I think our fans and people who have never heard of We the Kings are really going to gravitate toward this new record, especially this specific track.

Q: Do you have any advice for aspiring artists who look up to you?

A: It's hard. It really is. Nobody can tell you exactly what to do. Everybody is trying something different and then you realize you're trying too hard. The advice, all in all, is find out what your idea of success is and chase that. I've heard so many times people asking, "What do you want to do when you grow up?" and people say, "I want to be famous." What? That's not an occupation. You can't just be famous. Do something you love and all that stuff will come if it works out.

Information compiled by Stephanie Butzer, senior reporter. Be sure to check elompok.com for a full-length interview with We the Kings.



Travis Clark, lead singer of We the Kings, performs at Elon University's Homecoming concert Oct. 19. MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

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Senior acting majors explore national tragedy, self-identity issues through thesis productions

Dan Quackenbush
Opinions Editor

In the crowded Harold Acting Studio on Williamson Avenue, 11 senior acting majors take their places for rehearsal. On the fringes of this cluttered scene of make-believe, Luke Gunn sits in a corner, practicing his lines, while Jennifer Roberts, Molly Dougherty and Mallory Marcus joke with one another, holding back laughter and whispering in a manner similar to the characters they portray once they cross over the imaginary threshold to take center stage. Dylan Moon, director of "Columbinus" breaks down the script of the opening scene line by line.

Across campus in the Black Box Theatre in Elon's Center for the Arts, six actresses, directed by senior Lyndsay Burch, spread themselves out across a roughly imaginable apartment set for a rehearsal of "Beautiful Bodies."

This fall, Elon University's 16 senior BFA acting students are taking what they have learned and practiced during the last three years as they prepare for their upcoming thesis productions of "Columbinus" by Stephen Karam and P.J. Paparelli, and "Beautiful Bodies" by Laura Shaine Cunningham.

The senior thesis requirement for BFA acting majors has been in place for 19 years, but the additional requirement for seniors to stage full productions has only been in place for roughly a decade. Previously, BFA acting majors were required to stage one production in the fall and one in the spring. In recent years, though, the Department of Performing Arts revised its policy to dictate that there be two shows in the fall, sharing the same set and production teams. The funds necessary for mounting two full-length productions are entirely self-generated, a practice that seniors Claire Manship and Lauren Bambino, playing the respective roles of Martha and Nina in "Beautiful Bodies," found can be quite demanding on both the mind and wallet.

"Even though all majors have a senior thesis requirement, our thesis requires hundreds more hours than other majors and we all have to be in the same place at the same time," Manship said. "Normally when seniors write a thesis, it may take the same amount of time and work and effort and thought, but you do it on your own. Ours is entirely collaborative."

And being in charge of everything takes its toll on the students. Both casts agreed the time constraints placed upon them, in addition to balancing classwork and their personal lives,

creates a less than ideal time commitment.

"We only have a month to rehearse and produce two full shows, which means rehearsal seven days a week on top of all of our classes," Dougherty said. "It puts a lot of pressure on us to get off-book as soon as possible in order to have time to explore and develop our roles."

In addition to funding the costs of sets, costumes and performance rights, additional money is raised to help bring in agents to help assist the actors in obtaining their first jobs, a cost of roughly \$2,000 per person, according to Bambino. But this need for substantial fundraising is beneficial to actors in the long run and helps clarify their expectations of working after college.

"Self-generated projects like these are, a lot of times, how you get to work when you first get out of school," Bambino said.

From the page to the stage

When it came to the selection process of their thesis productions, choosing a play was just as much a reflection of the actors' personal values as it was a desire to demonstrate their skills.

The selection process itself was fostered by a combination of group discussion and a simple majority voting system.

"All the seniors brought forward plays that they thought should be considered," Moon said. "We would read the shows and then talk about if we liked them or not. If it seemed like enough people liked it, we put it on a list and then when it got closer to the show selection date,



Senior Claire Manship runs through her lines.



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Director Lyndsay Burch leads the student actors during a rehearsal for the show "Beautiful Bodies."

we would have votes and eliminate some plays.”

Senior Sean Liang, playing the role of Freak in “Columbinus,” said having differing opinions in the selection process required sacrifices to be made in order to reach a consensus.

“The show selection was difficult,” Liang said. “We had a lot of opinions about the shows we were considering, and we had to be sensitive to each other and we also had to make sacrifices.”

Liang also noted the validity and message of the shows was of paramount importance. Settling for easier material was not an option.

“Something that I told our class as we were discussing this is that it is our chance to do whatever show we want,” he said. “I didn’t want us to settle for something because it was easy.”

Bowling for Columbinus

“Columbinus” was written by playwrights Stephen Karam and P.J. Paparelli of the United States Theatre Project. Based on interviews and official documents as well as diaries, email correspondence, Internet posts and homemade videos left behind by the Columbine shooters, “Columbinus” is a profanity-laden brutally realistic glimpse into the thoughts of the misunderstood teenage mind. It strives to highlight how the actions of the infamous Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris are by no means an isolated incident, but sparked by a combination of repressive social stereotypes and customs common in American high schools.

The play opens with a cacophony of voices, each lending to a typical idea running through a student’s mind as they wake up in the morning. Where they are, what they need, what they want but don’t have. “One more cig, one more kiss, a little more time for taking a piss.” Set in a stereotypical, fictionalized American high school, “Columbinus” follows the lives and struggles of eight common teenage archetypes, who are not given names but labels, such as Jock, Prep, Faith and Perfect.

Through analysis of other historically violent or misunderstood individuals, like the biblical figure Cain or the murderous 1920s duo Leopold and Loeb, “Columbinus” strives to offer a glimpse into the minds of those who use violence out of a desire to be noticed and severe hatred of being judged. The characters embodying Klebold (“Loner”) and Harris (“Freak”) speak to the audience in a ghostly metaphor on their rationale and their thoughts on what they did, whilst their parents lament the loss of their sons and the horror they have wrought on the community and on the world.

