

Austin Hamilton scores 31 points against Delaware pg. 14



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Oscar buzz for this upcoming weekend pg. 11



THE PENDULUM

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Another semester, another

pg. 4

slur



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Sophomore Jamal Joseph recounts a story from his time at Elon to Susan Kirkland, assistant vice president for business and finance, in a Jan. 23 forum that was organized by the Black Cultural Society. The meeting, a response to a reported Jan. 21 incident of racial and sexual bias, was attended by predominantly black students, prompting criticism of the absence of other ethnic groups. The incident was at least the fifth at Elon since 2011.

Students stranded by winter storm

As snow piles up, staff scrambles to bring students back to Elon amidst delays

Leena Dahal
Assistant News Editor

As many students, faculty and staff returned from Elon University Study Abroad and Study USA programs, they were greeted by a traveler's worst nightmare: a record-breaking series of winter storms.

Winter Storm Juno, accompanied by other winter storms in the Northeast region, have caused havoc across the nation, affecting the lives of millions of people and testing the patience of travelers. Media reports noted more than 14,000 flights were canceled

because of heavy snow and record-breaking high-speed winds.

According to Rhonda Waller, director of study abroad at the Global Education Center, six of the 35 total programs at Elon were affected by the inclement weather conditions. Of that group, about a dozen flights had to be re-routed.

"We were being told that airports in the Northeast might be closed for four to five days," Waller said. "So, getting students, faculty and staff back to the United States became our next priority, even if it meant dividing the program into smaller groups or bringing them into cities not on their original

itinerary."

Madeline Monaco, a senior aboard the "India: Education & Development" Winter Term trip departing from Kerela, India, was one of the students whose arrival home was delayed. Her transferring flight from Dubai was scheduled to leave at 2 a.m. Jan. 27, but didn't end up flying out until 8 p.m. Jan. 27. Anticipating the cancellations caused by the weather conditions, the group decided to stay at a hotel, paid for by the university, and wait for word from Elon.

"The time difference was at some points frustrating," Monaco

said. "But with Wi-Fi in the hotel, good food and good company, we made it through."

According to Waller, the process of rerouting flights was difficult, especially because many were group bookings handled by divisions within airline offices that were all dealing with systems overloaded with cancellations and limited seat availability.

"In a few cases, we had to wait for the airline to officially cancel the flight before they could be asked to respond to requests for rebooking," she said. "We were grateful to the airlines that acted proactively and canceled flights early on, as opposed to those few who adopted a 'wait and see' attitude."

Lexi Williams, a sophomore student on "The Sundance Experience" trip returning from Utah, said that though her traveling group inevitably had to be divided because of flight availability, she is staying positive.

"I've been up since 5 a.m. this morning, so it has definitely been a long day," she said. "But we're all trying to remain positive, especially because we've had such a great experience on the program."

Williams emphasized the role of her program leader, Mark Dalhouse, director of Study USA, who missed his own flight home in order to be with his students, in maintaining a sense of calm to weather the storm.

"They told us that everything

would be taken care of, booked us a hotel and have offered to pay for our dinners," she said. "At this point, there's nothing we can do but just wait — so I think everybody's trying to do the best they can."

Waller said that while the office did everything possible to keep groups together, the scenario of finding 30 available seats on another flight, all within 24 hours, proved tough. For the most part, she said, the airlines determined how individuals were rebooked.

Elon Winter Term programs include a round-trip international airfare from a designated U.S. departure airport in their program fee. Some students who didn't depart from a nearby city had to book other domestic flights with the office's affiliated travel agency, Aladdin Travel. Waller noted that many students booked their domestic flights independently of the GEC, which complicated the troubleshooting process.

But for some students, finding their own way home wasn't an option.

Senior Leah Channas, who was also a member of the Sundance program and a former Pendulum staff member, said that she is disappointed by how the situation has been handled.

"Students spend thousands of

See *STUDY ABROAD* pg. 3

WINTER TERM STUDY ABROAD FLIGHT DELAYS



6 of 35 traveling courses were affected by Juno and other Northeastern snow storms



12 flights had to be re-routed



1 program was scheduled to arrive Sunday, but due to delays it did not return until Tuesday

Debt lurks above college students

Bryan Anderson
Assistant News Editor

Christina Lewis was a naive New Jersey high-schooler searching for colleges in North Carolina that had a yearbook staff and a strong education program. After deciding she would attend Elon University and decline a full scholarship from another college, a large cloud of debt followed her wherever she went.

Lewis wishes she could go back in time to stop that 18-year-old high-school graduate from going to Elon. Now, the senior faces the prospect of graduating with \$100,000 in debt.

"I'm stressed out all the time about money," Lewis said. "There's never a time where I can just drive somewhere and not think that I'm spending \$3 worth of gas right now."

The catch-up game

Like thousands of other loan-heavy college students across the country, Lewis' chances of timely repayment seem slimmer each day.

According to the Institute for College Access and Success, 69 percent of 2013 graduating seniors at public and private nonprofit colleges had student loans. The borrowers averaged more than \$28,000 in federal and private loans.

In keeping with the national average, almost half — 44 percent — of Elon graduates left with an average of \$28,327 in debt that year.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau reported that by August 2013, the national student loan debt crossed the \$1.2 trillion mark, \$1 trillion of which came from federal loans.

Lewis is among the one percent of graduates categorized as "crippling," or at least \$100,000. In an effort to bring that number down, she said she has sacrificed her grades and social life to multiple jobs.

"I've had a job since freshman year," Lewis said. "At one point, I had two jobs. My grades did suffer because of it."

She did not understand what starting school with \$30,000 in debt meant when she arrived at Elon.

How Elon assists

Patrick Murphy, director of financial planning, said the university is limited in its ability to provide more financial support to incoming students. The two major ways to provide need-based aid are raising tuition and raising funding.

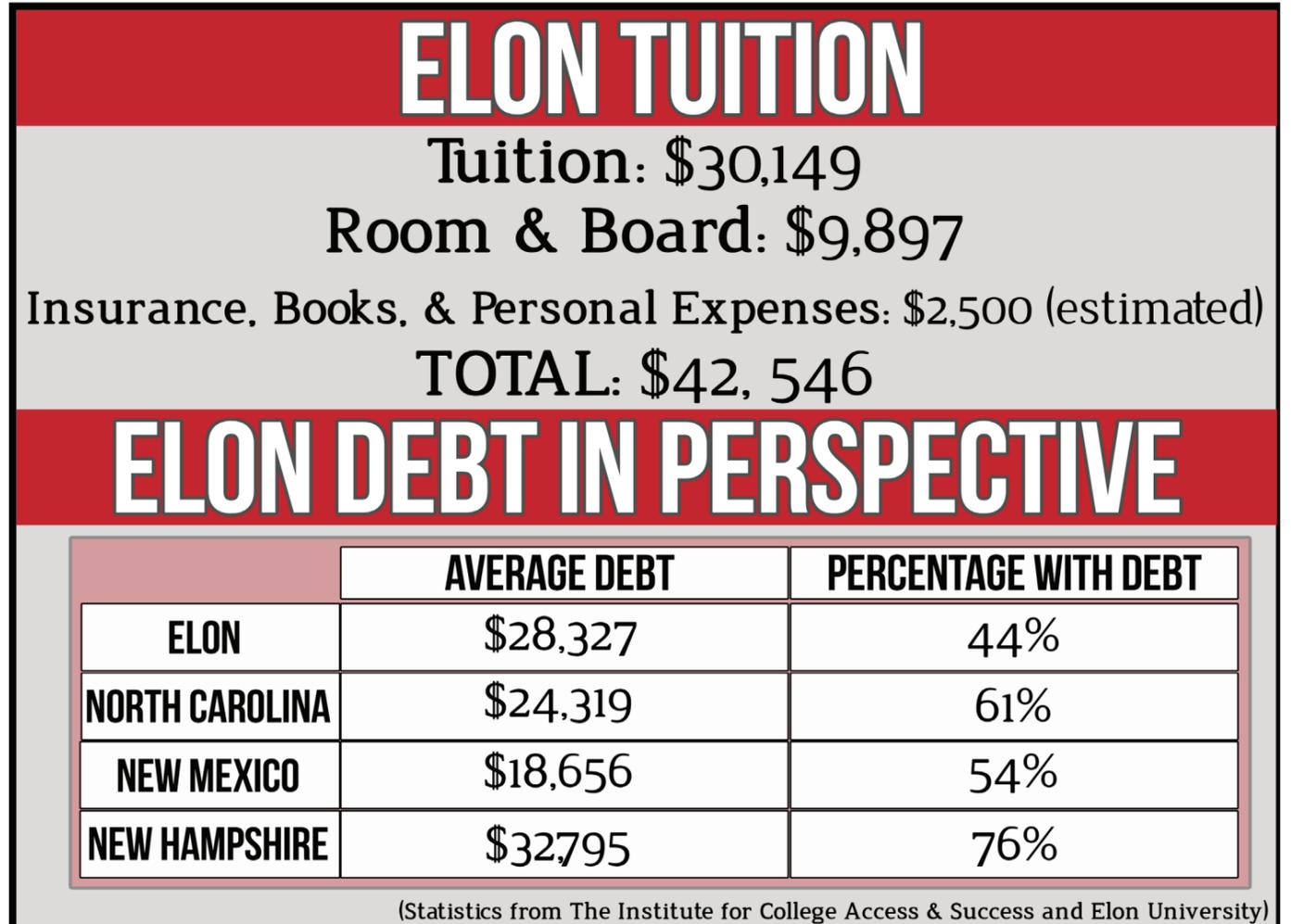
"The creation of more financial aid [is a major priority for the university]," Murphy said. "The way Elon is going about it is through fundraising. I don't really consider raising tuition a good way to increase financial aid."

One common perception of doubling need-based aid is everyone who has a grant will see the value of his or her specific grant double. But that assumption is not right.

"We're developing a lot of programs for very high-need students and also some diversity programs," Murphy said.

Students selected to join the Watson and Odyssey Scholars Program, for example, receive a number of endowed scholarships. In general, recipients include students who are the first members of their family to go to college, will bring cultural or socioeconomic diversity to campus and have overcome obstacles in order to achieve success.

While the program has helped decrease or eliminate student debt for high-need applicants, only 24 students receive these scholarships — 14 Watson Scholars and 10 Odyssey Scholars. Most of the 24 scholarships are



awarded annually, but not all.

According to Murphy, about 55 percent of the entire student body applies for need-based aid, but only 36-37 percent of the total student population — 2,300 eligible students — are qualified to receive it.

Although Lewis believes that her education has prepared her well, her debt has limited her ability to enjoy free time.

"Elon has me so well prepared, and I'll be fine if I go into the job force, but [the debt] has limited me from being that care-free 20-year-old," Lewis said.

The price of an education

In a recent study conducted by The Hamilton Project, an economic policy initiative at

the Brookings Institution, researchers found that a college degree in any major is important for advancing a student's earnings potential.

Tom Vecchione, executive director of career services, agrees a college education still holds value.

"While it's true, of course, that the cost of higher education is high and continuing to climb annually, a multitude of evidence continues to support the inherent value of a college degree," Vecchione said.

Despite the value of a college degree, higher tuition rates have made it more difficult for students to attend certain top universities. Data from the National Education Center for Statistics indicates a constant increase in total tuition among private and public institutions.

And since tuition is increasing, more students are taking out loans.

In order to combat the rising problem of post-graduate student debt, Vecchione advises families to invest in college savings plans when their prospective college student is young.

"529 plans let your savings grow tax-free, and the earnings escape federal tax completely if the withdrawals are used for qualified college expenses, including tuition, fees and room and board," Vecchione said. "Some states offer pre-paid tuition plans for in-state residents at that states public colleges."

