

THE PENDULUM

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SGA Executive President found guilty of minor charge



Martin reprimanded, required to write letter of apology for guests in SGA office after hours

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

After being charged with conduct unbecoming of a senator under Article 12 of the SGA Constitution for bringing unofficial guests into his SGA office, Executive President Taylor Martin has been found guilty of a minor charge by the SGA Judicial Committee in a vote of four to zero to zero.

Martin's sanction includes writing a formal letter of apology to the student body for his actions and a formal letter of reprimand from Judicial Committee chair Sam Warren, formally outlining his charges.

The charges under Article 12 were formally filed by Jana Lynn Patterson,

assistant vice president for Student Life, on Nov. 18, 2010 on the grounds of conduct that took place around 11:35 p.m. Nov. 12, 2010.

The informal hearing took place Thursday night after the formal SGA meeting, with senior Hillary Srsic serving as charging advocate and junior Rachel Long as defending advocate, both members of the Senate.

According to SGA's Constitution, the accused has an option of selecting a member of the Senate body as defending advocate. The charging advocate must be a Senator without a vested interest in the proceedings.

According to the official charge filed by Patterson, Martin was suspected of



TOP: Rachel Long served as defending advocate for Martin (far left). Executive vice president Joe Slocum (second from right) and executive treasurer Matt Campbell (far right) attended the hearing. BOTTOM: Sam Warren (center) served as chair of the Judicial Committee.

bringing guests to his SGA office late on the night of Nov. 12, with alcohol present in the room.

Patterson was first notified of the conduct by student staff at the Moseley front desk, who reported they saw Martin enter Moseley, accompanied by two women and one man, after attending the Alpha Xi Delta sorority's

formal.

After waiting around five minutes, they reported walking to the SGA office and finding a light on inside, the external door locked and hearing people inside. According to the

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Re-envisioning the residential experience: Elon aims to integrate academics, social life of students

Becca Tynes
Senior Reporter

Elon University plans to enhance its students' residential experience through the redesign and creation of seven campus neighborhoods, including Loy Center, Colonnades, Daniele Center, the Historic Neighborhood, the Oaks, the Global Neighborhood (formerly North area) and the Senior Neighborhood. Each new or recreated residential area will have unique features for students living on campus.

Included in this plan is the creation

of seven new residence halls, five Greek houses and several other town homes by 2020, creating approximately 1,600 living spaces for students.

"We don't want residential life to be disconnected from the rest of campus," said Jeff Stein, assistant to President Leo Lambert and secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Stein said he hopes the neighborhoods will transform culture and climate

around campus.

"These neighborhoods will bring all of our strengths together so that everything we value, including academics and engaged learning, is connected to the residential," he said.

- KEVIN O'MARA
PROFESSOR OF
MANAGEMENT

management, students often have their academic, social and residential worlds

independent of one other. He said the university wants all three to become integrated.

"This plan is about enhancing the intellectual climate," O'Mara said. "We want students to feel like they're a part of something and to feel like they're a part of something even smaller than Elon. We believe these campus neighborhoods will provide that feeling."

Currently, 58 percent of students

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CERT stages plane crash simulation

Practice makes perfect as students simulate emergency response

Elizabeth Everett
Reporter

The Elon University Citizens Emergency Response Team staged a commercial airliner crash Wednesday, Dec. 1.

The simulated drill provided CERT members with a hands-on learning experience and the opportunity to interact with other agencies and organizations, such as the Safety Committee at Elon University and Campus Safety and Police.

"As an emergency response team, it is important that we train under circumstances that come as close to matching real disasters as possible," Captain Danton Kerz said.

For this reason, CERT invited 50 student volunteers to play the role of patients at the drill.

CERT has conducted smaller drills since the semester began, but Dec. 1st's plane crash simulation was the first large-scale drill, with a greater number of patients than rescuers.

This mass casualty incident, Kerz said, required CERT officers and members to respond to the scene, evaluate the situation, establish incident command and arrange teams to perform the greatest good for the greatest number of patients.

According to Kerz, the drill was valuable because it gave CERT members experience responding to major accident.

"Everyone learned a lot, from incident command to the members on the search and rescue and medical triage teams," he said.

The simulation was also the first time EU-CERT coordinated its response with Campus Safety and Police, as they would during a real on-campus emergency.

In addition to on-campus emergencies, CERT responds to disasters and assists professional rescuers with emergency situations on campus and in Alamance County.

CERT will continue training during Winter Term and the team plans to manage other small-scale drills weekly, and conduct another large disaster simulation during the spring semester.

EU-CERT is always looking for interested students to join the team, Kerz said.

Membership does not require previous experience. After attending a short FEMA-run training course, offered primarily on campus, students can become active CERT members, he said.



At Dec. 1st's plane crash simulation, 50 students volunteered to play the role of patients that CERT members treated. Brian Allenby | Staff Photographer



Through the simulation, CERT members learned hands-on emergency response tactics. BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

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Limitation of meal plan fundraising negatively affects student organizations

Sam Parker
Senior Reporter

Elon University's food-service provider, ARAMARK, has changed its policy of meal swipe fundraising for campus organizations this semester, modifying the previous unlimited amount to a maximum of 250 per week.

According to Jeff Gazda, ARAMARK's resident district manager at Elon, the only constant in ARAMARK's policy is change.

According to Gazda, the limitation placed on the company's policy of meal swipe fundraising is a result of its support being facilitated in other locations on campus.

"We're still doing meal swipes, but this year we did put a little bit of a limitation on them because to start the year off with a big bang, we committed the \$50,000, one-time donation to fund the whole year of campus kitchen, so there's only so much to go around," Gazda said.

Gazda said that because ARAMARK is a campus organization, it aligns with Elon's goals of service learning. He said the company is donating to on and off-campus philanthropies through means other than meal swipes.

"Elon being very involved and committed to community stewardship, we're heavily involved in that area," Gazda said. "We're really intertwined in the community, as we should be. What we have to use, we use. We do everything that we can to support many philanthropies on and off campus."

According to Gazda, ARAMARK's meal swipe policy this year allows campus organizations to collect a total

of 250 meal swipes per week. He said groups are given \$2 per swipe which represents the average excess amount of food a student does not eat per meal.

"What (it) represents is basically just the food that you did not eat in the dining hall for that given meal," Gazda said. "What we're giving back to you is what you didn't use as far as consuming of the actual food, but everything else we still have to pay for."

Heidi Frontani, the mentor of the Periclean Scholars class of 2010, said she believes the new change is a result of the large donations collected last year through meal swipe fundraising.

"Last year (ARAMARK was) even more generous and allowed one organization per week but set no swiping limit," Frontani said. "I believe they were rather surprised by the results. Single groups were collecting in excess of \$4,500 in a single week."

Frontani said ARAMARK honored the amount of swipes collected and donated accordingly, but she said she believes the company realized its unlimited policy could not continue. She said the Periclean Scholars classes, especially the class of 2010, have greatly benefited from meal swipe fundraising and donations via ARAMARK.

"The 2010 Periclean Class raised over \$92,000 in just over three years, and ARAMARK was by far our largest single donor," Frontani said.

Jamie Milliski, a member of the Periclean Scholars class of 2012 who handles finances for the class, said Periclean Scholars has suffered from the limitations. She said because Periclean Scholars is not considered a campus



Under a new ARAMARK policy this year, organizations on campus can collect a maximum of 250 meal swipes per week, each worth \$2, or the average excess amount of food a student doesn't eat. File Photo

organization and therefore does not receive funding from the Student Government Association, it has relied on meal swipe donations heavily in the past.

"This year, ARAMARK implemented a policy of a maximum of \$1,000 per semester for each organization," Milliski said. "Therefore, our class can only receive \$2,000 from meal swipe donations, as compared to \$20,000 from meal swipe donations last year. This is a great difference that obviously has led to our class brainstorming new ideas for fundraising."

Milliski said ARAMARK's records state the Periclean Scholars program received the vast majority of the total meal swipe donations last year. She said many individuals forget the program consists of three cohorts, which individually

collects funds for different philanthropies although they are all under the same title of Periclean Scholars.

"However, it is important to note that Pericleans did not take all of the available time slots to solicit meal swipe donations," Milliski said. "This large number was a result of effective fundraising."

Milliski said a majority of the \$20,000 collected last year for the 2010 class was wired to its partner in India, the Comprehensive Rural Health Project, to fund its Adolescent Girls Program for an entire year. She said the remaining funds were donated to the Haiti earthquake relief.

Similarly, Alexander Dempsey, the president of Elon's Habitat for Humanity chapter, said the organization has suffered from the new policy as well, but more

because of its inaccessibility.

"The new reader policy makes it hard to be able to raise a whole lot because it is extremely hard to schedule," Dempsey said. "Last year we received roughly \$500 from it, (but) in previous years it had been much more."

He said as a result of this, Habitat for Humanity is trying to be more proactive in scheduling events pertaining to meal swipe fundraising by booking them seven months in advance.

Gazda said despite the limitations placed on meal swipe fundraising, this source of funding is only one way the company gets involved throughout the Elon community.

"It's not the be-all and end-all of our involvement," Gazda said. "I think it's still a good program. It's doing what it needs to do."