Moon said “Columbinus,” while a painful reminder of the events of that tragic day, speaks volumes about the manner in which society polarizes itself.

“Marginalization can have very serious consequences,” Moon said. “We cannot afford to write off anybody just because we do not agree with them or because they are different.”



The cast of “Columbinus” rehearses in Harold Acting studio in preparation for the show, which runs Nov. 14-18 in the Black Box Theatre.

DAN QUACKENBUSH | Opinions Editor

It’s one thing to just do a show, it’s another to do a show you truly care about.

- Rebekah Carmichael, senior

Moon also mentioned his hope for “Columbinus” is to act as a stepping stone toward proactive discussion.

“It would be really awesome if after seeing it, people had an open conversation about it,” Moon said. “I think one of the greatest things theater can do is hold the mirror up to society and show us things that we are potentially overlooking.”

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder

Although the title of the play suggests a focus on the physicality of women’s bodies and the ever-present dilemma of what is beautiful, “Beautiful Bodies” instead focuses on the emotional dynamic of female relationships.

This comedic play doesn’t stray far from modern female performances such as those in “Sex and the City,” but it encourages women to recognize and keep close relationships in their lives. Manship noted the propriety of the show’s thematic resemblance to the famous HBO series.

“This show is based on the ‘Sex and the City’ generation, and we were of an age to be watching shows like that and wishing that

was our life,” Manship said. “You get excited about the prospect of getting to play in the ‘worlds’ that you imagined but didn’t know really existed.”

“Beautiful Bodies” doesn’t seek to solve all of women’s problems at a time, nor does it thrive on solving a profound or existential conflict. It simply shows a few women in their mid-30s with struggles, anxieties and joys and, above all, one another to help figure things out.

“The message of ‘Beautiful Bodies,’ if I had to sum it up, would be that everyone undergoes changes in life and hits many obstacles, but all of that becomes more bearable when you have people around you that love you,” Manship said. “All change is beautiful, just as all bodies are beautiful in their own way.”

The rest of the cast agreed, with Manship adding another personalized theme to consider. “One of the permeating messages of this play is to love who you are, and if you can own up to who you are, other people will accept you for it,” she said.

Spreading the message

Senior Rebekah Carmichael said the whole

process is about dedicating oneself to the material.

“It’s one thing to just do a show, it’s another to do a show you truly care about,” she said. “I feel like for both of these shows, we picked material that we really cared about and want to spread.”

Each actor had differing expectations of how their respective shows will be received, but as Bambino stated, the minimum goal is to entertain.

“Everyone’s experience is going to be different,” Bambino said. “And honestly, I will be happy if people walk out of the theater and just say, ‘That was fun. I enjoyed the last two hours.’ Because that’s what we do, we’re here to entertain.” §

BFA ACTING

Senior Thesis Productions

Where: Black Box Theatre

When: Nov. 14-18

Cost: Free with Phoenix card, \$12 general admission

Men's soccer hits historic mark in special season

Kyle Maher
Senior Reporter

This season has been one of milestones for the Elon University men's soccer team: being ranked for the second time in the school's history, senior forward Chris Thomas having arguably the best individual single season in program history and, after a 1-0 win over Appalachian State University Oct. 16, reaching the 10-win mark, which is tied for the most wins in program history.

Head coach Darren Powell recognizes the significance of his team's accomplishment and is proud of his players' character and dedication.

"We've never had more than 10 wins," Powell said. "To do that, we've got to be extremely proud, and also the way the guys defended and showed resilience really speaks volumes of the character of the group."

Powell emphasizes the need to move on, knowing this team can accomplish bigger and better things. Included on the list of goals are a Southern Conference Championship and a run in the NCAA tournament.

"For me, (the team) is a work in progress," Powell said. "It's wonderful, but we have lofty goals for our program, lofty goals for our players and we're just going to keep working toward those and every day we want to give ourselves the best possible chance to achieve those goals."

The Phoenix isn't new to national recognition. After beating nationally-ranked Furman University, the Phoenix entered all three national polls for the second time in school history.

And although the Phoenix lost its next game to Wofford University, junior midfielder Daniel Lovitz thought the ranking was well deserved and long overdue.

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

Thomas, the leading goal scorer in the nation, has shouldered much of the offensive load for the Phoenix. According to assistant coach Chris Little, his season is hardly surprising given his potential.

"He's had talent. He had a rough year last year, coming off a knee injury, it was a difficult year for him," Little said. "I think what's great about Chris is he's showing his character. To get fit, to work hard at his game and he's reaping the benefits of that right now and we're delighted for him."

Little sees no reason to believe Thomas will slow down in the Phoenix's last three regular season games or in postseason play.

"I think he can continue his production. Chris

is a talented player," Little said. "He's working very hard at his game. He has aspirations to be a professional player, so we're working with him every day. He's very coachable, he's working extremely hard at it and we think it'll continue. Hopefully he catches those breaks. Right now, he's leading the nation in goals and there's nothing we'd like more than for him to be leading the nation at the end of the year."

But Thomas isn't worried about individual honors. His goal is simple: lead his team to a second straight Southern Conference tournament championship and second straight berth in the NCAA Tournament.

"Hopefully we'll be able to get a good enough record to get in the NCAAs without winning the (SoCon) tournament," he said. "And the (NCAA) tournament will be a bonus."

The Phoenix, who currently sits in second place in the SoCon with a 4-2 record, will need to become more consistent on the defensive end to make a deep run in postseason play, something Powell said is often discussed.

"What we do as a group is sit down and we try to talk about the good, what we did well and also the things we need to improve upon," he said.