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Law school enrollment on the decline

Elon School of Law responds with innovative curriculum

ELON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW



Employment Status	2011	2012	2013
Employed	73	85	86
Pursuing graduate degree	4	1	3
Seeking employment	14	24	27
Not seeking employment	0	0	2
Unknown	8	2	4
Total Graduates	99	112	122

GRAPHIC BY MIRANDA SIWAK | Design Editor

Statistics from Elon Law Center for Professional Development

Bryan Anderson
Assistant News Editor

Since Elon University School of Law was founded in 2006, national tuition has, with few exceptions, been on the rise while employment prospects have been on the decline.

To combat these issues, Elon is making an effort to distance itself from some of tried-and-true manners in which law has been taught for generations.

“The school’s early years were characterized with differences in the curriculum from a traditional law school,” said Luke Bierman, dean of Elon Law. “The school is recognized for being innovative. That allowed us to take a more thoughtful and bold change to the curriculum.”

According to Elon Law’s Center for Professional Development’s Employment and Bar Exam Passage Statistics page, the unemployment rate has increased throughout the past three years.

For the class of 2013, 1.64 percent of those unemployed were not seeking employment at all. In 2011 and 2012, all graduates were seeking employment, nine months after graduation.

While nearly 1-in-4 2013 graduates were unemployed nine months after graduating, Elon’s five-year employment rate is around 90 percent, according to Bierman.

Some of the institution’s more distinguishing features include an externship requirement, a shortened take on the internship, as well as a two-and-a-half year

program to earn a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree.

According to the U.S. News and World Report, some of the best law schools are Yale, Harvard, Stanford and Columbia. It takes three years to get a J.D. at each of these institutions. Annual tuition and fees at these four schools range from \$52,530 to \$57,838.

Michael Rich, an associate professor of law at Elon University School of Law, said the school is more creative than some of the more traditional law schools.

“I think that the pressure that’s being put right now on law schools has forced us to innovate and think more creatively about who we are and what we do,” Rich said.

Since the university will offer

a two-and-a-half year program in fall 2015, its tuition is more reasonable compared to the more traditional law schools. Next school year, the new program’s cost is set to decrease by nearly \$14,000, for a \$100,000 total.

The new program, which will run on a seven-trimester curriculum, allows students to graduate in December and take the February bar exam.

Perhaps due to the shortened time for classes, the program remains time-consuming and intensive for students.

Danielle Prongay, a first-year Elon Law student, is constantly reading for her classes to perform her best.

“The culture at [Elon Law] is hard work,” Prongay said. “If you put the hard work in, any opportunity is possible.”

Those who do study hard remain confronted by a major problem after graduation: unemployment.

According to the American Bar Association, the national unemployment rate for law school graduates has increased, but has a lower overall rate than Elon.

In its 2013 law graduate employment data, the ABA recorded the employment statuses of over 97 percent of graduates from the classes of 2012 and 2013 nine months after graduation.

Just over 10 percent of recent graduates from 2012 and 2013 were unemployed and seeking employment. Elon’s unemployment rate is nearly twice that. The national unemployment rate across all job sectors was 5.6 percent at the end of the fourth quarter in December.

The decrease in available jobs in the law profession has caused a decrease in national enrollment.

An ABA report indicated 37,924 full-time and part-time students began studying in the

fall of 2014, down a full 27.7 percent from 2010.

Elon saw an increase in enrollment. From the Class of 2011 to the Class of 2013, the number of graduates increased from 99 to 122. Since then, enrollment has stabilized. The class of 2017 is comprised of 112 students.

Ed Lanquist, an attorney who practices patent, trademark and copyright litigation, believes pursuing law is still worth the expense — as long as would-be graduates can distinguish themselves from their peers.

“I think it [a law degree] is still worth the investment, but you have to have a degree that stands out,” Lanquist said.

Banking on the non-traditional standards Elon Law has in place, Prongay thinks her school’s differences will help her resume stand out from the pile. But she’s already considering other career options.

“The J.D., even more than having a bachelor’s degree, can be used universally,” Prongay said. “I was a political science major. My J.D. qualifies me as a business person, a teacher, a lawyer or a guidance counselor for a school.”

Rich directly entered law school after getting his degree as an undergrad and believes now is a good time to enroll as long as students recognize what they want.

“I think that a law degree is a worthwhile investment for students that have a goal,” Rich said. “I don’t know if it’s good for students trying to figure things out. It’s almost too intense to provide that time to decide what you want to be when you grow up.”

STUDY ABROAD

from cover

dollars each year to attend Elon,” she said. “When it came to getting us home, it seems there was a lot of miscommunication regarding transportation home between our university, travel agency and us.”

Channas said their flight was changed even before weather became an issue.

“Once our flight was canceled, it felt like it became a game of cat and mouse to try to get the university to work with us to get a flight home because of financial reasons,” she said. “The university is willing to let



LEENA DAHAL | Senior Reporter
A snow-grounded flight in Boston.

students miss two days of classes to save a couple bucks, and I think that is what is most disappointing.”

Her group’s flight Monday morning to Minneapolis was scheduled for only five of the students, leaving an additional four stranded in Utah. Channas said the remaining group was left to “fend for themselves,” finding a return flight without the help of the travel agency or the University. The group reached Elon Tuesday morning.

Waller said the entire ordeal has been difficult on both ends. Emphasizing that her team greatly values efficiency, she said that when reasonable and efficient solutions presented themselves, they took them.

“I would like to say thank you to those who showed great patience and adaptability and to those who recognize how difficult this kind of

situation really is,” Waller said. “We got a lot of complimentary emails, which was really motivational to those of us who lost many hours of sleep in the past week helping to keep lines of communication open.”

Waller also pointed to the dedicated work of her colleagues at Aladdin Travel, noting that at the height of the storm, they had an entire team of people working literally around the clock.

“People who have to face these types of unexpected difficulties can understandably become frazzled and frustrated. Patience can really wear thin,” she said. “No matter what, Aladdin’s team maintained professionalism and worked hard to achieve the desired goal— getting our programs home safely.”

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Bias incident generates diversity discussion

FROM COVER

Bryan Anderson
Assistant News Editor

Yasmine Arrington, a black Elon University senior, waited outside the Truitt Center on a chilly Jan. 21, 2015 night for E-Rides to pick her up.

She looked up, she said, and was confronted with two college-aged white males yelling racial and sexual slurs.

The alleged, unknown, perpetrators sped off — Arrington panicked. A blank face led to shock, then the shock gave way to tears.

“I couldn’t see them,” Arrington said. “I couldn’t run after them and take a photo of the license plate or the tag number. After they said what they said, I was in a state of shock.”

Arrington’s incident has not been the first racially-motivated incident at Elon in recent years — far from it. Since 2011, there have been more than five reported incidents of racial bias, many of them following similar patterns to the Jan. 21, 2015 incident. All have prompted frustration. Some have prompted a sense that change will never come.

To the victims of the crimes — most of which have resulted in no charges — racial bias at school is nothing new.

A group of white males in a convertible yelled the N-word in early September 2011 at a black student crossing North O’Kelly Avenue — right across the street from where Arrington said she was harassed — Elon University Police said at the time.

A male in a car at the light in front of McMichael allegedly shouted a homophobic slur at a student in early February, 2012.

A new bias and discrimination policy inclusive of all types of harassment was then presented to faculty and staff Feb. 13-14, 2012. Faculty voted on the policy unanimously in early March 2012, which was praised by many, including students.

Still, the incidents kept coming.

Two students, one black, one Jewish, found a swastika, the letters “KKK” and male genitalia drawn on a whiteboard outside of their Colonnades D dorm room in mid-September, 2013.

When Elon community members gathered to discuss the offenses, as they did after the latest one, administrators asked students how the university could better handle bias situations.

It was suggested that the school implement diversity education and anti-defamation courses into the Elon curriculum.

During Winter Term 2015, freshmen were asked to attend a four-hour Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Campus of Difference training session — to mixed reviews from attendees.

To junior Claire Lockard, who is white, the university is not doing an adequate job of discussing diversity.

“I believe [Elon] has systems in place that they hope or think will work, and they do try to make changes based on feedback that they’ve been given,” Lockard said. “But there’s something about the Elon Bubble that makes people feel like they can shout racial slurs and that that’s acceptable behavior within this community.”

Students seek solutions

One solution that a student offered to increase student engagement with diversity was the creation of a hands-on diversity training program. Such a program would be one option for satisfying an Experimen-

tal Learning Requirement (ELR).

Jamie Butler, the assistant director for Elon’s Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education (CREDE), believes that Elon needs to dig deeper and have more open, uncomfortable discussions.

“We are going to have to move away from some of the surface level [conversations],” Butler said. “Students don’t come to things [like the Jan. 26 forum] because we’ve already talked about this before. It’s time for us to give ourselves permission to go to the next level and not keep replaying the same conversations over and over again.”

In light of the low white student turnout at the Jan. 26 open forum, designed to discuss what happened to Arrington, Butler hoped that students, white and black, will do more to open what he sees as a stagnant campus conversation on race issues.

“The burden of the discussion can no longer be on individuals who identify in a marginalized group,” Butler said. “The burden of having these conversations has to be placed on the majority culture.”

Creating a discussion space

When people filed into the room Jan. 21, they were placed in one of 11 small discussion groups, but when the event started, the empty chairs stuck out like a sore thumb.

Randy Williams, dean of multicultural affairs, was particularly disappointed with the lack of white students in attendance.

“I would have loved to have seen a greater diversity of students,” Williams said. “To be quite frank, more white students [would have been nice]. We need to bring multiple people into the discussion.”

Although the forum didn’t generate the desired turnout, several people said the event was still worthwhile.

“I do think conversation matters,” Jackson said. “I thought there were some very good concrete suggestions [on how to address the incident and promote diversity].”

The event began with a series of three speeches with breaks in between for discussing questions that the speaker posed to

the attendees.

Arrington delivered the first.

After she was done, she posed a straightforward question for the audience’s consideration: “What is it about Elon that makes these incidents OK?”

Several pointed to the lack of diversity on campus as one of the primary sources of the problem with on-campus racial biases. According to the Elon University 2014-15 Fact Book, 5.8 percent of Elon students are black, while an overwhelming 82.2 percent are white.

Seventeen percent of the Class of 2018 is defined as what is considered “ethnically diverse” — 2 percent black, 2 percent Asian, 6 percent Hispanic and 3 percent multiracial — according to the Admissions Class Profile webpage.

Strides made, with a ways to go

Butler said that diversity does, in a way, boil down to difference — and that’s OK.

“When I think of the word ‘diversity,’ I just think of differences in general,” Butler said. “Not only does it include racial and ethnic makeup, [but it also refers to] socioeconomic status, social orientation, geographical differences, upbringings and family structures. Anything that makes us unique and different, I would include in my definition of diversity.”

In the wake of the most recent racial bias incident, several students were angry because the perpetrators have yet to be identified after video footage examination. According to the Elon Campus Police incident report, the case is still under further investigation.

With the completion of the Inman Admission Center and future construction projects planned for an improved School of Communications, Arts West and Danieley Neighborhood, some attendees thought Elon should use its money toward upgrading its security cameras.

Arrington saw the footage and was disappointed that the perpetrators’ license plate or tag number could not be identified.

“Those cameras are horrible,” Arrington said. “I think we can update our cameras

at least.”

Jackson believes that the existing security cameras, which are 10 years old, are suitable and capable of tagging vehicles.

“The university’s put a lot of cameras around that are relatively recent that have cut down on a lot of crime and violence on the campus,” Jackson said.