Charges brought by administrator after tip from student staff

SGA from PAGE 1

charges, when the students opened the door with the master key, the room "reeked" of alcohol and Martin stated he "wanted to hang out." They also reported that Martin was not wearing any shoes and had his shirt unbuttoned.

The charges note that the group had left the premises by midnight.

In her report, Patterson noted the issue has been referred to Elon's Office of Judicial Affairs and she filed the charge to determine whether SGA policies were violated by the presence of students in the office.

In Martin's official statement, read by Long, he wrote that he returned to his office in Moseley to change clothes after the formal and pick up his date's belongings before continuing to socialize.

"There was no drinking done in my office," he wrote.

Martin's date to the formal, left unnamed throughout the hearing, submitted a similar statement concerning the events of the night, noting that Martin was polite when he answered the door and spoke to the student staff.

Character statements, submitted from Executive Treasurer Matt Campbell and Patterson, were also read by Long in defense of Martin.

"(Martin) views SGA as his highest responsibility on campus," Campbell wrote. "He would never deliberately jeopardize his position."

Patterson noted her appreciation and

regard for Martin's handling of the event after being notified of the charges.

"He continued to carry out his duties and moved forward with projects and initiatives," she wrote.

In her concluding statements in Martin's defense, Long emphasized that Martin is legally permitted to drink alcohol, and thus would have no reason to hide in order to consume it.

Though the student staff who first reported the incident described Taylor's clothing as disheveled when he opened the door, Long said Martin was in the process of changing his clothing, which could be "perceived in a different way."

Long also said Patterson attempted two weeks ago to contact the student staff who reported the incident through e-mail and clarify what they meant when they described Martin as "clearly drunk." She said she has yet to receive a response from them.

Before ending, Long encouraged the Judicial Committee to take into consideration the character statements and lack of evidence.

After committee deliberation, Warren announced the verdict, stating that while Martin should not have brought people into the office, there was not sufficient evidence to bring charges of misconduct against him.

His formal letter of apology to the student body must be completed by Dec. 14, according to the sanctions.

Martin said he will not be commenting at this time.

Plan works to increase number of students living on-campus

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live on campus, a statistic the university hopes to increase to 75 percent by 2020.

Under the new plan, first-year students will have the option to live in the historic residence halls, the new Colonnades residence halls or the Global Neighborhood. The Daniele Center neighborhood will be designed for sophomores, while juniors will have the option to live in the Oaks. A new neighborhood specifically designed for seniors will consist of town homes and offer resources to aid seniors with capstone courses, careers and the graduate school process.

The Global Neighborhood, the showcase neighborhood for the university's residential plan, will replace both Harper Center and Story Center next to Lake Mary Nell. A new dining hall, international café and theatre for international film festivals will also be built within the neighborhood.

"The idea is for each neighborhood to have a specific theme that would extend beyond the classroom and into the community, the campus, during evenings and even around food," O'Mara said.

According to O'Mara, the goal is for students to experience opportunities that will not necessarily be found in a course catalog.

"We want students to experience spur of the moment interactions with faculty and staff members,"

O'Mara said. "These experiences are bound to occur in the campus neighborhoods."

The Global Neighborhood will feature both faculty-in-residence and faculty members assigned to each of the four buildings within the neighborhood. Students will also have the opportunity to take global studies courses in selective classrooms and meeting spaces the neighborhood will offer.

"We're really trying to create spaces that will have a lot more dynamic interaction," Stein said. "We wanted to make sure that whatever model was created of the residential campus was connected to the rest of campus."

According to O'Mara, the plan will allow students to better engage themselves and mix as much as possible.

"We want intentional spontaneity to occur," O'Mara said. "The hope is that students interact with different backgrounds and interests. If you create the atmosphere and enhance the culture, it will enhance the entire campus environment."

Gerald Whittington, senior vice president for Business, Finance and Technology, said the plan would allow students to have a premier residential college experience.

"This is not a bricks and mortar plan," Stein said. "It's not a construction plan. It's a transformation plan and a university wide initiative."

Elon administration works to define, address issue of hazing

Katy Steele
Reporter

The Elon University administration is taking new steps to prevent hazing on campus, as outlined in an e-mail sent to the student body from President Leo Lambert that addressed several initiatives the university will pursue. These include defining hazing in principles tied to the Honor Code, communicating with first-year students and their families about the issue before they arrive on campus and creating a safe space and resource for students with questions about hazing.

"Implementing these initiatives will take the work of the entire campus community," Lambert said in the e-mail. "Any activities or traditions that do not have a positive effect on those involved should be replaced with new traditions that make students feel welcome and proud to be members of the organization."

The movement to address hazing began this fall when Lambert invited student leaders to an open dialogue on the subject with a series of forums. Participants came from all student organizations, fraternities and sororities, academic honoraries, clubs and athletics teams. The meetings challenged students to define hazing and determine the best methods for prevention.

As the students and administration discovered, defining hazing isn't as easy as it sounds.

According to Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of student life,

... "Hazing, specifically when it endangers life, humiliates, or disrupts student learning, is antithetical to the values of Elon University. In the September meetings, student leaders agreed that Elon places great value on learning and on our close-knit sense of community and that abusive activities that threaten these values should not be abided. Initiation activities for any student organization must align with the values of the institution and respect for the well-being of all students..."

**an e-mail from Dr. Leo Lambert
November 11, 2010**

GRAPHIC BY SARAH BETH COSTELLO

the university has zero tolerance for "anything that would put a student's safety at risk."

In order to address the situation, the administration is tackling the root of the problem: upperclassmen. Jackson said upperclassmen wield a certain degree of power that must not be abused. He hopes that training and educating older student leaders and clearly defining and listing activities that qualify as hazing, and those that don't, can mitigate the problem.

Concrete plans have been arranged for a dinner with Lambert and student leaders to continue dialogue Feb. 21, as well as leadership retreats, leadership lunches and skill development sessions.

Lambert has specified that high-risk drinking behavior, as well as

activities that are humiliating or life threatening, are also unacceptable.

But what Jackson noted from the student meetings was a general concern for less discernible types of activities he calls "gray-area hazing." This gray-area includes any activity that is not life threatening but requires new members to participate in specific activities. Concern also arose over activities that might disrupt student learning, such as activities that may result in losing sleep.

Sophomore Kacey Stark said she believes that the term "hazing" should be reserved for incidents that are harmful, embarrassing or unusual. She said broadening the definition of hazing could make it less credible.

"I think having events are about getting to know the people in your

organization are acceptable, since they really aren't harmful and are about bonding," Stark said.

Jackson said the best way to gauge if an activity is hazing is to see if it aligns with the honor code. He also encourages students to ask if the activity in question is something they would be comfortable telling their parents or Elon faculty about.

From Jackson's experience, he said students are usually hesitant to report hazing, except in severe cases.

Most commonly, he said the university will receive anonymous calls from parents tipping off the administration to questionable activities. Jackson reminds students that any situation in which they feel uncomfortable can be reported to Elon's anonymous hazing hotline number at (336) 278-HAZE.

This fall's series of meetings came after two severe incidents related to hazing last spring, which resulted in the hospitalization of students for extremely high alcohol consumption. According to Jackson, the university takes incidents like this very seriously, and the fraternity responsible, Pi Kappa Phi, was put under suspension.

Jackson said this is the type of situation "we don't want to see happening," and the university is pushing to prevent any more like it in the future.

According to Lambert, initiatives will continue to be pursued throughout the academic year, and until organizations are fully aligned with the university's values.

Restructuring the process of course evaluations: Committee looks for ways to strengthen mandatory review of professors

Kassondra Cloos
Reporter

Teachers are not the only ones under review during the final stretch of this fall semester. The mandatory course evaluation process, designed to provide student feedback concerning their professors, is currently being studied for potential improvements.

"Periodically, pretty much everything we do at the institution comes under review," said Steve Folger, chair of the Academic Council. "I think we are always looking to improve."

During the 2009-2010 school year, several faculty members served on the Academic Council's "Task Force on Evaluation of Teaching" group. The task force researched many ways to improve the current form of course evaluations, including changing the questions and the way it is administered.

"We all recognized it's a really flawed instrument," said Megan Isaac, committee member and associate professor of English. "If a student says there should be less reading in the class, that doesn't really tell me a lot. Some students do give really good, useful info, but it's very hit or miss."

Isaac has created her own evaluations for every course that she has taught in the four years she has been at Elon, in addition to distributing the university form.

"The university's formal

evaluations don't ask questions I have about my own teaching methods," she said. "I can ask much more specific things. I can give a list of goals and ask students to list how these goals were or were not met for them."

Isaac said one question posed to the committee was whether the results of evaluations should be made available to students, as are the comments on the Web site RateMyProfessors.com.

Committee member Peter Felten, assistant provost for the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, said he personally thinks the site is not very helpful, but rather filling a gap.