MEN'S SOCCER SNAPSHOT

Remaining Schedule

Oct. 27 @ UNC-Greensboro
Oct. 30 vs. Duke
Nov. 3 – SoCon Tournament
Opening Round
Nov. 8-10 – SoCon
Tournament Continues

Current Record: 10-4-1, 4-2
SoCon (2nd in conference)

Leading Scorers

Sr. F Chris Thomas – 19 goals, 5 assists
Jr. MF Matt Wescoe – 4 goals, 6 assists
Sr. MF Gabe Latigue – 3 goals, 4 assists
Jr. MF Daniel Lovitz – 3 goals, 1 assist
So. F Jason Waterman – 2 goals, 0 assists
So. GK Nathan Dean – 10-4-1, 61 saves, 4 shutouts



FILE PHOTO BY SARA HUDAK

The Elon men's soccer team reached a historic mark this year, tying the program record with 10 wins.

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Elon defense dealing with multiple key injuries

Zachary Horner
Sports Editor

It was difficult to watch the Elon University football team's defense Oct. 20 in the Phoenix's 42-31 victory over Western Carolina University. Players seemed to be making injury-related exits every other drive.

Sophomore linebacker Odell Benton. Junior defensive lineman Jordan Jones. Sophomore linebacker Jonathan Spain. All hurt during the game.

And senior linebacker Blake Thompson was already not playing because he had surgery on a dislocated thumb earlier in the week.

It has become commonplace this season, and for head coach Jason Swepson, it is an issue.

"On defense, we almost ran out of guys," he said. "The story in the second half is that we just didn't have any depth on defense. Again, that's something that's going to be a concern for us."

This lack of depth has been exposed in the last four games, mostly due to the running attacks of Elon's opponents. In those four games, the Phoenix has given up 1,185 rushing yards and 11 rushing touchdowns, six of those against Wofford College Sept. 29. Elon has faced quarterbacks who made a significant impact in the running game — opposing signal-callers have averaged 72.6 rushing yards per game against the Elon defense in those match-ups.

Talk about the injuries heated up after a 35-23 loss to Appalachian State University Oct. 6. The Phoenix held a 17-14 lead early in the third quarter, but let it slip away by allowing big plays from the Appalachian State offense.

"To play this kind of team and that kind of speed, you've got to have some kind of depth, and right now, we don't have that kind of depth," Swepson said after that game.

The players also see it. Spain, who said he "popped his shoulder out" in the third quarter against Western Carolina but returned to the game, attributed some of that to the schedule the Phoenix faced, taking on "historically the best three teams in the conference," he said, three weeks in a row. Elon lost 26-23 to Georgia Southern University a week before the loss to Wofford.

"We're a little lacking in depth right now," he said after the loss to Appalachian State. "Our legs might get a little heavy in the fourth quarter as it is, espe-

cially with this team. It felt like they had a lot more depth, especially at the speed positions. They're a fast team, they're a good team, we just made too many mistakes."

The multiple defensive injuries have prompted younger players to step up. Sophomore defensive lineman Gary Coates had 1.5 tackles for loss of yards against Western Carolina and is eighth on the team in total tackles with 21. Sophomore cornerback Akeem Langham has an interception and 20 tackles this season.

Senior linebacker Thonda Taylor replaced Thompson in the starting lineup against Western Carolina and had eight tackles and half a sack, prompting Swepson to say, "Thank God for Thonda." Junior linebacker Quinton Lightfoot played in his fourth game of the season against the Catamounts, playing what Swepson called "significant time."

"We were able to patch our defense together," he said.

With the status of starters Benton, Jones and Thompson unknown for next week's game against Furman University, the Phoenix may need to stitch together a ragtag group of defenders in order to do what arguably must be done to make the playoffs: win the remaining four games on the schedule.

"We're going to have practice smart, might have to cut some plays down," Swepson said. "We're running out of bodies on defense."

If the Phoenix hopes to survive the rest of the season, it will need to keep the bodies it still has.



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer
Elon head coach Jason Swepson said the defense's depth is a big concern going forward.

INJURIES ON DEFENSE:

NAME	POSITION	GAME INJ	STATUS
Odell Benton	So. LB	WCU	Unknown
Jordan Jones	Jr. DL	WCU	Unknown
Brandon Brandt	Sr. DL	GSU	Out for season
Jon Silas	Fr. LB	NC Central	Out for season
Michael Pearson	So. DL	GSU	Returned
Chris Jones	Fr. DL	GSU	Currently Out
Blake Thompson	Sr. LB	ASU	Unknown



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer
Senior linebacker Thonda Taylor (38) had eight tackles against Western Carolina Oct. 20. Taylor started in place of senior linebacker and defensive captain Blake Thompson, who missed the game with a dislocated thumb that was recovering from surgery.

'One of the girls': Stuart Horne brings humanity to college sports grind

Andrew Wilson
Assistant Sports Editor

If you asked his players what they thought of him, they would give a wide range of answers looking something like this:

"He doesn't take anything seriously," said Kimmie Krauss, a junior midfielder on the Elon University women's soccer team. "But really, I love playing for him."

Or something like this:

"He's such a personable and easygoing guy," said Claire O'Keefe, a senior defender on the team. "You obviously respect him as a coach and everything in that nature, but he's someone that I truly can say knows me and knows who I am. He knows how to interact with me and I can joke around with him and he knows me more than just a soccer player or just another person."

Stuart Horne, the associate head coach of the Elon women's soccer team, said he picks and chooses his spots, but in the end, it comes down to being "human."

"I do take things seriously, but I guess it's just the approach that doesn't seem like I do," Horne said. "One of my philosophies as a coach is you have to be human. Like the other day, I put some pictures up on our Facebook page and right away, (junior forward) Catherine Brinkman takes a few pops at me because my math was off. You can't be soccer, soccer, soccer all the time. They have other things going on. I like a good banter with the kids and all that stuff. We have our moments here and there."

A three-year limit

As a kid growing up in Fayetteville, Horne played soccer from the age of 7, continuing through his senior year of high school. After graduating from Douglas Byrd High School, Horne had "a few" offers to continue his career, but nothing fit his fancy.