Steven House, provost and vice president for academic affairs, agrees with Jackson that the security cameras throughout campus perform well. Though the perpetrators haven’t been identified, House is confident in the ongoing investigation.

But the provost acknowledged a constant need for improvement, too.

“The university’s goal is to always take care of those individuals who have been targeted,” House said. “To create a campus climate that is always better than what we have [is important].”

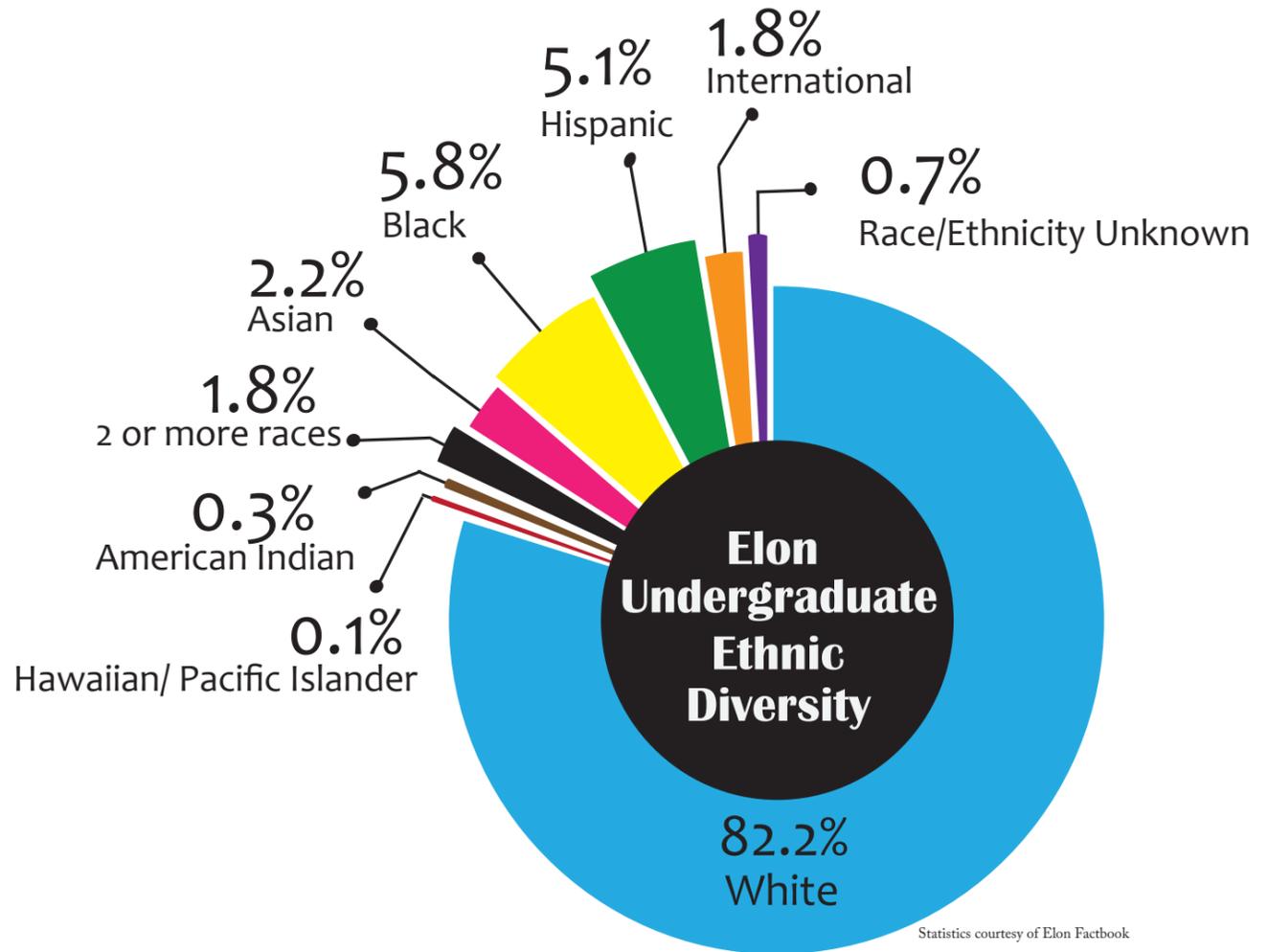
During the open forum, a second speaker recalled an incident that occurred during his freshman year at Elon. After being called the “n-word,” he grabbed the person’s throat in response. He admitted he didn’t handle the situation appropriately, but he took physical action because he felt that the university would be of little service in disciplining the student who called him the “n-word.”

Aloud, he mused the use of reporting his story, thinking that nothing would have been done about it.

University administrators say otherwise, pointing to the depth of resources available, though many have only been created in recent years.

Elon’s Inclusive Community homepage includes a section on how to report incidents of bias, discrimination, harassment and hate.

Students have three options for filing such reports, which are anonymous, confidential and official. Safeline (336-278-3333), a confidential line for Elon community members, provides an immediate response by a dispatcher and then a call from a confidential advocate within 20 minutes.



GRAPHIC BY STEPHANIE HAYS | Design Editor

Cultural identity defined during MLK Speaker series

Elizabeth Elder
Senior Reporter

Mei-Ling Hopgood's perspective and personality has been shaped by her cultural roots and immersions, which have taken her from Asia to Detroit to Argentina.

Jon Dooley, dean of campus life at Elon University, introduced Hopgood as "between cultures and identities."

Hopgood, an Asian-American journalist, associate professor and director of global initiatives at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and the author of "How Eskimos Keep Their Babies Warm" and "Lucky Girl," opened a Jan. 21 lecture in Whitley Auditorium in Spanish.

Adopted at six months by a family from Detroit, she was originally born in Taitung, a small island between China and Taiwan. But growing up, she didn't want anything to do with her Asian heritage.

"I really didn't want to be known as Asian," she said. "I was actually ashamed of it in some ways. I would say I was proud, but I think I was really conscious of being Asian."

Hopgood said the need to fit in is pretty normal in high school, so it wasn't until she started college at the University of Missouri that she began to accept where she came from.

After becoming involved with different Asian-American groups on campus, she began to take more pride in her roots.

Soon after, Hopgood was contacted by her birth family, who urged her to return to her native country. After persistent letters from her biological sisters, she made the journey to Taiwan and met her family.

"It was a pretty intense and wonderful experience," she said. "It was a very transforming moment."

Glenn Scott, associate professor of communications, also knows the importance of understanding one's identity. Because Scott has a wife from Japan and a son with dual Japanese and American citizenship he has become more aware of the need for individuals to understand themselves.

"[My son] doesn't see himself as being sort of a single cultural being," Scott said. "He has all these contexts and they all swirl around and come into play as needed."

According to Scott, his son is sometimes referred to as the "Asian dude" at his school Walter M. Williams high school in Burlington because of the lack of on-campus di-

versity. By assigning individuals to a single cultural identity, people don't gain a deeper understanding of the individual as a whole, he added.

As a journalism professor and enthusiast, Scott particularly resonated with Hopgood's messages on self-identification.

"I loved [Hopgood's] point that we can choose how we see ourselves culturally," Scott said. "We may begin with something, but we need to see cultural identities as somewhat fluid, and I thought she articulated that very well."

Hopgood's cultural identity expanded when she met her husband and moved to Argentina.

She said her view of culture and identity evolved further when she had children. She realized her two girls were experiencing a different racial and cultural identity than she had.

From her time in American, Asian and Latin American cultures, Hopgood gained a unique view of countries' traditions.

"Culture is something that's organic," she said. "It's not just composed of your heritage or your background or your parents or the places you grow up, but the experiences you have and things you're interested in. We are a fusion of these things. We have a choice in where we're taken. We really do have a big hand in who we will become."

Hopgood's words affected many of the Elon students who attended the lecture.

Rachel Shippee, a senior who studied abroad in Argentina, came away with a new definition of identity.

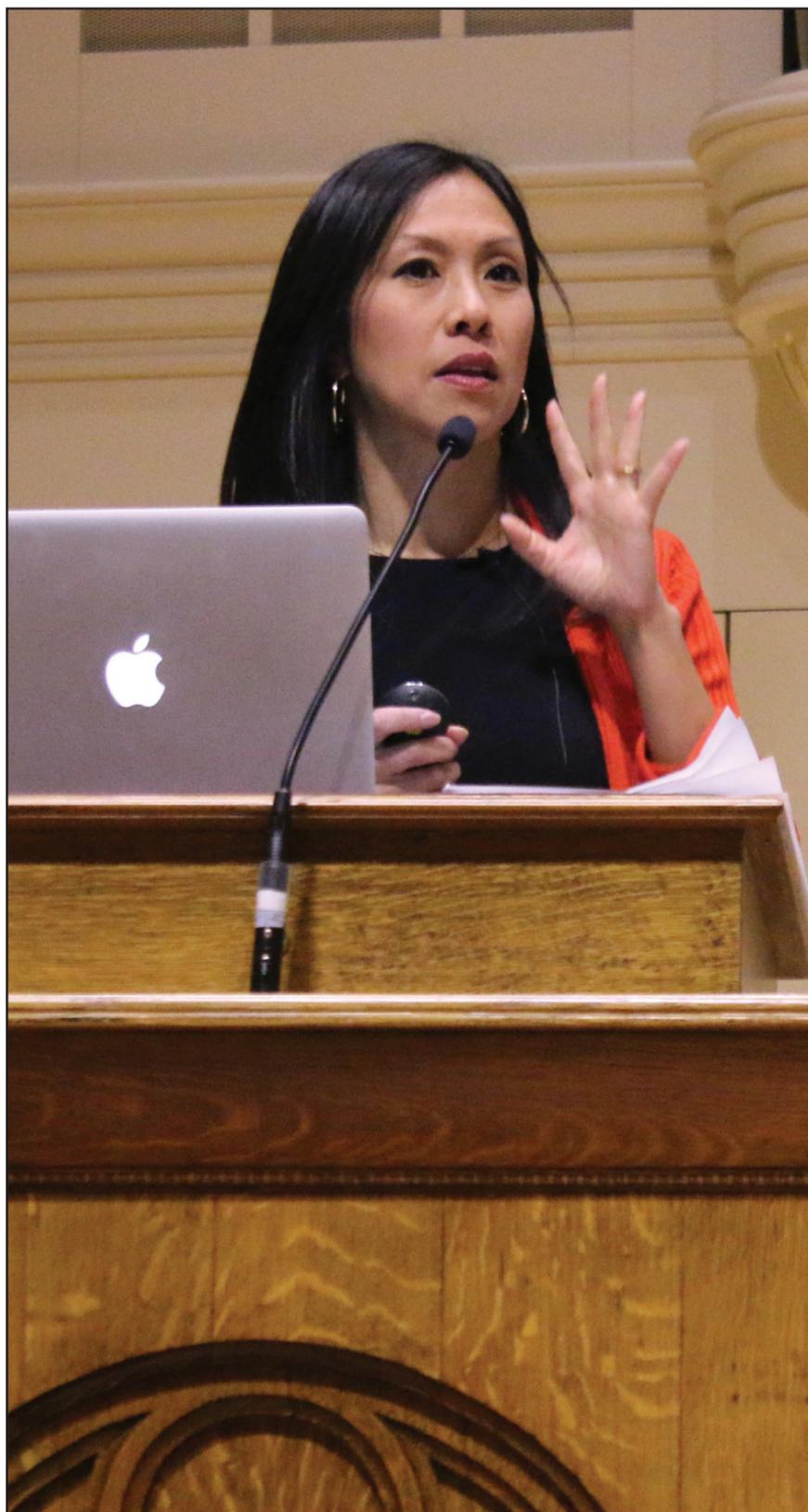
"Although identity can be difficult to define, it's how we share and absorb new cultures and experiences that makes us who we are," Shippee said. "And that's what is more important. Not the amount of vague checks we make on a questionnaire asking us about our ethnicity and background, but how we grow from these new experiences and integrate them into our daily lives."