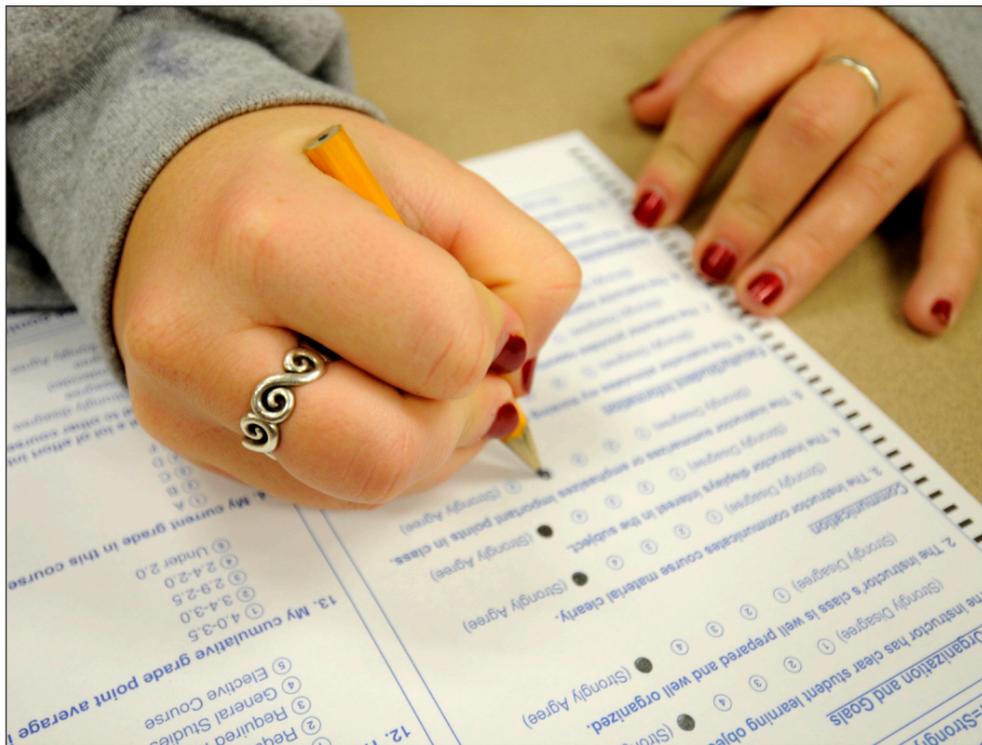
"Some colleges and universities allow students to see results," he said. "It's problematic. In theory, I like it. But the problem is that it takes some degree of expertise to interpret these evaluations. Scores in required courses tend to be lower than in electives."

Felten also said giving a good professor a "three" does not necessarily translate to a "good" score.

"A three might be considered average, but so is a C," he said. "Are students happy with C's?"

The task force also considered the idea of moving evaluations online. Isaac said she recommended sticking with paper forms for now, as it has been shown that students are less likely to complete online evaluations on their own time.

Sophomore Sandra Weiss



LINDSEY FENDT | Photo Editor

The process of course evaluations may be revamped in the future. Students and teachers tend to agree that the evaluations are an effective and important facet of learning feedback.

said she thinks the current method for administering the evaluations is effective.

"It's good that we take class time out for them so people actually do them," she said. "But, I don't think they do a good job of showing how professors can improve. Course evaluations will tell you if a professor is really good or really bad but that's it."

Senior Alex Buttermore said

he thinks the evaluations are a way for students to vent anger against their professors.

"There's something cathartic about bubbling in the '1,'" he said.

While course evaluations often also lead to angry rants in response to the open-ended questions, Isaac said thoughtful feedback is more likely to instigate change.

"One or two thoughtful zingers are more effective

than something that says everything is terrible," she said. "This is true of positive feedback as well. Students should point things out instead of saying 'this class was great.'"

Committee members' recommendations for an improved evaluation form are currently under review and are likely to be presented to faculty for a vote within the next year.

After slow start, admissions sees second-largest year in Early Action applications

Kassondra Cloos
Reporter

For the first time in history, Elon University's Office of Admissions pushed back the deadline for students to submit Early Action applications, which are nonbinding applications that give students an early answer on their acceptance. The deadline was Nov. 10, as it had been for several years. Because of Veteran's Day the date was pushed to Nov. 12.

"Schools were closed on the 11th," said Melinda Wood, assistant dean of admissions and director of applications. "We had an increasing number of phone calls from guidance counselors and high school students having trouble meeting the deadline."

Wood said the Office had never before received so many requests for an extension.

"Changing the deadline gave everyone a little bit of wiggle room," she said. "We wanted to really honor what our public was asking for."

A reminder to students that applications were due the following day was posted on the Admissions Office's Twitter page Nov. 9.

On Nov. 10, the new deadline was posted: "Due to the Veteran's Day school holiday in many parts of the country, the Early Action deadline has been extended through Friday, Nov. 12."

"People were waiting until

the last week," said Greg Zaiser, dean of admissions.

One week before the deadline, he said, they received exactly 900 applications overnight.

According to Zaiser, applications were coming in slowly because of a significant change in Elon's application. All the essay questions were changed, including removing "topic of choice," in favor of three unique prompts. This prevented students from sending the same application essay to Elon and any number of other schools.

Five questions to be answered in two sentences or less were also added, including "Tell us about a hidden talent you possess," "How would your best friend describe your character?" and "What makes you an interesting person?"

"It's an attempt to get to know our applicants," Wood said. "For it to be bigger than just SATs and GPAs. We really want to know our community. There's a \$5,000 essay question — if you were given \$5,000 to start a business or a non-profit organization, what would you do? That has been the most diverse so far. There are enlightening responses."

Zaiser said they are not in the business of admitting only the students with high GPAs and SAT scores.

"We're in the business of creating a community," he said.

Despite the application



JULIA MURPHY | Staff Photographer

The Office of Admissions recently changed application deadlines and essay questions for potential Elon students.

changes, Elon saw the second largest Early Action applicant pool in its history, consisting of approximately 5,400 students.

While Early Action remains the largest and most competitive pool of applicants, the number of students applying Early Decision has decreased significantly — 15 percent this year alone.

"We did have a decrease in Early Decision applications,

but it has been declining for the past three years," Wood said. "So I know 15 percent seems alarming, but we're not concerned because we have a strong Early Action pool."

Wood also said that all the signs show Elon will have a strong applicant pool for the final freshmen deadline, as well.

"There are so many barometers, things we watch on a regular basis," Zaiser said.

"For example, there have been 6 or 7 percent more campus tours this year."

Wood said even if no students were to apply for the final deadline, which is Jan. 10, Elon would not be in danger of scrambling to fill empty seats.

"We have over 6,500 applicants right now," she said. "With those numbers alone, we have enough applicants to fill our freshman class."

Elon Hillel sends messages of support to peers at Harvard

Rachel Southmayd
Senior Reporter

On Friday, Dec. 3, a group of protestors from the Westboro Baptist Church, an organization famous for its anti-gay, anti-Semitic protests at locations like schools and the funerals of US soldiers, held a demonstration outside the Hillel House at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. Also present at this rally were signs and banners from the Hillel of Elon University.

When student leaders at Harvard found out about WBC's planned protest, they reached out to other colleges and universities.

Last Monday, members of Elon's Hillel gathered to answer the call, creating signs and banners, one of which was 15 feet long, to ship overnight to Harvard. The costs were underwritten by the Truitt Center for Spiritual and Religious Life.

"We're really just trying to spread the love," said senior Zach Jordan, a Hillel board member and the Truitt Center intern for interfaith cooperation.

The signs had messages like "Elon loves Harvard Hillel" and images of crosses, hearts and stars of David.

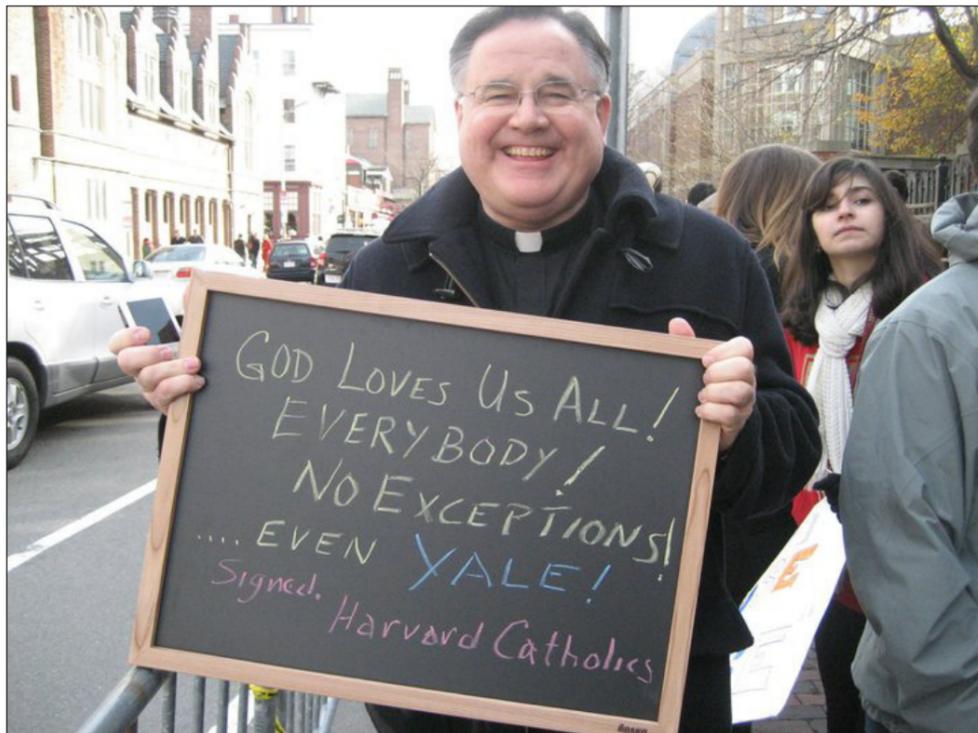
Sophomore Hillel chair for Social Justice Rachel Stanley said she believes the message of intolerance that WBC tries to spread is counterproductive.