"I was just an OK player," Horne said. "The few offers I had weren't places I really wanted to go and I was a big school kind of guy, so I went to East Carolina Univer-



Elon women's soccer associate head coach Stuart Horne began his coaching career at Chowan University as an assistant, but was promoted to head coach three months after getting hired when the head coach quit. Now, as the associate head coach at Elon, Horne has become more than a coach to the Phoenix.

ANDREW WILSON | Assistant Sports Editor

sity."

While at ECU, he started doing what he called "the perfect college job."

"I was coaching recreational soccer while I was there," he said. "It was perfect for me."

Prior to his junior year, Horne decided to transfer to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

"I used to always want to go to school in New England," Horne said. "There was always something about it and really actually 'going away' to school."

During his first year at UMass, Horne was sneaking around the rules a bit as a domestic exchange student from ECU. But once the decision was final, the tuition price changed.

"My first year at UMass, I was still paying in-state tuition," Horne said. "It's a great scam. Brilliant. But I was up there for maybe a week and I was already in the admissions office getting the transfer papers and all of that stuff. But that last year, I was paying that good old out-of-state Massachusetts tu-

ition."

Things changed significantly.

"I actually traded a guy a surfboard for a pair of hockey skates because I knew I was going up North," he said. "I knew there was no way I was using a surfboard in western Massachusetts."

While at UMass, Horne's passion for coaching became even greater when he started coaching and refereeing club soccer games and officiating high school games. These opportunities led him to Jim Rudy, the head coach of the wom-

en's soccer team, and the rest of his staff.

"At this point, I was just like 'Man, this would be a pretty cool living,'" Horne said. "Just in talking with them, they were telling me how to go about getting into it and what I had to do, but Jim Rudy was huge in getting me into coaching."

As a political science major with a concentration in American government at UMass, Horne had plans to go to law school following graduation. But thanks to his connections with the women's soccer

coaching staff, three weeks before graduation, Horne said he called his parents to let them know of his decision.

“That call went something like: ‘Hey mom and dad. I don’t know if I want to really pursue this whole law school thing. I want to give myself three years and if I’m not coaching college in three years, fine, I’ll call it a day,’” Horne said.

Third year’s the charm

With his limit set at three years before giving up on becoming a college coach, Horne set out on his journey to the NCAA level by starting at Frontier High School in Deerfield, Mass., then moving on to Amherst Regional High School in Amherst, Mass.

“The group at Frontier I had, they were a really good group,” Horne said. “The things you want out of your first coaching job, that was perfect. They were open and very coachable.”

Before he entered his second year at Amherst Regional, an assistant position at Chowan University became vacant and Horne was hired as the first primary assistant coach in Chowan’s program history.

“The position was open, and

with my set three-year thing, I started putting some stuff out,” Horne said.

His position did not last long, though. Just three months later, head coach Pam Brown left the school to continue her education.

“I said, ‘Well that’s awesome. But what about me?’” Horne said.

After going through the process of searching for a new head coach, the administration decided to name Horne the head coach of the program.

“My first college position really was head coach,” Horne said. “You can’t be counted as an assistant for three months. You don’t even get done with all of your (human resources) paperwork in three months.”

Three years out of college, Horne was a collegiate head coach himself, which is something he feels helped him most in his development as a coach.

“A lot of coaches come out of college and become a second assistant at schools like (the University of North Carolina at) Chapel Hill or Duke (University) and other big programs and it’s just like, what are you really learning? That you have all the money in the world and you could do whatever you want? No,” he said. “You definitely have to put

in the work at that level and it was valuable.”

The next step

In the years leading up to Horne taking the reins at Chowan, the program was consistently in the lower ranks of Division III.

“The program I inherited, we had 12 players,” Horne said. “There were 330 Division III programs at the time. We were around the 310 ranking. It was a good group of girls, but it just wasn’t a competitive soccer program.”

According to Horne, there was only one thing that could turn the program around.

“Recruiting, recruiting, recruiting,” Horne said. “Where it was, we were still having a pretty decent offseason before (Brown) left, but we never had the numbers. So first year in, I brought in a large class.”

At the end of his fourth season at the helm, Chowan made history with its first postseason appearance in program history in the USA South Atlantic Conference tournament. A year later, he guided the program to the South Region championship, leading the team to the Final Four of the National Christian College Athletic Association Tournament.

“It was a great learning experience,” Horne said. “I had a really good group of girls on the team so it was hard to leave, but a better opportunity arose.”

A new challenge awaits

While on the recruiting trail at Chowan University, Horne became familiar with Chris Webb, one of the assistant coaches at ECU at the time. In 2005, Webb was named the head coach of Elon’s women’s soccer team. She asked Horne to join her in rebuilding the Phoenix.

“I had worked the East Carolina camp before so I got to know that staff pretty well,” Horne said. “Then, out on the road recruiting, you see people all the time and you get to know them. When she came here, I was one of the ones she asked to see if I wanted to do it. So Elon was really my first college assisting job because, like I said, can’t count three months.”

Having been at Chowan for five and a half years and becoming the most successful coach in the program’s history with 44 wins, Horne felt it was time to move on to the next challenge.

“Pretty much, we just kind of got where we could go and it was a great opportunity to come here, so here I am,” Horne said. “I am very proud of what we did there.”

Surviving a change

After just three years with the program, Webb resigned as head coach at Elon. Replacing her was an assistant coach from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Chris Neal.

“I knew Coach Neal the same way I knew Coach Webb: through recruiting,” Horne said.

STUART HORNE

Position: Associate Head Women’s Soccer Coach

School: University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Class of 1997

Birthplace: Fayetteville, N.C.

Twitter: @Coach_Stu_Horne

COACHING CAREER

2002-2004: Assistant coach for Hampton Roads Piranhas (United Soccer League’s W-League)

2001-2005: Assistant/head coach for Chowan University

2005-2010: Assistant coach for Elon University

2011-2012: Associate head coach for Elon University

When Neal was hired, he approached Horne to stay on as an assistant coach. Having already established a relationship with the players as well as incoming recruits to the program, Horne agreed.