Hopgood closed the lecture with her definition of home, something that goes hand-in-hand with both culture and identity.

"Ultimately I think home is something inside you," she said. "I know that sounds cliché, but you're made up of a lot of different experiences."

Hopgood's experiences don't frustrate her—they motivate her.

"I'm excited to see where it's going to go next," she said.



HUNTER STRAUCH | Staff Photographer
Mei-Ling Hopgood spoke Jan. 21 in Whitley Auditorium about her diverse cultural experiences.

Students enjoy decline in prices at the pump while it lasts

Leena Dahal
Senior Reporter

In recent months, consumers across the country have been enjoying lower prices at

the pump as a result of booming production in the Midwest and dropping crude futures worldwide.

According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), the national average per

gallon of gasoline has dropped below \$3.00 per gallon for the first time in nearly four years. Here at Elon University, consumers are paying less than \$2.00 — \$1.99 this week — per gallon of regular gas at Kangaroo on Williamson Avenue.

Most experts cite U.S. domestic production as the guiding factor behind the shift.

According to a recent article published by the New York Times, U.S. domestic production has nearly doubled during the last six years. The U.S. Energy Information Administration found that the United States' domestic oil production has grown from 5.6 million barrels per day (bbl/d) in 2011 to 7.4 million bbl/d last year.

Experts also turn to the simple theory of supply and demand as a factor behind the decline in prices.

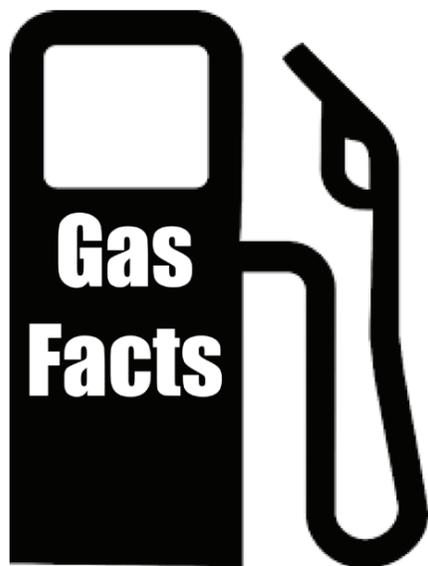
Citlaly Mora, a sophomore commuter, said the price drop has made a world of difference. Since she lives on the outskirts of Burlington, getting to and from Elon for her classes, jobs and extracurricular activities can cost her up to \$40 per week at the pump.

"I was thrilled when I pumped last week and filled up my tank with about 20 bucks," Mora said. "That is a big help and gives you extra money in the long run, and for a college student on a budget that is always good news."

Sophomore Jonathan Garcia, treasurer of the Elon Car Club, said the decline in prices has opened up doors for his organization.

"I believe that the gas prices have increased our activities we can pursue since we can afford to go to more events now," Garcia said.

But other experts have cautioned consumers to realize that they're treading in uncertain waters. In a report by CNBC, former Shell Oil President John Hofmeister predicted that U.S. oil could skyrocket from the current levels of less than \$48 per barrel to \$80 per barrel by this fall, just as consumers are getting used to the windfall from lower gas prices. That would force gas prices to double, perhaps to the tune of \$4 per gallon by next winter.



GRAPHIC BY STEPHANIE HAYS | Design Editor

The national average of a gallon of gasoline has dropped below \$3.00.

This is the lowest gas prices have been in the past four years.

U.S. domestic production is the guiding factor behind the price drop.

United States' oil production has grown from 5.6 million barrels per day to 7.4 million barrels per day.

Five stars for feedback

Students use Rate My Professors to select classes

Chace Blackburn
Senior Reporter

Many Elon University students, like college students across the country, use a website called Rate My Professors when selecting their classes.

Rate My Professors has become popular by providing an online forum for students to rate their teachers on several factors. The overall score, which students pay attention to the most, is an average.

Freshman Cal Dougherty said that for the most part, the ratings lined up.

“There were certainly some that seemed unnecessarily low, but I think that’s just because students personally have bad experiences with certain professors,” he said.

But not all students use Rate My Professors when selecting classes.

“I have never used Rate My Professors,” said freshman Sara Carlson. “I think a lot of the reviews are from jaded students with bad grades. It’s much easier and reliable for me to just go to the first day of class.”

The professor matters for class selection.

“I think the teacher is the No. 1 indicator of how interesting or how hard a class will be,” said freshman Christy Smith. “I love Rate My Professors [because] it provides a candid forum for students who have had a certain professor to assess their experience.”

Teachers also have mixed feelings. “Sometimes it is a bit disconcerting that

students can rate me before they even meet me,” said assistant professor of communications Vanessa Bravo. “But at the same time, I don’t think it’s a huge distraction. Most kids I’ve talked to don’t use it that much – at least they don’t usually not take a class because of a bad review.”

Students can also look up biographies of their teachers on Elon’s website.

Every professor and instructor has a profile on Elon’s website that features a brief biography, links, news and notes about the professor’s education, employment history, courses taught, leadership positions, publications, presentations, skills and awards.

This profile may not be as helpful to students as Rate My Professors, though.

“It doesn’t provide the candid nature and genuineness of a Rate My Professors profile,” Carlson said. “It only speaks of them in a superficial, professional capacity. I think kids want to know what a teacher’s personality is like, what assignments they will give, how they will grade. Elon.edu just doesn’t seem to provide that.”

Rate My Professors is not just a place to dish the dirt.

“Overall, I think students still like to have personal contact with a teacher before they make a decision about staying in the class,” Dougherty said. “[This site] is certainly indicative of technology derision in general. While people use this specific website as a tool, it doesn’t necessarily override human contact.”



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ELON UNIVERSITY
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New Elon bar sees success in opening week

Elizabeth Elder
Senior Reporter

Tony’s Pub-N-Subs, better known as Tony’s to Elon University students, has drawn attention in the weeks since opening. The new bar, featuring sandwiches and pool tables, has seen some success so far.

According to Tony Caruso, co-owner of the bar, the support from Elon students has been “almost overwhelming.”

The latest addition to Elon provides a new source of competition for current hot spots West End Terrace and Fat Frogg Bar and Grill.

Caruso, who co-owns the bar with his

wife, Rita, knows there will be some competition but insists Tony’s is striving to offer something a little different.

“I want to try to be a little different [by offering reasonable prices],” Caruso said. “I want to stand out from both Fat Frogg and West End.”

After opening, it has become clear that Caruso and the rest of the Tony’s staff has worked towards that goal. With unique specials and deals, the bar has been able to attract students looking for cheaper options to eat, hang out and drink.

On opening night, Tony’s brought in crowds with a special of \$5 for all sandwiches, top shelf drinks and mixed drinks.



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Pub owner Tony Caruso hopes that Tony’s Pub-N-Subs will provide a unique and affordable bar atmosphere for Elon students.

Other deals included half off all wine and a pitcher of Bud Light for \$6.50. The grand opening also offered giveaways and door prizes.

Even bigger crowds showed up for \$1 tequila shots, a Tuesday special

It’s these deals that have the owners hopeful students will continue to make the trek to Tony’s. The bar is located near Dominos Pizza at 415 W Haggard Ave. somewhat out of the way for most students, especially those who live on campus.

“If they continue to offer the same deals, then it will definitely attract students and make them want to go there instead of West End, even though it’s closer to campus,” said junior Katie Armstrong, who visited the bar opening week.

Caruso previously owned Sandy’s Steaks & Subs, a late-night favorite for Elon students until it closed in 2013 because declining business. A year and a half after the closing of Sandy’s, Caruso knew there was a gap that needed to be filled.

“Sandy’s was a real popular place to eat

or to come have a few drinks in the afternoons,” said Caruso. “It had been closed for a while, and just being in Elon and talking to other people, they were looking for a place.”

The bar is getting attention not only for its great deals and specials but also for its unique, relaxing atmosphere. Tony’s offers a bar and dance floor along with pool tables, seating and lots of open space.

“It’s pretty original in terms of what it offers to students,” said sophomore Holly Carlton, who also attended the bar opening week. “The bar itself actually has seats, which makes it more of a bar and gives it a friendlier, more social vibe.”

As the weather gets warmer and students want to spend more time outdoors, Caruso hopes the support and excitement from the Elon community remains strong.

“Elon has come out and treated us well,” said Caruso. “And I hope they think we treated them well.”

Tony’s Pub-N-Subs

Hours: Restaurant 11am - 9pm Pub 11am - 2:30am

Phone Number: (336)584-8786

What they serve: Subs, burgers, fries, wings and more

Who they cater to: College students and locals

Fun fact: Tuesday & Thursday feature \$1 shots

Meaning behind the name:

The restaurant was named after the owner’s son who died a few years ago while in the military.

Cheat Sheet: Free community college



*Want a complicated news story explained?
Email pendulum@elon.edu and find it in next week's Cheat Sheet*

Compiled by the News Team

President Barack Obama has big goals regarding American education standards. A major part of his plan includes making the first two years of community college free for any student with a C+ average or better.

By 2020, Obama hopes that the United States will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world, and that community colleges will produce an additional five million of them.

His desire for an additional population of community college graduates stems from the increasing perceived need to have at least an associate's degree in the professional world. Many community colleges also have pre-professional programs that liberal arts colleges lack.

To achieve his goal of a community college-educated United States citizenship, Obama has laid out several distinct strategies.

He has called on Congress to make the first two years of community college free for students, which would ensure participants an associate's degree.

His plan for financing involves using federal government funding for 75 percent of the tuition and individual states funding the remainder.

This proposal is a controversial one. Opponents have called it a "Robin-Hood"-like plan that "borrows from the rich to give to the poor," in the style of the cartoon vigilante.

For this reason, the program is likely to die on the floor of Congress. It is the first big push by the Obama administration towards affordable college.

There are stipulations to this proposal though. Students must maintain a 3.5 GPA in order to sustain the grant.

But the free tuition would still be an enormous help to students across the country. The White House estimates it would save 9 million students about \$3,800 per year.

The program, however helpful, is not simple. Many questions have arisen. What impacts will the plan have on Obama's annual budget? How will this proposal inter-



During his State of the Union address Jan. 20, President Obama discussed his plans to ensure all eligible students two free years of community college.

act with the Pell Grant, a grant which is given to the socioeconomically disadvantaged college students who comprise 38 percent of community-college students?

There is sentiment from opponents of this program that suggests the initiative wouldn't help its target population. The Pell Grant covers the most financially needy students. Obama's program would primarily help students who come from middle-class families.

College has become increasingly hard to pay for, especially for members of middle-class families who fall through the cracks of financial aid.

The number of students who borrow money, most often via loans, to pay for college has increased 70 percent in the past 10 years. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the total amount of student debt in the U.S. has more than tripled in the past 10 years, from \$363 billion in 2005 to more than \$1.2 trillion today.

Obama's is based on a three-part plan: Helping more students go to college (access), helping them pay for it (affordability), and making sure universities do their best to make college affordable (accountability).

The program is modeled after a current, working initiative: The Tennessee Promise, Tennessee's free community college program. It has drawn 58,000 applicants, almost 90 percent of the state's high school

seniors, and more than twice as many as expected.

But many Republicans remain skeptical. "With no details or information on the cost, this seems more like a talking point than a plan," said Cory Fritz, a spokesman for House Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, through the New York Times.

The Obama administration was quick to recounter.