"We're trying to prove that that kind of stuff has no place," she said.

According to the Harvard Crimson, the school's student newspaper, students at Harvard planned a "Surprise Absurdity Protest" to counter the anti-Semitic message of the WBC. Harvard has some experience with this group; they held a similar event there last spring.

In an e-mail from Harvard Hillel board member Lilli Margolin, thanks were given to Elon's Hillel for their support. She said the protest itself became more of a celebration of diversity, and that the six lone members of the WBC that came were barely noticed.

According to its website, the Topeka, Kan., based WBC blames the deaths of soldiers on the sins of homosexuality in America, and blames Jews for the death of Jesus, claiming all "Elect Jews" should repent for their lives of sin. Their anti-Semitic protests include signs with messages like "God hates Israel" and "God hates Jews."



Protestors from the Westboro Baptist Church met with counter protests of religious tolerance and equality when they marched on the Hillel organization at Harvard University. Elon's Hillel contributed signs and banners shipped overnight to the counter-protest.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHELSEA LINK

Independent majors allow students to be creative and follow passions

Mary Yost
Reporter

Senior Bridget Kelly is a dance science major at Elon University who chose to create her major when she noticed that her interests did not match the majors offered by the college.

An independent study major is pursued by a student who has a clear track that he or she wants to follow after college or one who has a deep-rooted passion for a certain subject area.

Kelly shaped the dance science major because both dance and science knowledge is vital to pursuing a career in dance medicine. A major in dance performance and choreography or exercise sport science would only cover one aspect of the knowledge she needed.

"In order to practice in the field of dance medicine, there needs to be a balance between all aspects," she said.

An independent major allows students to develop their own path and coursework under the guidance of faculty members. To apply for the major, a student must have a GPA of at least 3.0 and have completed no more than 66 semester hours at the time

of their application. The application process is extensive, but, once accepted, the experience has many benefits, Kelly said.

"I have three different departments that I am a close part of and have amazing advisers with such different experiences that I really do get the best of all these different realms of study," Kelly said. "It is sometimes tough not having anyone else going through the exact same experience, especially now as I am figuring out what to do after graduation, but having the opportunity to major in exactly my area of interest makes it well worth it."

About 30 to 50 students look into the independent major option every year, said Janet Warman, director of general studies and contact person for independent majors. Only four to five of those students decide to pursue it, making up 0.2 percent of all College of Arts and Sciences majors and 0.1 percent of the undergraduate student population.

Kelly's experience has included dance, exercise science, biology and health and human performance classes, as well as independent research and studies in dance-science specific areas.

There are many benefits of pursuing

an independent major, she said.

"The biggest benefit is having the team of advisers, which need to be from at least two different departments," Kelly said. "This gives you guidance from a variety of people with a variety of expertise and allows you to receive advice and opinions from very different perspectives."

The faculty advisers often look forward to working with independent major students.

"It is enjoyable because the independent major is typically a very driven, focused and self-motivated student," said Lauren Kearns, associate professor of dance and head of the dance program who serves as one of Kelly's three advisers. "Additionally, independent majors are intellectually curious and passionate about their chosen field."

Warman does not think pursuing an independent major is a popular option for students. In 2009, eight students were independent majors. This year, six students are completing the major. Over the two-year period, enrollment in the major decreased by 25 percent.

"The more interdisciplinary majors we have already, the less often students will need to create their own," she

How to make an independent major

Students develop their own coursework under an independent major. They work closely with faculty members and an adviser.

To apply for the major, students must:

- have a GPA of at least 3.0
- have completed no more than 66 semester hours

said.

Kelly disagrees because she thinks the job market will encourage students to pursue a major that offers more interdisciplinary options.

"I think more people do not do it because early on in their college career, they have not yet pinpointed their exact area of interest so a broad area is a much easier option," she said. "An independent major is also a lot of work, so picking an already created major does save a lot of time and energy."

New campus group seeks to show religious groups are 'Better Together'

Rachel Southmayd
Senior Reporter

A group of students has taken one of the main initiatives of the Elon Commitment into its own hands, forming a new student organization called "Better Together," designed to promote interfaith cooperation and to promote diversity and understanding.

Zach Jordan, a senior and intern for interfaith cooperation at the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life said the first meeting of the group, which took place Nov. 17, was the most religiously diverse group he thinks has ever gathered at Elon. He said there were 19 students in attendance, representing five different religious and spiritual backgrounds.

"It's just time to wake up and realize not everyone is Christian," he said.

While not an official SGA-approved organization yet, Jordan said "Better Together" has the full support of both the Truitt Center and other administration at Elon.

Junior Rachel Stanley, who was also in attendance at the initial meeting, said student involvement in multi-faith cooperation on campus is just as, if not more, important as the construction of the proposed multi-faith center.

"A building doesn't make a community," she said.

Jordan and Stanley said important steps were made at the meeting, like discussing an approaches and initiatives of the organization, with the goal of making interfaith cooperation a

norm on Elon's campus.

"The number of people we have interested proves this isn't just a fad," Jordan said.

Jasmine Whaley, a sophomore in attendance, said she thinks building interfaith relations on a campus-wide scale can have a global impact.

"There's been so much strife, honestly, all having to do with religion," she said. "It should be something that's unifying us, not tearing us apart."

She said while multi-faith cooperation may be alive and well within the Truitt Center, it is non-existent among the general campus population.

Jordan said "Better Together" hopes to sponsor programs and activities to promote this cooperation, like hosting an "Interfaith Week," displaying a mural and partnering with Global Studies courses and Elon 101 classes to promote this cause.

Stanley and Jordan also said they would like to see a common reading book in the future about interfaith relations, to further foster dialogue across campus.

In Whaley's opinion, Elon will help students prepare for the real world if they place emphasis on interfaith cooperation.

The next step for "Better Together," Jordan said, will come after Winter Term, when key student leaders and staff will meet to prioritize the initiatives of the group and develop a plan of action to implement these goals the group holds as a vital next step in the development of Elon's future.

"In a word, 'Better Together' is a movement," Whaley said.

Discussion about new sorority on campus continues

Nicole Monge
Reporter

Greek Life at Elon University will soon grow with the addition of a ninth sorority on campus, to be chosen in coming weeks from three potential organizations.

The three sororities that are being considered are Alpha Delta Pi, Kappa Delta and Delta Gamma.

"The goal is to ultimately reduce the overall size of the sororities to allow for more leadership opportunities and mentoring," said Shana Plasters, director of Greek Life.

According to Plasters, the Panhellenic Council, the conference of women's private fraternities and sororities, voted in the spring of 2009 about the introduction of a new sorority into the Greek community.

The council voted yes, and in fall 2009 the Panhellenic president asked permission from the Student Life committee of the faculty governing council to add the new group to Elon. Current sororities are fairly large, with more than 140 members after fall recruitment.

The sorority extension committee of students, faculty and staff reviewed feedback from students about their own interactions with the three sororities' representatives and provide feedback on the different strengths and weaknesses of each sorority.

Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, also met with all the sororities and he will make the final decision based on the feedback he has received.

The Panhellenic executives and chapter presidents had dinner with each of the three sororities. Also the entire campus was invited to presentations that the different sororities put on in the beginning of November, Plasters said.

These presentations were attended by currently affiliated women and a few unaffiliated students. There was an online survey provided to students who attended the presentations to present feedback. Chapters also had the opportunity to e-mail Plasters with their feedback.

Transfer student Georganne Kubic said she thinks a new sorority could be a very pleasant addition to Elon's Greek community. Kubic expects to go through formal recruitment in spring 2011.

"I would definitely consider joining one of the new ones," she said. "I think it may even be more meaningful because I would be given the special opportunity to be able to call myself one of the founding sisters and would have a hand in shaping how the sorority conducted

themselves. It is a good opportunity to be part of starting something from scratch here at Elon."

The new sorority will be able to recruit about as many members as any other established sorority on campus, which is approximately 140 members. Since the sorority chosen will be new, it may choose to recruit a smaller class for their first year.

Plasters said recruitment will be different for the new group. They will be able to begin recruitment after formal recruitment ends. The national staff members will conduct interviews and host events, which will take place over the course of about a week. The staff members will invite new members to join the group. There will also be a bid day for these women.

Housing has yet to be established for the new sorority. There is a faculty and staff committee currently reviewing all Greek housing, but as of right now a place has not been established, according to Plasters.

"The goal is to ultimately reduce the overall size of the sororities to allow for more leadership opportunities and mentoring."