“I had known Stuart through the recruiting ranks and I thought he would be a good choice, quite frankly,” Neal said. “I thought that, from an assistant coaching standpoint, he not only said all the right things to me, but was able to provide things that I’m not quite as good at.”

With a new system in place, both Neal and Horne shared the recruiting duties among many other responsibilities. But, according to Neal, recruiting is Horne’s specialty.

“He’s got a great eye for talent and he is great with kids and families once we get them on campus,” Neal said. “He really knows how to highlight Elon’s best traits.”

Horne credits his recruiting tactics to his time at his first coaching job.

“I really learned how to recruit at Chowan,” he said. “It’s a very unique school. It definitely, compared to Elon, has its limitations. I didn’t have an assistant at Chowan. I did everything, so a lot of it was



ANDREW WILSON | Assistant Sports Editor

Elon head coach Chris Neal said Horne is a master recruiter. Among the players he’s recruited are senior defender Claire O’Keeffe, who said Horne “fits right in” with the rest of the team.

on-the-job learning, so I really learned a lot there that has helped a lot here.”

Another sport?

Having attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst where hockey rules all, and having traded his surfboard for a pair of hockey skates, needless to say, hockey is in his blood.

“They had public skate up there at the UMass rink, so a bunch of us would go on Friday nights and just learn and have fun with it,” Horne said. “Then when hockey season started, the crowds that get behind the team were crazy. I remember a game against (Boston University), there was almost 6,000 people for the game. I was just like ‘Oh wow, really?’ So that really spurned my interest originally.”

But hockey was never a constant.

“I was a New York Rangers fan,” Horne said. “I was at the Rangers’ run with Mark Messier and those guys holding the Stanley Cup. Then when they went to the first lockout and didn’t play at all in 1994, I was just like ‘Dude, this is ridiculous,’ and I kind of got out of it for a while.”

Not until about “five or six years ago” did Horne regain his love for the game: this time for the Boston Bruins and the Carolina Hurricanes.

“I’m kind of a Boston sports fan, so I picked up the Bruins,” Horne said. “I liked the way they played too. Then with the Hurricanes being the local team and easy access in going to practices and games and all that stuff, Hurricanes first and Bruins second.”

So when this year’s NHL lockout began, Horne’s response to the news was simple: “It sucks.”

Playing for himself

As a season ticket holder for the Hurricanes, Horne and his wife, Leslie, bring their two children, Keegan, 8, and Gavin, 5, to games just an hour down the road in Raleigh when NHL games are played.

“We bring the kids out and they watch and go ‘I want to do that too,’” Horne said. “So we got them into skating.”

While skating with his kids, Horne noticed an adult hockey ses-

sion called “Learn to Play.” The advertisement immediately caught his eye as something in which he could be interested in participating.

“I just said ‘You know what. Why not?’” Horne said. “I’m 38, not getting any younger. Let’s give it a shot.”

After gathering the necessary gear to participate, Horne started attending the session every Tuesday morning at 7.

“It was the classic getting up early, pack the hockey bag and going out for the ‘bad ice time,’” Horne said.

According to Horne, there was one coach and about 15 players for his first session. In Horne’s mind, the session was teaching the basics of hockey. Apparently, he got the wrong idea.

“In my mind it was, ‘Okay, here’s your stick, here’s your puck, and this is how you pass,’” Horne said. “Not at all. When I got there, we were running a pattern drill and I was just lost. I was like, ‘This is not ‘learn to play.’ This is called a training session.”

Though not what he expected, Horne stuck with it for the next three months. By the end of the three months, he felt he was ready to start playing real games. In January of this year, Horne signed up for the D-League of the Greensboro Ice House’s Adult Hockey League, which is considered the league for rookies and beginners.

“It’s so much fun,” Horne said. “We play on Friday nights, so obviously in-season I can’t do it, but before the season, I played almost every Friday night since January. It’s awesome.”

Here to stay

Over the years, Horne said he’s had some opportunities arise to potentially become a head coach again, but it comes down to being in a place where he wants to be: right here, “home” at Elon.

“This is just a really good place to be,” Horne said. “Plain and simple. This school itself is ridiculous, but in a good way.”

As for the thought of leaving to pursue another job, Horne said it would have to be good for him professionally or for the family.

“I’m not going to leave just to leave,” he said. “I like it here. It’s a great part of the state and it’s a



Horne (in hat) said he has been offered head coaching positions, but he chose to stay here at Elon. “I’m not going to leave just to leave,” he said. “I like it here.” O’Keeffe said, “He’s like another dad to me.”

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great school. I know this sounds like the company answer, but it’s the truth. I do like it here and I like the people I work with and everything is just set. If I was to move on, it would have to be a really good opportunity.”

Now midway through his eighth year at Elon, it’s safe to say Horne has established his place in the program jot just as a valuable coach, but also as a friend and a mentor for the players.

“It’s really rewarding, especially at the college level,” Horne said. “Take Claire (O’Keeffe) for instance. I remember seeing her as a junior in high school and recruiting her through her senior year. Now she’s here and four years have passed and it comes to senior day and you look back and go, ‘I’ve known that kid for six years,’ and that’s really cool. It’s awesome to interact with them. There’s a little bit of everything.”

When Horne was first recruiting O’Keeffe, the program was in the process of changing head coaches. Even with the change, O’Keeffe still said she felt comfort-

able coming to Elon because of the part Horne had played during the recruiting process.

“We were in contact my junior year and at the time, there wasn’t a head coach here, but he still played a vital role in me staying interested in the school and keeping it as a main option,” O’Keeffe said. “He showed confidence in me as a player and I definitely would say he played a fundamental role in me being here and me being successful and happy in the choice that I made.”

When it comes to interacting with the team, O’Keeffe said it comes natural to Horne, which is something she said makes him “one of the girls.”

“He fits right in,” O’Keeffe said. “He’s your soccer coach but he can also get in on the daily gossip and he can jump right in and start conversation. He’s such a great person. I really don’t know how else to put it.”