"It's something that we can accomplish, and it's something that will train our work force so that we can compete with anybody in the world," Obama said in a video posted by the White House.

All in all, it is a bi-partisan sentiment that community college is a large part of the American education culture, and one that needs to be at least somewhat subsidized by the federal government.

According to the New York Times, 7.7 million U.S. community college students attend community college for credit, 3.1 million of whom attend full time.

The federal government provides about \$9.1 billion to community colleges, about 16 percent of the total revenue the colleges receive. Tuition from students provides about 30 percent of the revenue.

Governmental funding of community-college endeavors is no new issue, but has drawn mixed views from the general public. Time will tell if Obama's proposal can be deemed a success.

News Briefs

Professor clears father's name

Toward the end of January, an Elon University professor helped clear his father's name of a conviction that had stained his record since the Civil Rights era.

Kenn Gaither, assistant professor of communications and associate dean, represented his father, Thomas, in a formal exoneration of his 1961 arrest. Charged in Rock Hill, South Carolina, for organizing a sit-in at a local segregated lunch counter, Thomas Gaither and eight other arrested activists became known as the "Friendship Nine." The group was comprised of students from nearby Friendship Junior College.

On Jan. 28, 2015 — nearly 54 years since their arrests — almost all of the original members of the "Friendship Nine" attended court in South Carolina.

A South Carolina court apologized to the men and vacated the original trespassing charges. All of the "Friendship Nine" are still alive, save one.

First Elon University Poll of 2015

In two weeks, the Elon University Poll will conduct its first survey of 2015, polling throughout North Carolina. The survey will touch on issues such as the economy, social opinion and political discourse. It will run Feb. 16-20.

Students who volunteer with the Elon Poll will earn \$10 per hour and free pizza. In addition, students may be given extra credit at the instructor's discretion.

The first poll of 2015 will be held at the Academic Village, in Gray Pavilion 110 on the following dates and times:

- Monday, Feb. 16: 4:30-9:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 17: 4:30-9:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 18: 4:30-9:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 19: 4:30-9:30 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 20: 3-8 p.m.

Burlington self-shooting

An employee at a sporting goods store located in Burlington's Holly Hill Mall was injured during an accidental, self-inflicted shooting Sunday, according to The Burlington Times-News. The Burlington Police Department responded to several calls from Dunham's Sports regarding Bruce R. Foote, 43, who accidentally shot himself in the upper left leg.

According to police, one round was discharged from the Mebane resident's handgun, which he was licensed to carry. Several customers, including off-duty police officers, helped the victim until emergency services arrived.

Foote underwent surgery at Duke University Medical Center later that evening. He was in stable condition Monday evening.

Inman open to park

The Inman Admissions Welcome Center has opened its doors and parking spaces, though a ticket soon awaits parking violators.

Parking is not permitted for students, faculty or staff from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturdays.

There are 20-minute parking spaces behind Belk Library for students in need of a short-term stop. In order to park there, a valid and current parking permit is required.

For the rest of this week, warning tickets will be given to illegal parkers. Starting Feb. 9, cars that are not permitted to park there will be ticketed or towed, according to Scott Jean, chief of security. Those with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact Campus Safety and Police at 336-278-5555.

FAST FACTS

OBAMA'S PLAN TO MAKE THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE FREE TO STUDENTS:

1 ➤ Obama will call on Congress to make the first two years of community college free for students, which would ensure all eligible participants an associate's degree.

2 ➤ The federal government will cover 75 percent of the tuition, while individual states will cover the remainder.

THE WHITE HOUSE ESTIMATES IT WOULD SAVE 9 MILLION STUDENTS AROUND \$3,800 A YEAR.

Editorial

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

Elon's race dialogue lacks diversity

The crowd at the racial injustice open forum Jan. 26, held in response to an incident in which a racial slur was allegedly yelled at a black student from a car on North O'Kelley Ave, was not representative of Elon University's student body. And that's a problem.

In The Pendulum's coverage of the forum, Randy Williams, dean of multicultural affairs, was quoted saying the event didn't garner the diverse turnout he expected.

"I would have loved to have seen a greater diversity of students," Williams said. "To be quite frank, more white students would have been nice."

Williams is right. This event should affect the individual target of the incident as much as the entire student body. But what does the student body have to say about it?

We may never know. Less than 20 percent of Elon's student body is comprised of racial minorities. But an overwhelming majority of participants

at the forum were minority students.

The discouraging representation from the remaining 80 percent is evidence that most of the student body has yet to become engaged in the race discussion, a conversation that shouldn't exist in a vacuum among minority students.

But the race conversation largely begins and ends with minority students at Elon, Williams said in an interview after the forum.

"[The voice of the minority] is one that needs to be brought to the forefront, and there are people who need to hear these things," Williams said. "When you have a conversation about racial differences, it's not a comfortable place to be, especially if you have privilege."

But it's important to have these conversations, no matter how uncomfortable they are, so we can move forward from incidents like this having learned something from one another.

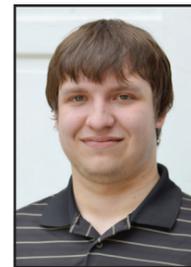
Meaningful conversations about how issues of intolerance should be handled certainly took place at the forum, despite the lack of diversity present. Just because white students aren't directly impacted doesn't mean they should stay silent.

The forum was the optimal platform for students in a position of privilege to hear from Elon's minority students about being immersed in a dominant white culture on a college campus. It's disheartening that more white students didn't take advantage of the opportunity.

Diversity is important to Elon's administration, which has constructed of safe spaces for the university's racial minorities on the second floor of the Moseley Center. But not all students are on board yet. Everyone in the Elon community, regardless of background, needs to step up and do their part in creating that safe space everywhere. Otherwise, little progress can be made.

Quality over quantity when it comes to class participation at Elon

As Elon University students venture into the beginning of spring semester, it is time for the excruciating first-day traditions: flipping through the course syllabus. With this tradition, we see the familiar phrase — "class participation." This portion of the grade can apply to how often a student contributes to class discussion or a student's attendance



Tim Melton
Columnist

record.

How professors quantify class participation has always been frustrating. Although it often accounts for up to 20 percent of a student's final grade, participation can't be measured objectively like a quiz, homework assignment or project.

With the exception of the number of absences, the grade often subjective. Of course, some classes are more discussion-based than others and will have higher standards in terms of what is considered an appropriate level of participation.

Basing a grade on how often students speak is not effective because it favors more outgoing students over those who are either shy or unaccustomed to speaking in a classroom environment.

One solution is to do away with participation grades by focusing only on a student's attendance. This approach is simple and unbiased to a student's personality or learning style, but it removes the incentive for good classroom discussion. While a focus on attendance is good for classes that offer little to no exchange, it could be considered the inferior option in other cases.

Basing the grade on quality of participation could be much more beneficial. Students are rewarded for providing relevant insight and discussion, while those who offer distractions or unrelated tangents are penalized. The age-old maxim "quality over quantity" should be the primary basis of determining participation grades.

This issue deserves more attention than it receives. There are likely more solutions to the problem than those suggested here, but they are clearly not being developed and implemented by professors. To provide the best possible learning environment for students, the guidelines for what are considered good and bad measures of participation should be clear and concise.

After all, in college, there can surely be no greater lesson than when to speak and when to listen.

Visit <http://www.elonpendulum.com/submit-story-idea/> to submit a letter to the editor.



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Students gather in groups for conversations about racial bias at the Racial Injustice Open Forum Jan. 26, 2015 in Lakeside.

Classes skipped equivalent to dollars wasted

As Elon University students slowly emerge from their Winter Term hibernation, they will be forced to acclimate to a heavier course load. Whether they were on campus or traveling in faraway lands, the transition isn't necessarily easy.



Katy Canada
Columnist

Juggling classes that meet at different times of the day — in different buildings, no less — may prompt some students to take the occasional mental

health day.

But skipping class at Elon comes at a high price.

The cost of a single class session at Elon

depends on the number of credits a student takes and how many times the class meets in a semester. For a student taking four, 4-credit classes, each class period costs about \$100, give or take a few dollars depending on how many times per week the class meets.

Skipping a single class session is equivalent to flushing about \$100 down one of Elon's energy-efficient, low-flow toilets. And a class forgone translates to time that can't be regained and dollar bills that won't ever be refunded.

The cost of skipping one class in a semester could pay for 11 student-rate movie tickets at the Carousel Cinemas at Alamance Crossings. For the price of two classes, you could buy an iPhone 6. If you skip three classes in a semester, you've wasted \$300 that could have gone toward a fancy pair of head-

phones or a pair of Frye cowboy boots.

There's no shortage of reasons for skipping class — some of them valid — but whether you're getting the most out of your tuition and time in college is worth considering before committing to a day off or punching snooze one time too many. The material you're sure to miss in one class is reason enough to think twice.

The value of an education is priceless, but college is expensive. Although tuition at Elon covers a variety of expenses, at least a portion of that money pays for academics. And regardless of the number of classes attended, the cost is the same. If you choose to skip, take a moment to consider whether the reason is worth \$100.

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is a daily operation that includes a newspaper, website, magazine and multimedia. Letters to the editor 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 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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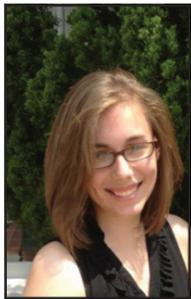


The Inman Admissions Center (above) officially opened Jan. 26. The new building was constructed where a large parking lot formerly sat.

JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor



Frankie Campisano
Columnist



Lauryl Fischer
Columnist

In the distance, you can see it, as it rises from the morning mists: the Admissions Palace. It's Elon University's newest, shiniest jewel. It's an architectural achievement, complete with a clock tower with no clock. It's so perfect it looks computer-generated — hey, maybe it is computer-generated, a carefully designed mirage to dazzle prospective students and parents.

We love this new, extravagant building. We love the design — we love the \$100-or-so million poured into it, and we love the new green fields in front of it, perfect for frolicking or basking in the sun.

But we miss our parking lot, Elon. Across campus, another parking lot clings to the last of its days. Soon, the McEwen parking lot will crumble underneath the weight of the new Communications Castle, which is sure to be a juggernaut of even more brick.

We're excited about that building too, if only because we can binge watch House of Cards in the spacious theater. At one point, plans for the new building included a "communications-themed eatery" which we can only assume means a television monitor slapped next to a vending machine.

But what will become of that beautiful, immaculate parking lot?

Elon, we don't want to harp on you. We know you've heard this criticism before. But this is an intervention. You have an addiction to brick and mortar.

Like most addicts, Elon's first response is probably, "We can quit any time we want." That's right, you can. Just put down the bulldozers, and let's talk about this. There has been too much construction. Too much pain.

We have an honorable solution — just walk away. Hand over your bricks, your

hard hats, your cranes. Just walk away from it all.

If Elon just can't bear it and wants to scratch that itch with more building, might we suggest some more, ah, constructive ideas? How about a recreational arcade, with a spacious parking lot? Or a drive-in movie theater for the Student Union Board? It could even double as a parking lot. Heck, build a parking lot for the Enterprise Rental Cars to collect dust in.

Look, Elon, you can pave paradise if you'll put up a parking lot. Or four.

In the meantime, as you build to your heart's content, use this opportunity to provide more on-campus job opportunities. Many Elon students have volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. Let's see how handy they are with a hammer. Suit up the next Phi Beta Kappa inductees in an orange construction vests and helmets, and send them on their way. Pay them what you pay the rest of the construction workers. Have them work odd hours — rain or shine. It'll all be worth it once we have that Communications Castle.