- SHANA PLASTERS
DIRECTOR OF GREEK LIFE

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Town residents gather in opposition to proposed university softball field

Citing lack of communication, Arcadia Drive homeowners combat rezoning of neighboring land

Jack Dodson
News Editor

Every land owner from Arcadia Drive in Elon came out to the regular meeting of the town's Board of Alderman Dec. 6 either in person or through written support to oppose a rezoning request by Elon University, which is seeking to build a softball field and parking lot next to the neighborhood.

The land is owned by the school in two separate parcels — one zoned as suburban residential and the other as neighborhood residential — and the school is seeking to rezone the land to be public/institutional, which is a requirement to build the field.

But homeowners and residents who live in the nearby area unanimously opposed the idea, suggesting lights and noise would disturb them, and the parking lot would create a bottleneck on the north end of Williamson Avenue. Others said they weren't appropriately consulted by the university before the rezoning request was made,

while in the past there was better communication between residents and the school.

University officials opened the public hearing by saying they would hope to be quiet neighbors, honoring a town requirement for a 50-foot buffer between the field and the neighborhood and keeping the area quiet when games aren't being played.

"What we're attempting to do is upgrade our women's softball facility," said Gerry Francis, the school's executive vice president. "We really have intentions as being as good a neighbor as possible."

Neil Bromilow, director of planning, design and construction management, said as of now, the field would include 300 seats in bleachers, and the parking lot would have up to 294 spots — but the actual completion of the project may not be any time soon because the school already has so many other construction projects queued.

Francis also said the lights being used for the project wouldn't be

upgraded at all, they would be the same ones that are in use at the current softball field on College Avenue. Because games typically end by about 6:30 p.m., he said the lights would be used as little as possible, and they are hooded to shine mostly just down.

But for Arcadia Drive resident Julie Smith, the way the school went about the rezoning request shut her and her neighbors out of the discussion.

"Before when we've had issues," Smith told the board, "they've approached us with letters and a meeting. I feel like we're getting pushed aside more and more and it's assumed this is going to go through."

Resident Duffy Strigo and his wife Linda read a letter to the board, which was read by their neighbor, Dennis Beskow, saying they felt the university is intruding on the citizens of Elon.

"This is insane," the Strigos wrote. "We are completely surrounded. These are supposed to be our golden years, not the living hell that it's become."

For another, Elon graduate Bob

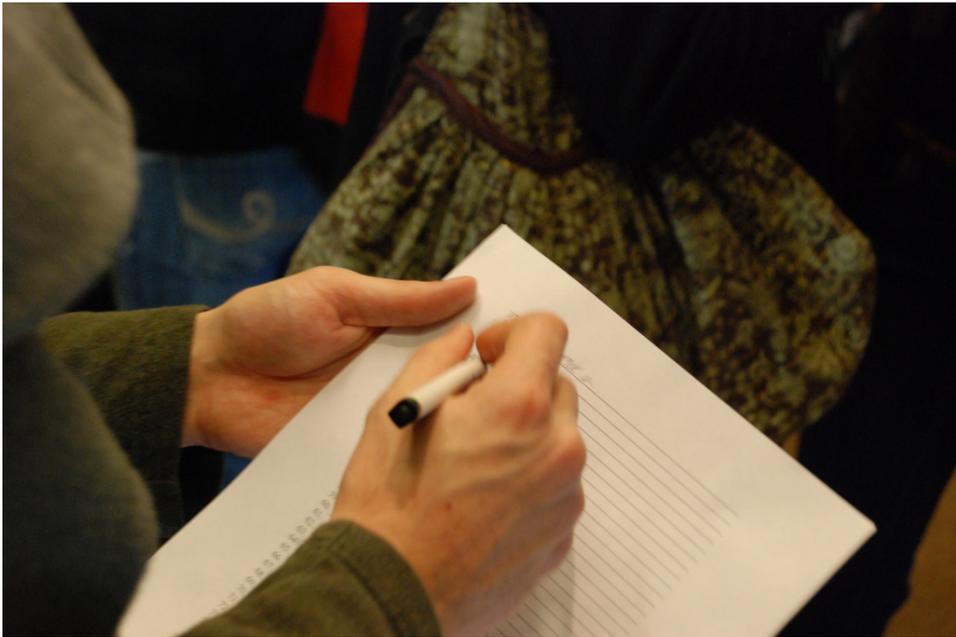
Kittinger, the issue came down to a safety concern. He said he was worried the area would get too busy with a parking lot in an area where students frequently wear dark clothes at night and walk across the street without looking.

Francis said the school would send Campus Safety and Police to patrol the area, just as it does for the rest of campus.

But for Arcadia Drive homeowner Carolyn Gabriel, the issue represents something deeper than lights and noise: it represents a relationship that isn't as good as it used to be.

"We are constantly at odds with (the college)," Gabriel said.

And toward the end of the hearing, neighborhood resident Dottie Olson questioned the board's integrity in voting because Mayor Pro Tempore Ron Klepcyk is the director of human resources for the university after Mayor Jerry Tolley recently retired. Tolley responded by asserting the board serves the citizens of the town.



Students groups propose new campus initiatives to SGA

At last Thursday's SGA Senate meeting, the idea of a bike sharing program and night time BioBus were presented by two groups of students.

The bike sharing program, which would allow students to swipe their Phoenix cards to rent a bike for 24 hours, is meant to encourage fewer

students to bring cars to campus.

The Nightline BioBus, introduced by students in Gary Palin's entrepreneurship class, would run Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and offer a safe alternative for students unable to get home through the use of taxis or Saferides. Both ideas were highlighted at Tuesday's College Coffee.



World AIDS Day brings free screening to campus

Ashley Fahey
Copy Editor

One in five people with HIV is unaware they are infected, according to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

On Dec. 1, Elon University recognized the annual World AIDS Day, which works to lower this statistic, through a free AIDS screening service for students.

World AIDS Day works to raise awareness about how HIV/AIDS is spread, focusing on its progress, treatments and methods and working to eliminate the spread of the disease. The screening service Wednesday at Elon was hosted collaboratively by Alamance Cares, Elon's Student Global AIDS Campaign and the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. A table was set up in Moseley Center that afternoon to provide information and sign-ups for HIV testing.

Senior Dani Schenk, an intern at Alamance Cares and certified HIV counselor and tester, said she wanted to do a testing day at Elon.

"We got a lot of support from (SGAC) and Elon Volunteers with advertising," she said. "Also, Sig Ep was kind enough to help us man the table, where we gave away ribbons, condoms and had people sign up for the testing."

According to its website, Alamance Cares is a non-profit agency that focuses primarily on stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS through awareness, education and testing in Alamance County and surrounding areas.

"We provide prevention classes and testing in Alamance, Caswell, Rockingham and Guilford counties," said Brenda Beam, an employee at Alamance Cares. "We always provide free HIV testing."

The process was simple enough: on Dec. 1, interested individuals filled out forms with demographic information and risk indication for HIV (according to sexual activity), followed by a brief counseling session with an Alamance Cares trained staff member and the test, called OraQuick.

"OraQuick is a swab that tests the mucosa in your mouth with results in 20 minutes and it is 99 percent accurate," Beam said. "The OraQuick test is either negative or reactive. If negative, that means no HIV virus was found and as long as it has been three months from the risky behavior, the person knows they are negative."

This was the first year Alamance Cares has tested at Elon, although the HIV tests have been offered at the health center on World



Workers administered OraQuick HIV tests on World AIDS day at Elon.

AIDS Day. In previous years, the amount of people to get tested was low. More advertising and collaboration with organizations such as Sigma Phi Epsilon has allowed the event to grow in popularity this year, with approximately 63 people who signed up for testing at the Moseley table.

Both Schenk and Beam emphasized the importance of getting HIV tested, especially on a college campus.

"It is important to eliminate the stigma around getting tested," Schenk said. "It should not be embarrassing (and) people should be proud to know their status."

If a student's test came out as HIV positive after the second test, it was



If a test came back positive, students were given support.

assured that they would have continued help.

"If someone tests reactive, we assist them with getting to the Health Department," Beam said. "If it is confirmed, we would assist them with obtaining a medical appointment and offer counseling and a case manager to assist them with their needs and follow up for support."

SGA Executive VP announces resignation from position due to ongoing health problems

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

SGA Executive Vice President Joe Slocum has announced that he will be resigning from his position due to the ongoing effects of congenital kidney disorder on his academics. The announcement was made at the SGA Senate meeting last Thursday.

Slocum will be replaced by Sam Warren, president of the Class of 2012, who will also take Slocum's position as chair of the Judicial Committee.

"I chose (Warren) as my Speaker

Pro Tempore in the spring of last year following my election," Slocum said. "The SGA Constitution states that if the vice president is unable to perform their duties, or leaves the office, the Speaker Pro Tempore immediately takes their place."

According to Slocum, the responsibilities of the executive vice president position including serving as the speaker of the senate, working with any SGA member writing legislation, managing SGA's committees and setting the agenda for the weekly meetings.

He said he is confident that Warren will do well in the position.

"As Speaker Pro Tempore, he helped me teach the Senate Rules of Order, plan our annual Senate retreat and tackle several other projects this year," he said. "To the best of my knowledge, (Warren) has also written more pieces of successful legislation than any other current member of the Senate."