According to O’Keeffe, Horne has played such a pivotal role in her life over the last four years that she said she will never be able to thank

him for everything he’s done both as her coach and her role model.

“He’s like another dad to me,” O’Keeffe said. “I’ve known him for six years and he’s played such a huge role in my life and I will absolutely never forget him. He’s seen me grow over the past four years and he helped me shape who I am.”

O’Keeffe said she thinks interactions with the players are what helps the team succeed and stay strong together — because of guys like Coach Horne that can be human while still being a coach.

“It gives everybody a complete sense that it’s not just work,” Horne said. “When we’re out practicing and in games, just get it done and do work. But then there’s always off moments when you’re on a bus or something. You have to be able to interact with the team on personal, individual basis. It gives the feel of a complete experience and I think kids enjoy it because they can have a pop at Coach Neal and (myself) and talk with us and we’ll come back at them. We can be human with them.” §

HOOPS ON THE HORIZON



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO



FILE PHOTO BY MOLLY CAREY



MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer



FILE PHOTO BY MOLLY CAREY

With the return of Elon University men's and women's basketball season right around the corner, The Pendulum is prepped to bring you all the coverage you need. In next week's edition, we will have our Basketball Preview. We'll take an in-depth look at this year's teams by investigating players and themes. Be on the lookout for the edition on newsstands next week, and follow @pendulumsports on Twitter for updates all season long.



FILE PHOTO BY HEATHER CASSANO

Elon quarterback drawing scouts of his own



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Elon senior quarterback Thomas Wilson (12) has shown significant improvement in his second year as a starter. So much so that head coach Jason Swepson said professional scouts are asking about him.

THOMAS WILSON PASSING STATS

Stat	No.	SoCon Rank	FCS Rank
Completions	142	2nd	T-20th
Passing Yards	1,959	2nd	12th
Passing TDs	18	1st	T-5th
Pass Efficiency	157.6	1st	7th
Completion %	63.96	3rd	18th
Interceptions	8	1st	T-5th

Zachary Horner
Sports Editor

National Football League scouts are making visits to Elon University football practices a regular thing. Most come to see senior wide receiver Aaron Mellette, who is currently projected to be a fourth or fifth-round draft pick come April 2013.

But according to head coach Jason Swepson, he's not the only one being scouted.

"There's a lot of scouts talking about him now," Swepson said of senior quarterback Thomas Wilson. "We're having two or three scouts coming a day to see Aaron and they're always asking about our quarterback."

Take a look at Wilson's stats so far this season. He's thrown for 1,959 yards (second in the Southern Conference) and 18 touchdowns (first in the SoCon, sixth in all of Football Championship Subdivision). In passer efficiency, a stat computed by looking at touchdowns, interceptions, passing yards and completions, Wilson is first in the SoCon and seventh in the FCS.

Not shabby numbers by any means. But Wilson is quick to point to his receivers.

"When you've got a playmaker like Mellette out there to get the ball to, my numbers are going to be big because his numbers are going to be big," Wilson said. "With him and (sophomore wide receiver) Kierre (Brown) and (junior wide receiver) Rasaun (Rorie) and JP (senior wide receiver Jeremy Peterson) and (senior tight end) Chris (Harris) and Juice (redshirt freshman wide receiver Andre Davis) and all the guys that I have around to throw the ball to, I didn't expect not to have good numbers with those athletes and the kind of playmakers around me. I just get them the ball and let them do the rest."

Wilson watched Mellette do a lot of that against Western Carolina Oct. 20. Mellette had five catches for 154 yards and three scores. The last touchdown, with 1:12 left in the third quarter of Elon's 42-31 win over the Catamounts, was a short pass from Wilson to Mellette that the senior wideout caught, made several defenders miss and out ran the rest of the defense for a score.

"When you watch Thomas and (Mellette), the next play could be a touchdown," said Elon sophomore linebacker Jonathan Spain. "And it's not just Merle either. Thomas is really throwing the ball around, distributing some love. They're doing a great job over there."

What might be even more impressive is that Swepson was not sure Wilson was supposed to play Saturday.

Swepson said Wilson did not practice in the bye week after suffering a non-throwing shoulder injury against Appalachian State University Oct. 6. The quarterback practiced in shoulder pads and shorts on Tuesday of last week, but missed

practice Wednesday with a 102-degree fever. But Wilson was resilient.

"He came out Thursday, had a good practice, Swepson said. "Came out Friday for the walk-through, said he felt his best. I think he got his clearance from the doctors for the shoulder on Friday afternoon. He's a tough kid."

The senior from Raleigh said he knew from the beginning of the week that he was going to play against Western Carolina.

"I was going to do whatever I had to do to prepare myself to be able to play, whatever percent I was going to be at," he said. "We worked hard in the last two weeks to get healthy. The trainers did a great job working with me and fitting me in the schedule and getting me in and out of there, just getting some good treatments in there, getting some range-of-motion back in there and getting ready for Saturday."

Wilson said he was pleased with his performance against the Catamounts, save for one play: an interception in the end zone by Western Carolina freshman cornerback Jaleel Lorquet with 5:05 left in the first quarter. Other than that, he said he's happy with how he's performed this season, but not satisfied.

"I'm happy about it, but I'm not really content yet," he said. "I'm ready to keep going and hopefully through the last few conference games we've got left. It's not over yet. I've got to keep protecting the ball and managing the game, as coach says, and try to lead us to wins."

Wilson was second in the FCS in interceptions last year and is currently tied for fifth this season with eight. But it is a far cry from the same point last season, seven games into the season, when he had 15 picks.

"That's what I worked on in the offseason, and I'm proud to say that it's showing off in the games on Saturdays," he said.

Harris caught a Wilson touchdown pass against Western Carolina when the quarterback lofted a long pass right into the tight end's grasp on the way to a 75-yard touchdown in the first quarter.

"It was pretty easy, just catch the ball and run," he said.

He is very complimentary of his quarterback, crediting Wilson's success to his preparation.