Top Tweets

Winter term



Tommy Hamzik
@T_Hamzik

Had some carnival-esque halftime stunts in media room. @AFeatherMVP needs to improve vertical leap. Solid poise by @adam_smithTN.



Danae
@dannymac01

i'm p sure the only kids who get those investment banking internships in nyc are ones with parents who go on turkey hunts with george w bush



Elon Gossip Squirrel
@xoGossipSquirrel

OVERHEARD in Belk: "How to I pay my credit card bill? Can you show me how? I've never done it before " @OnlyAtElon



Elon University
@elonuniversity

Special MLK #Elon College Coffee got wild today thanks to a great African-American dance company. Hot moves by Provost Steven Howell



Elon MBB Managers
@ElonMBBManagers

Dreams do come true: @HeadPhoenix just

Super



Matt Krause
@voicenthebox

Folks are gonna be fired up tomorrow here at UMass-Burlington.



Dan Wyar
@dwyar

Began Super Bowl Sunday in Boston. Now, I'm on an Elon Bio Bus at RDU listening to



Jeff Cook
@JeffreyCook_

Who's more drunk? Gronk in 2 hours or Robert Kraft



Jane
@jane_seidel

That super long walk with the Lombardi trophy felt a lot like that spongebob episode

Visit elonpendulum.com for commentary on President Obama's community college proposal.

Crossword Puzzle of the Week

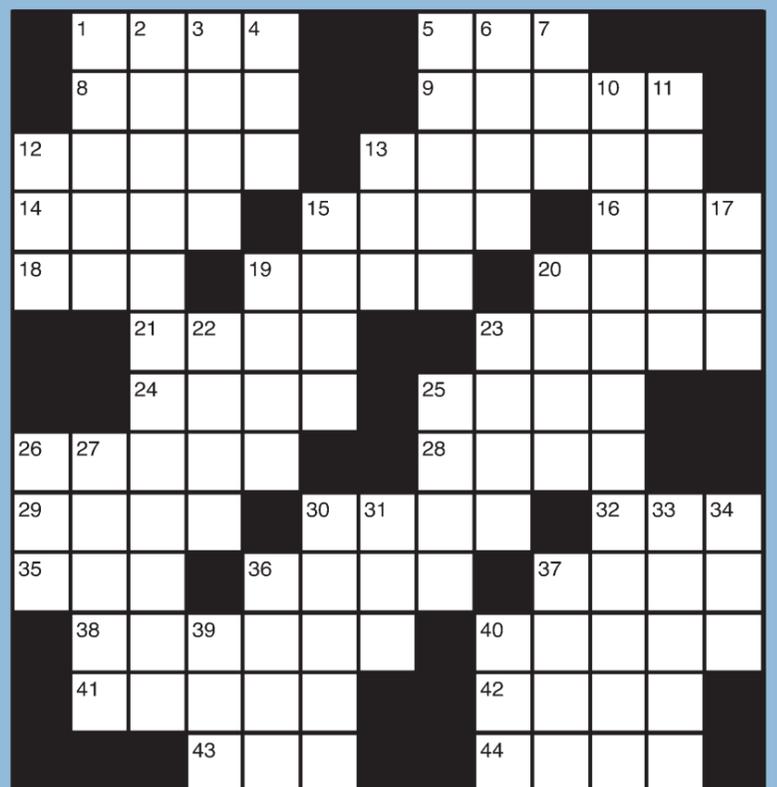
ACROSS

- 1 "___ Bloods"
- 5 Role on "Alice"
- 8 "The ___ Breed"; James Stewart movie
- 9 Jessica or Hope
- 12 "Little ___ on the Prairie"
- 13 Frank and Marie Barone's older son
- 14 Pod vegetable
- 15 Bernie and others
- 16 Andorra's continent: abbr.
- 18 Peg for Nicklaus
- 19 Actor Azaria
- 20 "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. ___"
- 21 Close at hand
- 23 Actor Gary ___
- 24 Storm or Gordon
- 25 Unconscious state
- 26 Actor Peter ___
- 28 Sitcom in which Sherman Hemsley played a deacon
- 29 Gabor and Longoria
- 30 Thick slice
- 32 Montgomery's state: abbr.
- 35 Slangy refusal
- 36 "The ___"; Gregory Peck/Lee Remick horror film
- 37 "___ Brothers"; Will Ferrell movie
- 38 Long-running adventure series about a collie
- 40 Phillips, once of "Dateline NBC"
- 41 "___ Wonder"; sitcom of the 1980s about a robot daughter
- 42 "___ Rock"; Simon & Garfunkel song
- 43 One of the Three Stooges
- 44 Prohibitionists

DOWN

- 1 "2 ___ Girls"
- 2 Actress on "Parenthood"
- 3 ___ Major; "Great Bear" constellation
- 4 Wide shoe width
- 5 Congregation
- 6 Blood analysis sites
- 7 "___ Tree Hill"
- 10 Medical drama series
- 11 Piano piece
- 12 "___ in Cleveland"
- 13 Galloped
- 15 Actress Winningham
- 17 Alejandro ___ of "The Flying Nun"
- 19 Alan ___, Jr., of "Gilligan's Island"
- 20 Political commentator and TV journalist
- Brit ___
- 22 Corncobs
- 23 Explosive device
- 25 James or Scott
- 26 "Dancing with the Stars" judge
- 27 Skating rink shapes
- 30 Advice from Allen Funt
- 31 Bruce or Brandon
- 33 Horne and her namesakes
- 34 King Kong, for one
- 36 Norway's capital
- 37 "___ Trek: Voyager"
- 39 Actor Waterston
- 40 "The ___ Caesar Show"

Visit www.elonpendulum.com for this week's answers



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Largest sorority recruitment yet

Bid Day packs 505 girls into new homes, leaving others behind

Lauren Phillips
Assistant Style Editor

Early in the morning on a cold day in late January, 600-plus eager young women prepared for a process that could change the course of their college careers. Their collective enthusiasm filled the air as they lined up outside the nine sorority houses in Elon University's Loy Center. Inside, sorority sisters were ready to greet the potential new members and introduce them to their respective organizations.

Elon's formal Spring Panhellenic Recruitment ran Jan. 28-31. Each day, potential new members learned more about the various sororities and selected which houses they wanted to return to the next day.

Recruitment at Elon operates on a mutual selection process. Women going through recruitment rank the sororities they visited that day and select the ones they would most like to return to the next day. The sororities decide which candidates they would like to invite back. According to the Office of Greek Life's website, this

process is designed to work in favor of new members to give them the best chance of returning to as many houses as possible.

Still, a significant number of women did not receive bids — or invitations to join — from one of the sororities they visited over the four days, either because they chose not to continue the process or because the sororities chose not to invite them back.

"I know a few people [who didn't complete the recruitment process]," said freshman Zaria Zinn, who just received a bid from Kappa Delta. "I think it's a combination of the number of people rushing this year, but I also think some people decided that [Greek Life] wasn't for them, and some people also just decided that Greek Life was maybe for them but there wasn't an organization on campus that they felt at home at."

Candidates chose not to complete the recruitment process for a variety of reasons.

"The majority of women who do not receive an invitation withdraw from the process at some point," the Office of Greek Life's website says. "Many of those stu-



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Aarti Rishi (left) and Chelsea Lopez (right) welcome new members to Delta Delta Delta sorority.

dents had their hearts set on a particular organization, and when that chapter is no longer an option for them, they choose to withdraw rather than look at the other organizations. There are also a small number of women who complete this process and do not receive a bid. This is usually because a student did not 'maximize her options,' meaning that the student was unwilling to consider membership in one of the sororities that was interested in her."

Bids are given out on Bid Day, the end of the formal recruitment process, and for 505 women, it was a day of celebration. But Bid Day wasn't a day to celebrate for many others who left empty-handed.

Of the 638 freshmen and sophomores who began the process, 505 received bids. This left 133 women who didn't receive bids or chose to drop from the process. These women made up 21 percent of the original group, meaning 1-in-5 did not receive a bid.

The number of women registered for recruitment has risen over the last 10 years, since 392 registered in 2005.

Ten years ago, about 44 percent of female freshmen went through recruitment. Of the 928 female freshmen in the class of 2018, 532 — or 57 percent — went through recruitment.

The number of women registering for recruitment has increased at a much faster rate than the general student population. The increase since 2005 in the number of female freshmen going through recruitment is more than double the increase in the size of the freshman class in the same time period: 55 and 21 percent, respectively.

Currently, around 38 percent of Elon's female undergraduate population is involved in Greek Life. Women going through the recruitment process noticed.

"It was overwhelming," said freshman Lizzie Conley, who received a bid from Alpha Omicron Pi. "It was a lot."

Though the number of students going through recruitment has grown, the number that receives bids hasn't kept pace. Regardless, the large number of girls going through recruitment has effects beyond Elon's Greek community.

"I was working during the recruitment process," said unaffiliated senior Alisha Carter, an admissions tour guide. "We give tours out of Moseley, and Moseley was just filled with girls. It kind of overpowered what we were trying to do."

The effects spread beyond campus. Michaele Graybeal owns All That JAS, a store that sells primarily Greek wear. Graybeal said, regardless of the number of girls going through recruitment, JAS seems to get the same amount of business.

"Insanity would probably be the best way to describe [this time of year]," Graybeal said. "After Bid Day you have 600-plus girls that have just gotten in, and they're very excited about being able to be in a sorority and they're very excited to wear letters. It's pretty insane for us — in a good way. The day after Bid Day is crazy. They were out the door this morning buying stuff."

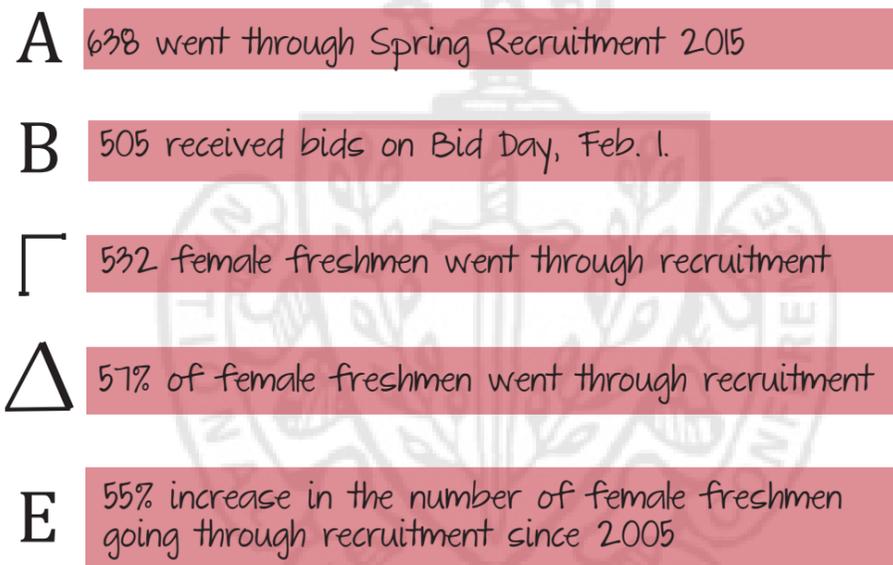
Of the increased number of women going through recruitment, Graybeal said it didn't affect the final result.

"What I've seen is that the groups buy Bid Day packages from us, and numbers have gone up a little but not a lot," Graybeal said. "I don't know that they ended up with that many more girls."

If Elon continues to grow, Greek Life organizations may have to adapt to accommodate increasing numbers of freshmen and sophomores eager to join sororities and fraternities.

Senior reporter Danielle Deavens contributed reporting.

Women's Recruitment: By the Numbers



GRAPHIC BY MIRANDA SIWAK | Design Editor

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Review: Halftime performance or Hunger Games?