Slocum has been involved with SGA since the spring of 2009, when he served on the Residence Life seat of the Organization Council. He was later appointed to serve as Vice President of the Class of 2011 before becoming executive vice president this year.

Calendar: Dec. 8-Dec. 10

DEC. 8

- *Reading Day
- *Methodist Fellowship's Cookie Walk, 7-8 p.m. McKinnon Hall
- *Wednesday Night Catholic, 7:30 p.m. Holt Chapel
- *SUB and RSA present CramJam, 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Harden Dining Hall

DEC. 9

- *Exams Begin

DEC. 10

- *Catholic Mass on Fridays, 12:10 p.m. Holt Chapel
- *Make the Yuletide Gay: LG-BTQ/Ally Holiday Gathering, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Multicultural Center in Moseley

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Elon uses Facebook page to spread holiday cheer

Elon is encouraging students, faculty and alumni to post personal tributes to inspirational members of the university community on their Facebook page.

A holiday video, created by the Office of University Relations, was posted to the page, with the input of President Leo Lambert, President Emeritus Early Danieleley, staff members Jean Rattigan-Rohr and Jeffery Pugh and students Scott Riddle, Evan Glover and Zach Jordan.

Lambda Chi Alpha exceeds expectations for fall fund-raising event

During its annual philanthropy event for the fall semester, the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity raised a total of 1,942 pounds of canned goods and \$2,000 for Loaves and Fishes, a local food pantry in downtown Burlington.

According to Will Misko, external vice president for the organization, the fundraising exceeded the amount raised during the same event last year and the goal set for this year.

The week of fundraising included events such as a community brown bag drop, a profit share at Red Bowl, a canned food drive on campus and an auction of the fraternity brothers.

Misko said the culminating event of the week was the field games, in which sororities competed against one another in events.

Flyers claiming police corruption found on campus, e-mailed to Elon faculty/staff

A group of Elon students flung flyers accusing the Elon Police Department and Alamance County Sheriff's Office of corruption and racial profiling. The students also e-mailed the flyer to the entire faculty and staff.

The flyers were found starting at 6 a.m. Monday, Dec. 6 all across campus.

This is the full text of the e-mail sent to Elon's Campus Safety and Police by the students:

"Dear Campus Security:

Today at 6:00 AM Elon students distributed over 300 printed articles/flyers about the corruption and racism of the police and judicial system of Alamance County across the lawns of Elon. They were distributed around the library, Moseley, the gym, Alamance, HBB, and south campus.

It is the Elon student who ran this protest who is emailing you now. We did this because we are sick of racism and sick of police abuse of power. Attached is our article for you to read. Hopefully, change is coming.

We would also like to let the campus security officers know that this is not at all targeted at them. It is not even targeted at all police officers.

What we are protesting is what we see as corrupt, wrong, and racist practices of our police and judicial system. We see no evidence to suggest that Elon Campus Security is either corrupt or racist and we would like to thank the members of Elon Campus Security for serving our community.

Giving peace a chance.

An Elon Student who likes the freedoms from the Constitution."

Alumni Association sponsors fundraiser to benefit Elon Academy Dream Fund

A golf tournament hosted by the MBA Student Alumni Association raised \$1,000 to support the Elon Academy Dream Fund. The Dream Fund is a special budget created three years ago to benefit the Elon Academy with college visits, community service projects and other necessary expenses for students at the Academy.

The money was presented to the Academy at a recent program for students and their families.



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The Pendulum's main Twitter feed is used to direct followers to stories from the print edition and stories that are more timely and online exclusive.

TWEET @pendulumsports

The Pendulum's live coverage of everything Elon athletics, including live coverage of football games, news and scores from all of the university's varsity sports.

PRINT EDITIONS OF THE PENDULUM

<http://issuu.com/pendulum>

The Pendulum posts its print versions online so they can be viewed even after they're swiped from newsstands.

YOUTUBE

www.youtube.com/user/ThePendulumOnline

In addition to watching Pendulum videos with their respective stories on The Pendulum website, you can view and comment on all videos on YouTube.

FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/the Pendulum

Become our fan. The fan page is used for the dissemination of information through status updates and shared links that show up on fans' news feeds. It's also for **your** feedback and comments. You can also share Pendulum stories on your own Facebook wall by clicking the Facebook button next to any Web story.

ONLINE COMMENTS

from YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and www.elon.edu/pendulum

Website: "Great article Jennifer, well written, entertaining, and you bring up good points." - David Gwynn, on opinion column "Social etiquette shouldn't disappear in college."

@elonpendulum: "Thanks for keeping me updated! I always enjoy reading what's happening at @elonuniversity post-graduation!" - tmeeks3

ONLINE THIS WEEK

BLOGS

SPORTS

The back-up Goalie is back. Check out what he has to say on his latest blog post.
pendulumsports.wordpress.com

OPINIONS

The fancy fashion traditions of the Chinese and why Americans can't make clothes like these.
pendulumopinions.wordpress.com

PENDULUM PODCASTS

Opinions Podcast:

Ashley Jobe suggests ways to cope with the stress of finals.

Reel Talk with C&G:

Caitlin O'Donnell and Gabriela Swezcov preview their picks of holiday movies this holiday season.



SAM CALVERT AND CONOR O'NEILL - SPORTS JAM



ASHLEY JOBE - OPINIONS PODCAST

THIS WEEK IN MULTIMEDIA

Moravian Christmas Feast

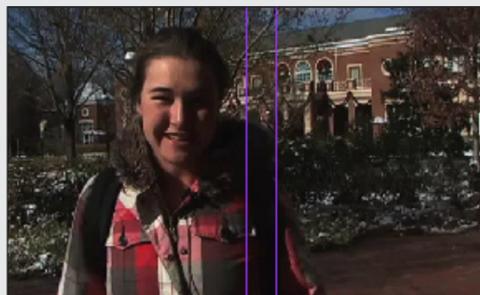
Christmas carols and traditional Moravian beeswax candles were part of the festivities in the event hosted by Elon University's Truitt Center for Religious Life.



JEFF STERN | Multimedia Editor

An Elon Christmas

Elon students share their favorite Christmas movies and what they love most about the season.



SCARLETT FAKHAR | Multimedia Editor

Liz and Ed's Mini Market

Find out more about the little convenience store located near campus.



MELISSA KANSKY | Multimedia Editor

Editorial

Multiculturalism: See beyond the surface

Elon University's administration prides itself on developing a multicultural society, but is blind to the individuality of each student. To Elon, diversity means showcasing individuals displaying symbols of their respective cultures rather than the unique traits of each student.

University Relations recently produced a video titled "Celebration of Lights," featuring students, faculty and staff of numerous ethnicities, races and religions, to encourage viewers to write on the Elon University Facebook page expressing gratitude for those who have made an impact on the Elon community.

The video was posted in a public forum and has been produced by those affiliated with Elon. As such, it represents the face of Elon. While we acknowledge that Elon does not solely constitute white Christians, the video inaccurately portrays the community's population and misconstrues the significance of cultural symbols.

Prior to the production of the video, Hillel director Nancy Luberoff received a phone call which requested that a Jewish student appear in the video wearing something that indicates the individual's religion. Dan Anderson, director of University Relations, suggested that a male wear a yarmulke (a traditional head covering) in the video.

The request contained no ill intent of any kind, and Anderson explained that the purpose of the request was to further demonstrate that Elon is a community of diverse people.

Although she described the phone call as respectful and considerate, she did

not believe that the cultural symbol was an appropriate representation of Jewish students at Elon, considering the fact that no male Jewish student observes the religion to an extent where he would wear a yarmulke in a common setting. Instead she provided University Relations with the name of a student who wears a Star of David daily and would therefore better represent Jewish life at Elon.

The instance illustrates that video producers intended to present a tangible representation of the administration's view of diversity. While the video may have enabled the university to appear diverse, the administration was counterproductive in its efforts.

Essentially, they asked students and faculty to decorate themselves in their culture. The request should have been phrased, "We would like to demonstrate the culture of each individual; please wear an emblem that is significant to you." Instead, they imposed a stereotypical example, promoting a boxed representation of their version of diversity.

Although Anderson said that the video was not intended as a multicultural video, he still wanted viewers to tell "at a glance" that these are people of many different beliefs and many talents and all contribute to making us the community that we are.

But perhaps it is not possible to present one's culture "at a glance."

A headshot cannot exemplify culture. Culture is rooted in tradition and language and beliefs. As a result, we question if multiculturalism is tangible and if Elon

should try to make it so.

This is not to say that Elon should not strive for diversity on campus, but in an effort to increase diversity, the administration should not blind itself to the individual and intellectual value of its student body. There is a focus on the origins of a person rather than the life of the Elon community member.

The increase in international students and a student body that better represents the world's diversity is listed as the first priority in The Elon Commitment. The commitment sites the accomplishments of Laith Majali '05 of Jordan, a Sundance Film Festival award winner, to explain how the incorporation of 300 "more students like Laith" on Elon's campus "will enrich the experiences of the entire student body." The administration praises him for where he was born rather than his success.