"He prepares better than anybody on the team, in my mind," Harris said. "He's extremely competitive. Even with this week. He was a little bit injured throughout the week, so he didn't practice much. He gets his film work in, he goes to his rehab sessions and he got himself right obviously and was able to perform."

And it's that performance that will be crucial if Wilson is to move on to the next level.

"If he keeps doing what he's doing, he's going to have an opportunity," Swepson said.

THE LAST WORD:

Chris learns the true meaning of Homecoming Weekend

I had no idea about the purpose of Homecoming for the majority of my life. All throughout high school and for most of college, I was clueless. I assumed Homecoming was celebrated because the football or basketball team was “coming home” from playing other teams on the road. I never thought it had anything to do



Christopher Bosak
Producer, The Swing

with alumni at all. This weekend, I realized the true purpose of Homecoming is to have a time when alumni can return to school, visit old friends and reconnect with the place they’ve left. No one told me this definition. I put two and two together when I saw a few friends who graduated last semester walking around campus. Or maybe, now that I’m on the verge of becoming an alumnus myself, I realized next year’s celebration is going to be thrown for my class. Or maybe it’s because I finally read Homecoming’s Wikipedia page. There’s really no way to know for sure.

Whatever the reason, knowing there’s a time when I’m encouraged to return to Elon after I’ve left is reassuring. Time works in a strange way in college. The days feel long and filled with activity, but the months feel short and the calendar seems to fly by. As a senior, it feels like I’ve just now figured out this place. Only now do I know when it’s OK to park after hours. Only now have I (kind of) figured out what I want to do with my life. And now, it’s time to move somewhere else and start a career. But thankfully, as much as this place will change throughout the next few years, there will always

be a weekend when I’m invited to return to all the memories I’ve created here. As important as it is to move on and explore the world Elon is meant to prepare us for, it’s also important to reflect on what we learned here. And, as we all know, college is far less about the book learning than it is about learning to make friends and live with your peers (or, at least, that’s what I say when my grades are lower than they should be). Maybe none of those reasons I listed above are really why I realized the meaning of Homecoming last weekend (the Wikipedia page theory does put up a tough fight, though). Maybe the reason

I finally learned the reason for Homecoming is because, for the first time, I finally feel at home at school. My high school’s Homecoming was during Fall Break and I stayed at home as my sister (a freshman in college now, we went to the same high school) met some friends for Friday’s football game. I didn’t want to go because I don’t feel a huge connection to my high school. And that’s OK because I can see myself taking a quick trip back to Elon next year. This campus has changed from “that place where I go to school” to a home away from home. And really, who doesn’t want to come home for a couple of days?

Word Search

Can you find all of these phrases from recent presidential debates?

Y N A E S Y E N M O R E D A
 Y O B L S I C A S B R Y O C
 H B I D E N O N I A N E M A
 S U G E N A N B C M O K A N
 I D B H I A O A I A I R M U
 L S I I S A M C L O T A B C
 E A R P U A Y M O A P L I M
 N E D I B G N I H G U A L R
 T M U O L S S A T B R M N D
 J G O I L C L N A Y R U N L
 I T B R A A K E C O E M A B
 M Y L N M O D E R A T O R O
 A T D U S O S R E D N I B E
 N Y R I A B N T A L I B A N

- Word Bank:**
- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Big Bird | Obamacare | Candy |
| Malarkey | Small business | Libya |
| Binders | Interruption | Economy |
| Laughing Biden | Ryan | Taliban |
| Silent Jim | Obama | Moderator |
| PBS | Romney | Mormon |
| Catholicism | Biden | |

Top Tweets

@amb202

“Dear people on tours in KOBC, the glass wall in the finance center is a two-way glass...we can see you too @OnlyAtElon”

@xoGossipSquirrel

“Chick-fil-a is staying, Dunkin Donuts is coming, and Obesity is having the BEST WEEK EVER! XOXO, Gossip Squirrel”

@johnston_kelly

“I would liked a question to Romney & Obama about @elonuniversity’s SGA and it’s vote to kick @Chick-fil-A off campus. @elonpendulum #joking”

@ChrisWebby

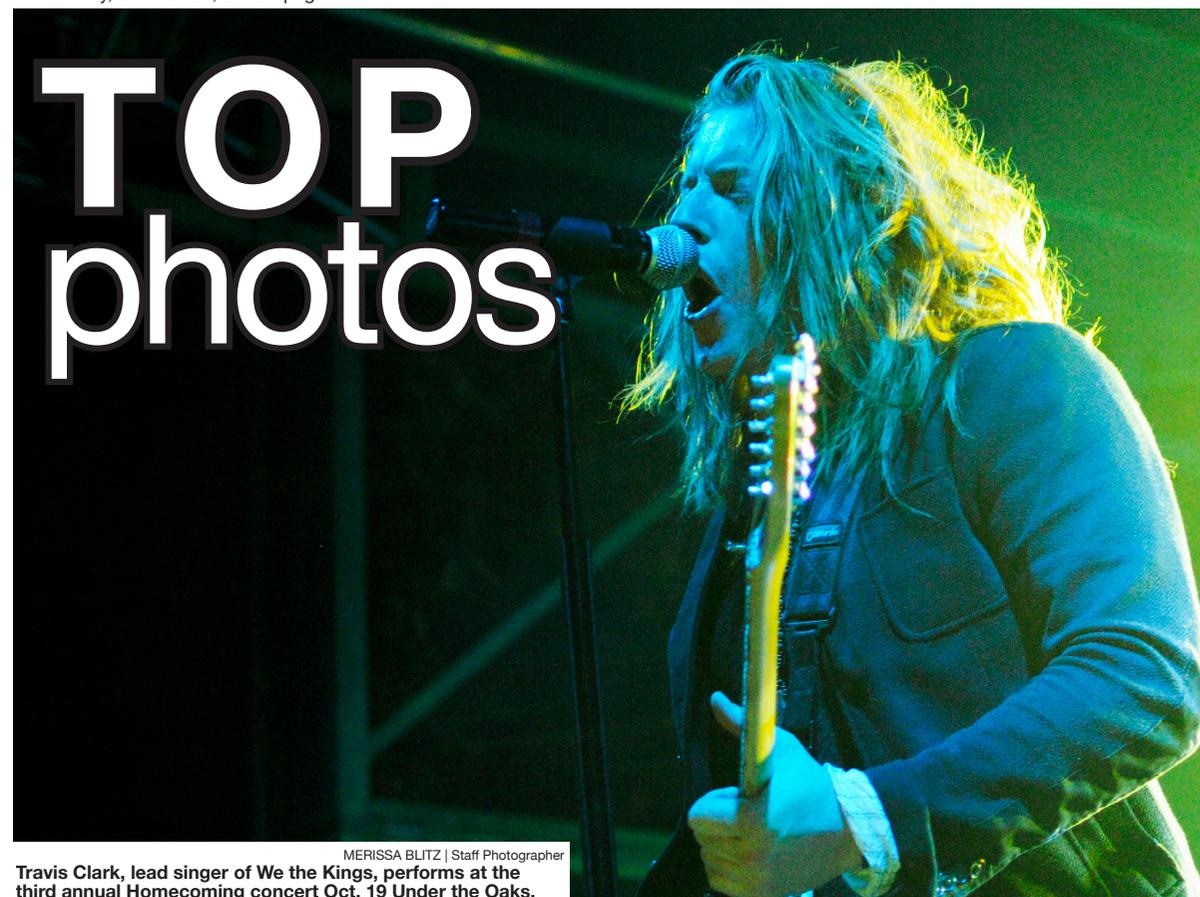
“Touched down in NC, bout to rent this car and get over to Elon University to rock out tonight”