The Super Bowl's major players weren't new to the field — both the Seattle Seahawks and New England Patriots have made



Courtney Campbell
Columnist

Super Bowl appearances before — but the halftime performer certainly made an explosive debut. On Sunday pop singer Katy Perry brought one of her trademark kooky performances to the stage, with mixed results.

From the start, the show seemed “Hunger Games”-inspired. During the first song, “Roar,” Perry rode onto the field atop a robotic tiger while wearing a Katniss Everdeen-esque dress of faux flames. Perry even stole Lenny Kravitz, who plays Everdeen's stylist and friend Cinna in the movies, for her third song, a fiery (literally) rendition of “I Kissed a Girl.”

The second song, “Dark Horse,” was a drastic change from the upbeat “Roar.” Perry sauntered across the field-turned-chessboard, which flashed as the turf appeared to change shape and size. Perry's dancers were dressed as futuristic chess pieces, which brought a surreal element to the performance.

The intense mood lasted through “I Kissed a Girl” but ended quickly as the show turned into something meant for “Nick Jr.” As “Teenage Dream” blasted, Perry reappeared on stage dressed as a beach ball, accompanied by dancing sharks, palm trees, surfboards and more beach balls.

This “Yo Gabba Gabba”-esque spectacle was swiftly replaced by a Beyoncé-inspired hip-hop performance of “Last Friday Night



Dressed as a beach ball, Katy Perry performs “California Gurls” with sharks, beach balls and palm trees during the halftime show. PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

(T.G.I.F.),” complete with oversized jackets and a guest rapper. Perry hyped up this number and its special guest in the weeks leading up to the show: Missy Elliot.

“When you hear the first chord, I think jaws will drop and faces will melt,” Perry said in an interview before the show.

Although Missy has not had a hit since 2008, she still killed the stage and managed to capture the large Super Bowl audience, bringing to light the once popular artist.

After “Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.),” Perry climbed onto a shooting star and rose above the stage. She sang “Firework” as she flew across the stage and obligatory fireworks exploded overhead.

Even people who aren't fans of Perry's music can't deny that the show was nothing less than different. This was the first, and possibly last, Super Bowl halftime show to

“WHEN YOU HEAR THE FIRST CHORD, I THINK JAWS WILL DROP AND FACES WILL MELT.”

KATY PERRY
HALFTIME PERFORMER

be remembered for years to come for her bizarre blend of intensity and lightheartedness.

Compared to past halftime performers, Perry was tolerable, though the songs were prerecorded to allow for her movement around the stadium. While it may have offended purists, this lip-synching made this year's halftime show one of the few that are bearable, instead of being filled with off-key vocals.

The show's themes were all over the place, but they seamlessly flowed together and catered to every interest. Despite the range of moods, though, Perry never strayed from her childish, bubbly brand. She isn't Beyoncé, but Perry has made a name for herself, and she managed to put on a good halftime show.

have lions and sharks on stage, and Perry will

Review: 2015 Oscar nominations lack diversity

Nomination after nomination for the 87th annual Academy Award were released on Jan. 15. However, something was clearly missing from this long list of talent: diversity.



Ally Feinsot
Columnist

Every actor nominee is white and every writer or director nominee is male.

Such a drastic lack of diversity has not been seen since the 70th Academy Awards in 1998. Within minutes of the announcements, #OscarsSoWhite became a nationwide trend on Twitter.

Despite its late arrival in theaters, “Selma” was a buzz-worthy film this year. After receiving four Golden Globe nominations and rave reviews, it received a nomination for Best Picture, but was completely ignored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in all other categories.

If nominated, Ava DuVernay, director of “Selma,” would have been the first black woman to receive a nomination for Best Director. David Oyelowo, who portrayed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was nominated for a Golden Globe but was passed over by the academy.

“The lack of a Best Director nomination

for DuVernay is a disappointment not only for those who admired the film, but also for those who see her as a figure of hope,” spoke Linda Holmes in her weekly “Moneky See” segment at NPR. “[Especially] how rare it is for even films about civil rights to have black directors, and how rare it is for any high-profile project at all to be directed by a woman.”

This lack of diversity can be attributed to the films that are being green-lit, or allowed to move forward, according to Kelley L. Carter's article “The Oscars Are Really While, and It's Not Surprising” in BuzzFeed.

“Films that center around black, Native American, Latino or Asian characters always are tied to the most challenging elements of history,” Carter wrote. “The same themes are played out on a Hollywood screen year after year...slavery, Reconstruction, civil rights. That's all you get.”

Carter noted that “color-blind casting” is the key to the future of Hollywood, where all ethnicities can have the ability to play complex and intriguing characters.

In addition to the lack of ethnic diversity, women who were behind the scenes were not recognized. Hollywood is known to be a tough battleground for females trying to make a name for themselves.

According to “Celluloid Ceiling,” an



GRAPHIC BY TORI LABENBERG | Design Editor

annual report that tracks women's progress in the film industry, only 17 percent of behind the scenes film workers in 2014 were women, and only 7 percent of directors were female.

The Best Director nominations were comprised of all men, as Angelina Jolie, director of “Unbroken” and Laura Poitras, director of “Citizenfour,” were dismissed. All eight Best Picture nominations were stories about men. Although “Still Alice” and “Wild” featured female character received Best Actress nods, they were unacknowledged in the Best Picture category.

In 2012, a Los Angeles Times article noted Oscar voters were 94 percent white,

77 percent male and a mere 14 percent were less than 50 years old. Jorge Rivas, a national affairs correspondent for digital news platform Fusion, noted that in the last 20 years, 67 of the 80 Oscars for Best Actor awarded to men were white.

The correlation between the demographics of the academy and the Best Actor winners are clearly not a coincidence. The film industry itself is primarily white and male, something that needs to be changed.

While it must not be forgotten that “Selma” was nominated for Best Picture and extremely talented and courageous women were nominated in the Best Actress categories, the academy and Hollywood need to undergo a change. Long gone are the days when black actors were simply a mockery in minstrel shows or women were viewed as the inferior gender. These marginalized groups deserve equal recognition.

The film industry needs to promote an equal society, where diversity is revered, women are breaking glass ceilings and anyone can accomplish greatness.

“THE SAME THEMES ARE PLAYED OUT ON A HOLLYWOOD SCREEN YEAR AFTER YEAR... SLAVERY, RECONSTRUCTION, CIVIL RIGHTS.”

KELLEY L. CARTER
BUZZFEED NEWS REPORTER

Argo Tea continues to provide flexibility for students

Employees prepare for first spring on campus with updated menu, themed drinks

Caroline Perry
Senior Reporter

As Elon University, students return to campus for the spring semester, a relatively unknown on-campus dining option could replace Acorn in students' hearts. Whether they are returning from abroad courses or just looking to try a new food option, students can find more lunch options than ever at Argo Tea Cafe in the Global Neighborhood.

Argo Tea may sound like a beverage-only cafe, but it has expanded its food options to accommodate Elon's student body and faculty.

Manager Dan Tart was surprised by the demand from students.

"I have contacts in Chicago, where Argo is from, and they are baffled by how much food we are selling," Tart said. "Even UNC Asheville, American University and William & Mary — their food sales aren't nearly what ours are."

Tart suggests the accommodations Argo makes for students with a meal plan have caused the increased food sales.

"We have everything open to [students]," Tart said. "We give them different combinations for retail swipes, but really, they can combine pretty much anything, and it's something they can afford."

Other options on campus are more rigid with their retail swipe combinations. For instance, at Acorn a sandwich can't be paired with a specialty coffee drink unless students are willing to pay extra.

Freshman Molly Spero frequently finds herself at Argo for lunch after her morning classes.

"[At Argo Tea] you are able to combine any pastry or sandwich type with a large drink," Spero said. "It's a really nice deal."

While there is a substantial number of food and drink combinations, some students would like to see Argo Tea's hours change. Argo is currently closed on the weekends and is only open 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Friday. Tart

agrees.

"We want to work on the hours we're open," Tart said. "I don't see anything changing this semester, but maybe next semester, after we get a year under our belt."

Though the hours are limited, some students are willing to sacrifice convenience for quality.

"I go to Argo all the time," freshman Hannah Sicherman said. "I really wish it was open more often though, because I feel like it's a healthier food option than a lot of places on campus."

Currently, Argo carries a variety of tea-infused salads, paninis and baked goods that students can munch on between classes. Catering to each student's preference, beverages can be made with the customer's choice of 2 percent milk, skim milk, soy milk or almond milk without an additional charge.

The cafe is now promoting a specialty drink for Valentine's Day — the Valentea. The drink, made with hibiscus flower and passion fruit, is available for a limited time. Continuing with the festivities of the month, students can try the new dark truffle brownie or mac-

aroons.

As a new option on campus, the cafe is still testing the waters while continuing to update tea and food options for the seasons and the students.

"Kids can sit here and do their studies," Tart said. "People can have meetings out here. We're not Lakeside, we're not Colonnades. We're a little off the beaten path. To get them down here, we have to have that great customer service."

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Wednesday, February 11 @ 5 (SPDC)

Tuesday, March 3 @ 6 (McEwen 110 + SPDC)



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Review: 'Tapped Out!' demonstrates talent, exuberance



Lauren Phillips
Columnist

Tap dancers dressed as Mario and Luigi, an all-female rendition of Fall Out Boy's "Young Volcanoes," and a dance choreographed to Matt and Kim's "Daylight."

These pieces, among others, were featured in "Tapped Out!," a medley that combines tap and vocal performances into a short show

that showcases some of the best performers Elon University has to offer.

During the last weekend of Winter Term, select faculty and students from Elon's Department of Performing Arts performed their yearly rendition of "Tapped Out!" There were only four performances, which were split between Friday and Saturday, Jan. 23-24, in the Black Box Theatre.

Some, such as "Cole's Stroll" and "Let's Go!" had large ensembles, while others, such as "Fix You/Titanium Mash-Up," consisted of only three performers. There was no

set or background, and all props had to be carried onto the stage at the beginning of their respective performances and removed at the end.

This minimalist set left the spotlight free for the performers to steal. They impressed the audience with their talent and the obvious joy they found in performing. Highlights of the show included:

"Ain't He Sweet" combined tap and vocal performance and featured a symphony of kazoos and slinkies. While freshman vocalist Natalia Katz sang the praises of her favorite young gentleman, talented tap dancers accompanied her using slinkies as instruments. The piece ended with a beautiful kazoo solo by sophomore Ashley Abrams.

"Fix You/Titanium Mash-Up" came right after "Ain't He Sweet." The simplicity of this elegant vocal performance stood in stark contrast to the unique instrumentation of the one that came before. As the lights came on, the large ensemble of dancers and kazooists had disappeared, replaced by three vocalists: sophomores Monica Poston, Lexi Carter and Caleb Albert. They had no microphones, but their voices filled the Black Box.

"Send Me Some Lovin." This piece was choreographed and performed by junior Dan Lusardi. The trumpet playing of freshman Byron Ross accompanied him, but all eyes were on Lusardi's tap dancing.

"Young Volcanoes" by Fall Out Boy had no dancing. Instead, seven women stepped

onto the stage. Five freshmen, Chloe Robin, Christine Lane, Lexi Carter, Mara Wilson and Megan Flynn, sang the 2013 pop rock song, accompanied by sophomore musicians Andie Huebsch and Monica Poston. Their light, bouncing voices blended together melodically with the empowering song and filled the small theater.

The next performance broke the peace with "Young Volcanoes" by Fall Out Boy." The familiar childhood tune from "Super Mario Bros" began and tap dancers dressed as characters from the timeless games rushed onto the stage. The characters formed teams, and tap-dance battles broke out across the stage. Senior Amber Schmiesing choreographed the piece, and the dancers' expressions made it obvious that this was a dance that was fun for everyone involved.