Realistically, yes, the inclusion of more award-winning students will enhance the academic value of the university. Nevertheless, his achievements are derived from his talent, not this ethnicity, and the Elon Commitment again fails to distinguish the individual from the cultural label.

As seen in the Elon Commitment and the "Celebration of Lights" video, the administration attempts to define and showcase students and faculty according to their cultural contribution to the university. Until the administration sees beyond the superficial traits that signify diversity, it cannot expect its students to help foster the Elon Commitment's definition of a multicultural society.

Discover gems of unexplored community

In August, The Pendulum wrote about the positive results of dedicated financial contributions to surrounding Burlington businesses. As the new year dawns, perhaps the positive aspects of personal contributions should be examined.

The gears that make up the Burlington machine are not things - they are people. We drive by strangers on our way to Target, walk past them on our own campus. Do you really know which person represents each puzzle piece, and in what ways their contributions make up our community's jigsaw? Contrary to the bubble our university represents in the heart of Elon's town and the city of Burlington, our status effects the community in which we are entrenched. Not only do our university rankings affect our town-gown relationship, but students of this institution have a significant bond with Burlington, whether acknowledged or not. Our interaction is an integral piece of the jigsaw.

Our hometowns share a significant place in our hearts - we all remember our favorite baker, nail artist, cashier. Elon is our home for four years, so why not develop the same intimate bonds with members outside of our campus boundaries?

The men and women of the Wheels N' Bumpers Car Wash on South Church Street are

young and ambitious - some are graduates of East Carolina University, some from Elon University itself. Come on a weekday afternoon, and you can meet Smith Jackson's son, a 2008 graduate with a major in corporate communications. He speaks kindly of his time here and willingly offers advice about taking advantage of Elon's resources.

A female bartender at La Fiesta raises her two small sons with her husband in Burlington. The employees she works with are like family, assisting one another in their duties. An immigrant from Mexico, she hopes to start taking classes again soon. She speaks of her home country fondly, recalling her upbringing and the challenges of starting her own life here.

A waiter at Little Italy Pizza and Italian Restaurant is a religious studies major and attends UNC Greensboro full time while working three days a week. He has been working there for four years now and enjoys the liberties his studies provide him.

These are the human-interest stories that surround us yet often go unnoticed. The employees at local restaurants, shopping malls, movie theaters and banks are quite similar to many individuals in our student community.

Global citizenship need not be a dutiful commitment to

rehearsed interaction between people. It may simply be the random chance to speak to someone new, to learn something fascinating about someone we don't know, and attempt to give the same in return. Human connection is identifiable, but is not always pursued.

There are ways to become involved in the community around this campus that don't require financial support. Volunteer at the Twin Lakes retirement community and get to know a resident. Invite your waiter to chat on a slow night. Granted, this step outside

of ones comfort zone can be difficult. But an increased level of understanding between community members despite differences in background could lead to a positive outcome years in the future. This university is here to stay, and so are the people who live around it. Cohabitation in a single geographical location doesn't automatically lead to cohesion. Make an effort.

Leaving a positive mark doesn't just mean leaving a tip on the table. It means leaving an impact in the minds of others and perhaps experiencing an impact in your own.

ILLUSTRATING THE ISSUES:



SANTA GETS A PAT DOWN

SARAH BETH COSTELLO | Cartoonist

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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A message board also accompanies each article online at www.elon.edu/pendulum where commentary can be quickly posted.

Opinions

Growth, improvement sets stage for bright future



Pam Richter
Columnist

Even before I stepped on campus in the fall of 2007, I knew The Pendulum was an organization that I wanted to be involved with. But I could not have imagined that I would ever be in the position I am now as editor-in-chief, reflecting on my years with the organization.

The past three and a half years of my college career have been tied directly

to my involvement with the newspaper, and I have experienced both professional and personal growth. Throughout my time with the organization, I have been challenged and have become a better person because of it.

It is because of the outstanding individuals I have worked with during my time at the paper that have changed who I am and impacted me for the rest of my life. During the past year, the staff has rolled up their sleeves and done an amazing amount of behind-the-scenes work — most of which Pendulum readers don't see.

Heading into this year, the organization has

had one of the youngest staffs ever. But with the challenges, there have also been more benefits than I could imagine. This past year's staff has been enthusiastic, passionate, dedicated and not afraid to take risks. Though we have made mistakes this past year, we have grown an incredible amount.

I have had the honor of helping to lead this group of bright, talented and good-hearted people and each of them have taught me something about myself. Thank you to all the seniors on staff for all of their time: Lindsay Fendt, Chelsea O'Hanlon, Kristen Wrenn, Conor O'Neill, Corey Groom, Sarah Beth Costello and Christina Edwards.

Also during the past year, I've had the honor of working closely with our adviser Colin Donohue. He provides constant support, feedback and encouragement that helps our paper grow from week to week. Our webmaster J.D. Parsons has also provided us with the technical support we need and constantly helps us with any website problems we have.

We receive constant recommendations for improvement and encouragement from professors within the school of communications, specifically Janna Anderson, Glenn Scott, Harlen Makemson and Anthony Hatcher. All have put extra time into helping us grow as an organization.

When I became editor-in-chief, I constantly preached to the staff to pride itself on week-by-week improvement, and I can say that looking back on approximately 30 issues, we have accomplished this goal. This staff has taken the organization to new heights and has been the news source on campus that students, faculty, staff and also residents of the Town of Elon turn to.

The improvement we have made during the past year will not be lost with the new staff. The quality of the paper will continue to be improved with the upcoming editor-in-chief Anna Johnson. During the past year, Johnson has worked as managing editor and has been extremely dedicated. She has been an integral part of several changes we have made to the paper in the past year. Once the first paper of the new semester comes out in January, I am confident that the next staff led by Johnson will not miss a beat and will continue to take the organization forward.

The Pendulum is vacating its office on Williamson Avenue and will be in a new location, room 009 of McEwen School of Communications once winter term starts. Stop by. Give ideas. Get involved. The paper is not defined by a building. It is defined by the countless hours the staff puts in throughout the year to deliver the news to you, the Elon community.

New air travel safety policies: Touchy subject

Pat-down option weighs heavily on travelers, casting doubt and spreading fear



Ryan Maass
Columnist

It's that time of year again folks — a time marked by long lines, flight delays, awkward seating arrangements, bad weather, and holiday cheer. Recently, our government added something

new to the list that is sure to be just as memorable — pat downs.

This past November, new safety regulations were put in place at airports in the heaviest crackdown on suspicious activity since Sept. 11. Travelers in airports are given a new choice when they arrive at the security checkpoint — to have a radiation-powered full-body scan, or to have a very invasive pat-down by TSA personnel.

A dose of cancer or a violation of your Constitutional rights? Pick your poison.

The new measures have already caused a plethora of problems. Numerous reports of abuse and incompetent procedures have already flooded the headlines, as well as YouTube and other online media outlets. On November 22, Fox News reported a story about a bladder cancer survivor who had fallen victim to the abuse in our airports. After the body scanner detected the device used to collect urine from an opening in his stomach, Thomas Sawyer, 61, was subjected to a pat down resulting in the seal of the device to break. Sawyer ended up boarding the plane soaked in his own urine.

Of course, there are more than just personal issues at stake as a result of our government extending its harmful hand beyond its Constitutional reach. Government intervention in other profit-driven industries, has become very characteristic of the Obama Administration, and fearful travelers have become discouraged from flying, sending a hard blow to the airline industry as a whole. According to CBS News, a recent online Reuters poll showed a whopping 96 percent of participants were willing to make other travel plans to avoid being made into a public display.

The new regulations put in place by the Transportation Security Administration are as detrimental as they are pointless. Aside from damaging the airline industry by discouraging flight, it also displays a complete lack of understanding of the issues at hand. There is no reason to subject American children to either an invasive pat down or a potentially unhealthy body-scan when there has been no terrorist attack committed by such an assailant. It makes sense to require passengers to provide their name, date of birth and other background information considering the atrocities that have or might occur when planes are turned into weapons of war. But there is the notion of basic decency to consider.

Security at the expense of privacy can only go so far in a business-driven republic such as the United States. Founder Benjamin Franklin once famously said, "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

These are words that Janet "Big Sis" Napolitano and the rest of the Obama Administration need to understand.

Time to reevaluate government fault in unearthed information, don't cast blame on messenger



Anna Johnson
Columnist

I have an invested and selfish reason for wanting our women and men in the armed services to be safe and protected. My 19-year-old brother recently enlisted with the U.S. Navy

and will leave for basic training in less than two months.

His impending departure has shaken my foundation in unforeseen ways. Should the public be informed of every move and procedure of the military and our international diplomats? Or does that somehow place the ones we rely on to protect us, and our American values, at risk?

In recent months, WikiLeaks has released thousands of documents on the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, along with internal messages, like the U.S. diplomatic cables. Their release has caused massive controversy across the world as America attempts to control the damage. A massive rift has surfaced in the American people and the debate on the flow of information is waged in private conversations, newspaper print and on television. The release of this information will prove problematic for those serving our country in the future, including my brother. But the culprit is not WikiLeaks.