@jeremyrev

“All this controversy surrounding Chick-fil-a at Elon is really stressing me out as I’m chowing on this delicious chicken sandwich.”

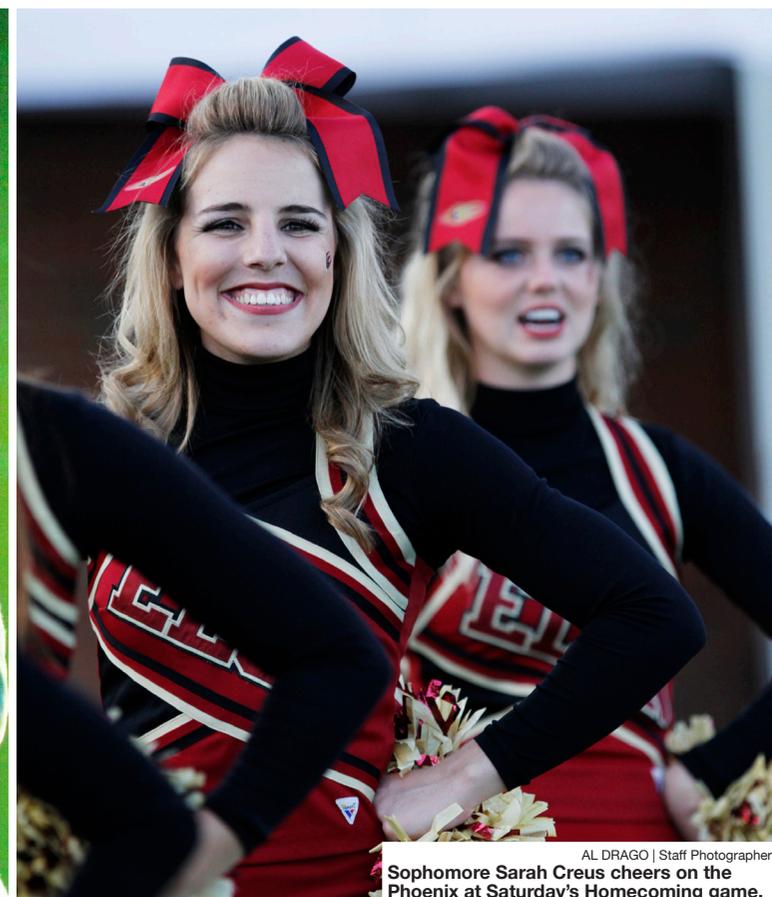


TOP photos



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Travis Clark, lead singer of We the Kings, performs at the third annual Homecoming concert Oct. 19 Under the Oaks.



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Sophomore Sarah Creus cheers on the Phoenix at Saturday's Homecoming game.



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Students in the crowd capture the Homecoming concert Oct. 19, featuring Chris Webby and We the Kings.



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer
Elon senior wide receivers Aaron Mellette (left) and Jeremy Peterson celebrate one of Mellette's three touchdowns in the game against Western Carolina University Oct. 20.



GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer
Junior Kristi Oristian and her pet, Lumpy, at the "Blessing of the Animals" ceremony at College Chapel Oct. 7.



GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer
Catholic Campus Minister, Father Gerry Waterman, blesses a dog during a special College Chapel ceremony.



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer
Baby ostriches bask in the sun at Perkins' Ostrich Farm. Read more about the man who raises them on pg. 16.



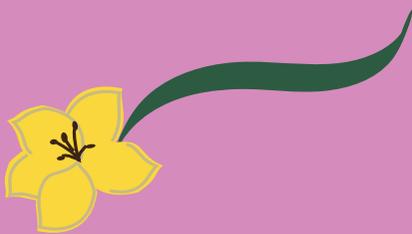
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Sports

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AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Freshman running back Tracey Coppedge (22) rushed seven times for 56 yards Oct. 20 against Western Carolina University, including a 48-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. Coppedge has rushed for 233 yards and two touchdowns this year, both second-best on the team.



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Senior wide receiver Aaron Mellette (3) and junior wide receiver Rasaun Rorie (8) are two of the Phoenix's top receivers this season. The two combined for 175 receiving yards Oct. 20 against Western Carolina.