Following this ground-shaking tap performance was senior Jodi Curtis' rendition of "Cry" by Faith Hill." Curtis stood alone at the center of the stage and sang with a voice full of emotion. Even without a microphone, her voice echoed throughout the theater.

The other performances were equally entertaining, and each stood out from the others. All were performed with care, and the ensemble's happiness spread through the crowd contagiously. The lighthearted performances of "Tapped Out!" showed the audience how much the singers and dancers truly enjoy performing.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KARA WAGNER

Tap dancers dressed as characters from "Super Mario Bros" perform during Winter Term's "Tapped Out!" The annual performances were held Jan. 23-24 at the Black Box Theatre.

Not drafted, but not fazed

Casey Jones eager for senior season after not being selected in 2014 MLB draft

His hips don't lie



Casey Jones, the 2014 SoCon Player of the Year, talks with a coach during a game last season. He will be looked to for leadership in 2015 after not getting drafted. ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Tommy Hamzik
Managing Editor

On the day of the 2014 Major League Baseball draft, Elon University senior Casey Jones was at the Luke Bryan concert in Raleigh.

Getting drafted wasn't on his mind, he said. So he decided to go listen to some country music with teammates and juniors Joey Tomko and Michael Elefante.

By the end of the 40-round draft, Jones, the reigning Southern Conference Player of the Year, hadn't been selected, which shocked many of his teammates and coaches.

"I think everyone's surprised," said sophomore utility player Nick Zammarelli, who was drafted in the 28th round out of high school by the Boston Red Sox, but chose to come to Elon instead. "The draft, the way it works is crazy. You don't really know what's happening inside the draft rooms."

Jones, who was named Colonial Athletic Association Preseason Player of the Year last month, hit .418 last season, one of the top-five batting averages in the country. He also had seven home runs, 53 runs batted in and 20 doubles.

"Last year, I had a great year," Jones said. "If the numbers don't speak for themselves — I guess they didn't — maybe this year I have to do something a little different."

Jones' batting stats are undeniable, but his lack of a set position in the field often came as a criticism on scouting reports. He started games at first base, second base,

third base and left field in 2014, even pitching during the team's Fall World Series in October.

Still, for a draft in which the San Diego Padres selected current National Football League quarterback Johnny Manziel as a



Casey Jones

PR stunt, it's surprising that a player who garnered All-American honors from three different organizations didn't get picked up at some point.

"I think he's one of the best hitters in the country," said Elon senior pitcher John Antonelli. "I think people overlook him because of certain areas in the field. I know pitchers don't like to face him. No matter if you have him 0-2, he's going to find a way to battle to a full count, fight pitches off and make you throw the pitch he's looking for."

Jones insisted he was planning to return to Elon even if he was drafted, unless he was offered a rather large contract. While the Phoenix finished 27-26 last season and lost in the opening round of the Southern Conference Tournament, Elon returns 26 players from that team, including 10 seniors — a big reason he wanted to return.

There's a vibe of excitement when it comes to the familiarity on the roster, and it's something Jones wanted to be a part of as Elon moves to the CAA.

"It's kind of disappointing — everyone wants to be drafted," he said. "It'd be awe-

some to get that honor and actually have that happen. At the same time, I was looking forward to coming back."

Elon has had 41 players sign professional contracts since 2000. In the past six years, 25 players have been picked in the MLB draft, with pitcher Ryan Pennell as the lone selection last year.

Elon head coach Mike Kennedy was drafted in the ninth round by the Oakland Athletics in 1990, so he knows the draft well. That said, he sees some positives in Jones not being picked.

"I'm glad somebody didn't take a chance and draft him and release him after a year," Kennedy said. "We've had that happen. That's just tough. I think he'll get his opportunity. He can finish up his career, post some really great numbers, and maybe one day get in the Hall of Fame, who knows?"

Jones said he'll "play with a little chip on my shoulder, I guess," in regard to not being picked. But it's not bothering him.

Kennedy said Jones handled the situation well and hasn't heard him talk much about it.

Instead, Jones is focused on leaving a mark during his last year at Elon. And if that doesn't impress professional teams, so be it.

"I like being back," he said. "I can help lead these guys and hopefully get a CAA Championship. If it happens, it happens. If it doesn't, it doesn't. It's really out of my control."

The competitor in Mike Kennedy shone through in something other than baseball last summer.

Well, kind of.

Baseball was at the heart of it.

The Elon University baseball coach entering his 19th year at the helm underwent surgery on his right hip last June that held him back during summer.

Or at least it should have.



Tommy Hamzik
Columnist

Kennedy had the surgery June 9, was off crutches by July and was throwing by August. The surgery typically requires a 9-12 month recovery period, toward which Kennedy said he's working.

"It's amazing — you're walking the next day after you have [surgery]," Kennedy said. "The biggest thing is that [the hip] is weak. It's not strong. I don't have any pain, it's just not strong enough."

But Kennedy's itch to compete and win had him striving for the field far earlier than he would've imagined.

Kennedy said he shed the crutches within two or three weeks and was throwing batting practice by the second month, three months earlier than instructed.

"I probably shouldn't have, but I have," he said. "That's our competitive nature. How do you coach a team if you can't be out here doing stuff with them? Someone has to throw BP, it might as well be me."

It's that kind of mindset that's helped the Phoenix to success under Kennedy, including four Southern Conference regular season championships, two SoCon Tournament titles, six NCAA Division I Regional appearances and more than 600 victories.

Elon is coming off a 27-26 campaign in 2014, the first year the Phoenix didn't win at least 30 games since becoming a Division I program in 1999. A frustrating loss to No. 10 seed The Citadel in the opening round of the SoCon Tournament prompted some self-evaluation, Kennedy said.

Something needed to change — something needed to be done to get the Phoenix back on the winning track. Kennedy's experience through his surgery illustrated the blueprint he's had in place since he arrived at Elon: Breed a competitive culture that focuses more on building a successful team than on a talented individual.

Kennedy wants players focused on the team rather than their own problems on the field. It's shown in his interactions.

"He hasn't really said much [about the surgery]," said sophomore utility player Nick Zammarelli. "He's always on the mound throwing to us."

In hindsight, Kennedy realizes he probably should've taken things a bit slower. But it's understandable he wanted to progress like a fastball rather than a changeup.

"I had a few setbacks, did some things too early I shouldn't have done," Kennedy said. "In the end, it's all good."

When Elon opens its season against Penn State University Feb. 13, Kennedy will be there, acting like he never had surgery. Because, like a competitor, he's focused on what's at stake now.

2015 Elon baseball season opener

2014 records

Penn State: 18-32
Elon: 27-26



AT



Friday Feb. 13, 4 p.m.
Saturday Feb. 14, 2 p.m.
Sunday Feb 15, Noon

Coaches

Penn State: Rob Cooper
Elon: Mike Kennedy

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Thursday, Feb. 5

Women's basketball at Towson, 7 p.m.

Men's basketball vs. Drexel

7 p.m., Alumni Gym

Friday, Feb. 6

Women's track at ETSU Track & Field Invite

Saturday, Feb. 7

Women's track at ETSU Track & Field Invite

Softball vs. USC Upstate

1 p.m., Hunt Softball Park

Softball vs. Radford 3 p.m., Hunt Softball Park

Men's tennis at Old Dominion, 1 p.m.

Women's lacrosse vs. Duke

1 p.m., Rhodes Stadium

Women's tennis at Wake Forest, 3 p.m.

Men's basketball at Hofstra, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 8

Softball vs. Radford 12 p.m., Hunt Softball Park

Women's basketball at College of Charleston, 2 p.m.

Men's Tennis at VCU, 1 p.m.

Hamilton's long overdue night

Senior guard registers 31 points in Elon win

Miles Garrett
Sports Editor

Senior guard Austin Hamilton has been a member of the Elon University men's basketball team for quite some time, so a memorable night was long overdue.

The night came Jan. 24, when the Phoenix played the University of Delaware. Hamilton scored a career-high 31 points, with an astonishing six 3-pointers in a 92-84 win.

"I love Austin Hamilton," said Elon head coach Matt Matheny. "Austin Hamilton is an Elon man. He's tough, resilient, and he's had some adversity in his career here with injuries. He has overcome it. It's really deserved for Austin to have a night like this."

Hamilton's first year in a Phoenix uniform came with promise. After arriving at Elon following his participation in the "Capital Classic", an all-star game in Maryland, Hamilton entered the Phoenix starting lineup. As a freshman, he made 19 starts, while appearing in 25 games, and was named to the Southern Conference All-Freshman team after averaging 9.2 points per game and shooting .714 from the line. Some highlights of the season included scoring 20 points against the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in late January, 2012 and making a game winning 3-pointer against the Naval Academy in early December, 2011. He also registered double-figure point totals 13 times.

The rising star entered his sophomore season with much anticipation after his freshman campaign. What started out as a season of promise ended pre-maturely when Hamilton suffered a season-ending knee injury in a game against Western Carolina University.

Hamilton came back to action for his junior year, but never recaptured the play that earned him the All-Freshman honors, averaging only 6.2 points per game, the lowest of his career. Hamilton was also overshadowed by four different 1,000-point scorers on the Elon roster.

As a veteran, Hamilton has taken on a leadership role on the youthful roster. He is currently second on the team with 50 assists and has taken a step back from his high-scoring games.

Until the Delaware game, Hamilton was averaging 5.6 points per game. But after three games against Delaware, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and Northeastern University, that number jumped to 7.0.

Hamilton's heroics against Delaware seemed to come out of nowhere, but his timing was perfect. With the Phoenix riding a four-game losing streak, the team was in need of the offensive spark it had been lacking for weeks.

The senior answered the call with a 31-point showing, the highest in Alumni Gym since 2012 and the second-highest offensive output by an Elon player this season. Most of Hamilton's 3-pointers came during a stretch in the second half where Elon started to pull away. When Delaware opened up the second half on a 7-0 run, it was Hamilton who converted a lay-up to put a halt to the comeback. Elon would not lose the lead again.

"I have been putting in some work after practice and before practice," Hamilton said after the game. "It's humbling to see that it's paid off."

The game came as no surprise to his teammates, though. Sophomore forward Christian Hairston said the team knew Hamilton still had it.

"Austin did what I knew Austin could do," Hairston said. "Austin is one of the leaders on our team. He does a great job of trying to get everyone on the team involved."

He added, "I think Austin is a perfect example of the Elon basketball player. He comes in and works hard every day. We look to Austin



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Austin Hamilton is averaging 16 points in Elon's last three games. Hamilton ranks second on the team in assists and is beginning to shoot the ball more.

as our leader, we look up to him."

Hamilton chuckled at Hairston's post-game comment, calling it "cute".

Hamilton has proven an asset on offense that the Phoenix has sought this season. With only two months remaining in the season, Austin Hamilton has the chance to make his final season in maroon and gold something special.

"Every basketball player wants to have big nights in front of a good crowd," Hamilton said. "I was just fortunate to have a great supporting staff to keep encouraging me and keep my spirits high. Without them, I don't think this night would have happened."

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Top Photos



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor
Panhellenic sorority Sigma Sigma Sigma celebrates their newest members on Bid Day Feb. 1.



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor
Sophomore Lauren Scott welcomes Delta Delta Delta's newest members on Bid Day Feb 1.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
Freshman guard Dmitri Thompson drives in for a layup in Elon's game against Towson on Jan. 22.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
Sophomore midfielder Elle Hvozdovic runs through a tunnel of her teammates prior to Elon's game against Kennesaw State on Jan. 21. The Phoenix won 24-8.

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