If something is done in America's name, it is arrogant to believe Americans should somehow be kept in the dark. A democracy thrives on the open exchange of information and communication. How are Americans expected to make the informed decisions demanded of them if only given the version of

events approved for them?

The information and procedures revealed by WikiLeaks shows the ugly skeleton in America's closet. Yet, instead of expressing frustration and anger with our diplomats and military officials we are shooting the messenger.

We should not cut funding to WikiLeaks. The internal support systems should not be snatched out from under its feet. The public outrage should not be targeted toward the organization that simply revealed the man behind the curtain.

If Americans don't want to face the embarrassment or the failures of the U.S. government, then perhaps we should reevaluate our current course of action. If the realities of war and open nature of the documents truly damage our mission overseas, then it is time for the American people to sit back and critically analyze our mission.

We've allowed our work internationally to be boiled down into sound bites. Stop terrorism. Protect American interests. Promote democracy. These ideals sound well and good, but the documents leaked reveal we are sacrificing our morals to reach some predetermined conclusion. It's a conclusion we have not fully explored and have little to zero understanding of the course we've hurtled ourselves toward.

The ends cannot justify the means or we've lost our humanity. The idea that drastic times call for drastic actions is unsound and fallible. We should view this leak as an opportunity and blessing in disguise. We have the chance to fully understand our inner workings of the diplomatic and military ventures. It is time to hold our leaders accountable. They, not WikiLeaks, control the life, death and future of hundreds of soldiers. Including my brother.

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www.pendulumopinions.wordpress.com



Style

WHITTILING AWAY FOR WORK: Local carpenter turns woodcarvings into a living

Bonnie Efir
Features Editor

Every weekend since November, Bill Welker has stood outside in the freezing cold at the gas station on the corner of Church Street and Williamson Avenue selling his deer woodcarvings.

He stands behind his old Ford pick-up truck bundled up and smoking cigarettes. His breath is visible in the winter air, while he waits for customers to pull off of busy Church Street to peek at his artwork.

Deer woodcarvings of all shapes and sizes are displayed on the corner by the road, with holly and pine tree branches as antlers — evidence of holiday spirit.

Making and selling deer (or in this season, reindeer) is just a temporary job for Welker, though, who said the carpentry business is very slow.

"This is what a carpenter does when he doesn't have much work," Welker said.

Welker, who lives in Whitsett, N.C., said he has had to become an innovative small business entrepreneur since outsourcing has become such a large part of the U.S. economy. Welker has been a carpenter in North Carolina for more than 33 years.

"When you have other countries building all your products, and then you have other people from other countries taking the job for the products — that's what has really hurt America as a whole," he said. "Americans are out of work."

If there's something good coming out of it, though, it's that Welker has been able to get creative to make a living making deer and reindeer woodcarvings, something he enjoys doing. The work is not easy, though, as evidenced in Welker's tough and calloused hands.

Welker spends weekdays and nights cutting the wood at a farm in Trinity, N.C. and whittles the deer from wood. He said sometimes he stays up until the wee hours whittling away.

"I worked last night until past midnight because I sold all of my little ones (deer) yesterday," he said.

On weekends, he alternates selling the deer in Burlington at the gas station and in Greensboro in front of the Fresh Market at Lawndale.

Luckily, his innovative entrepreneurship and hard work have paid off.

Welker is thankful to have a demand for his product. He said he crafted more than 400 deer woodcarvings just in the past month.

Although it is hard work, Welker said it is worth it, both in the sense of making a living, and seeing a finished product that has been successful; the deer have gotten people excited for the holiday season.

"Some families come out and buy four or five deer at a time," he said. "It's always a kick watching the kids pick their own deer out."

Kids also love to get their picture taken on the bigger deer, some of which stand almost seven feet tall, he said.

Welker said he is also pleased with the response from the university.

"A lot of college girls have been coming over here and buying the deer," he said.

The deer range from \$5 to \$110, and come in all different sizes with interchangeable antlers made of pine tree branches, holly and twigs. And some people even leave the deer in their yard all year round, Welker said.

He was inspired to start carving deer after seeing some about 16 years ago that, to him, were poorly designed. Welker said he saw the opportunity to improve the product, and so he did.

His woodcarvings are inspired by the folk art of the Appalachians, where people would often make most of their furniture out of wood as an art form, he said.

Deer are just one of the many different pieces of art Welker



Welker sells his deer woodcarvings at the gas station on the corner of Williamson and Church Street every weekend.



Welker said he has had a great response from the university and locals, and has made 400 deer in the past month.



LINDSAY FENDT | Photo Editor

carves out of wood. He hopes to begin selling more arbors, wooden furniture and flower planters.

What Welker really wants, though, is to get some bids on

bigger carpentry projects after the turn of the New Year.

For Welker, making and selling his deer woodcarvings is just a temporary solution to be able to pay the bills. He said he hopes for

a more permanent solution that will put all Americans like him back into work.

His suggestion? "If you want to fix America, hire Americans," he said.

Customer service creates comfort at convenient store



Liz & Ed Mini Market is located on the corner of East Haggard and Gilliam Road in Elon.

Katherine Wise
Reporter

At Phoenix Liz and Ed's Mini-Market, the owners take requests.

Elizabeth Clemente and Edy Joseph opened a convenience store on Oct. 13, adding an individually owned business close to Elon University's campus, on the corner of East Haggard and Gilliam Road.

"We've been thinking of opening a business for a while," Joseph said. "That idea has been in my head since I was 20 years old."

Clemente and Joseph worked together in the airline industry for 12 years, and have been dating for six years.

"We became workers, friends and then we fell in love with each other," Joseph said.

The couple has already established trust with some locals and students. Elizabeth said they built up "regulars" from the first week they opened. They both said that they are big on pleasing their customers.

"Every time they request something, we try to get it for them," Clemente said.

Joseph keeps a small notebook with him when he is in the store. He writes down requests that he receives from the customers, and often seeks out their opinion.

"I say... If by chance you don't see your

favorite or what you need, you just let me know," Joseph said.

The store sells candy, snack food, alcohol, coffee and basics, like batteries. They have milk, eggs and soda, along with a variety of other goods. Recently, upon the request of some of the owners, they put in a shelf of Spanish food.

"There's a lot of Spanish people in the area," Clemente said. "They requested it."

In the future, because of some suggestions, they plan to sell some fresh food items, like hot dogs and cold sandwiches.

Michael Allen, an Elon senior, is a frequent customer. He said he comes by since the store's location is close to where he lives.

"I like the idea of an independently owned business," Allen said. "They don't try to rip you off."

Allen said that he thought there should be more stores like Liz and Ed's around Elon, since the majority of the convenience stores and dining areas for Elon students are owned by the same company, ARAMARK.

Joseph said that he has not heard any complaints from his customers so far and hopes to keep it that way into the business's future.

"We try not to make the mistake of buying something too expensive," Joseph said.

According to Elizabeth, she and Joseph

moved to North Carolina from New Jersey to be closer to her sister and her son, Paul, who has been living with her sister.

Clemente said that the people in North Carolina are different.

"It seems like they're always standing by to help," she said.

Clemente and Joseph knew that they wanted to open a business, and were deciding between a daycare and a convenience store; they chose the latter.

"I actually worked years ago at a supermarket, and I really enjoyed it," Clemente said.

Clemente and Joseph plan to stay in Elon into the future. They are leasing the building now. Joseph said that he and Elizabeth hope to own the store in the future.

Neither Joseph nor Clemente said they had worries about the store. She thinks it was a good move, even for their relationship.

"This keeps us busy, occupied and more together," Clemente said.

The couple said they like to make sure their customers feel comfortable.

"I am a very friendly person; I guess I get that from Ed," Clemente said.

They build relationships through chatting with their customers.

"I tell them, 'Even if you don't have something to buy, come stop by,'" Joseph said. "Once you come in this door, you are my buddy, my friend."

Wheels 'N Bumpers:

A business, a family

Ashley Jobe
Opinions Editor

Stop at 3420 S. Church St., turn in the large parking lot and look to your left. Among the shiny vehicles and patrons waiting on benches outside of the building are young men and women vigorously rubbing metal with faded cloths and spraying protectant on rubber tires.

But look closely — despite the ordinary task of detailing these vehicles, there is laughter and playfulness. Even without knowing these people, you can tell this is a family.

Fridays and Saturdays bring the most cars through this wash. These are the busiest days of the week for those who work at Wheels 'N Bumpers. Zack of Jillian, N.C. spoke of the physical exhaustion that comes with the job.

"In the first couple of months, you get physically worn and tired," he said. "Your feet hurt."

These harsh winter months also bring the most traffic, despite closings due to rain and snow. But with the added business comes unique challenges.

"We wear lots of layers," John Hicks, a Burlington resident said.

Employees wear multiple sweatshirts, hats, jeans and gloves and head inside to the merchandise area for warmth as much as possible.

Hicks greets those who pull their cars up to the menu sign. Hands in pockets, he smiles with kind eyes. He works seven hours a day pulling cars out, vacuuming interiors and

polishing windows.

The worst part of the job, he said, are the tell-tale signs some drivers leave behind.

"I hate smokers — they have the dirtiest windows."

Peter Jackson is the son of Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life at Elon. He began working at the car wash on and off in 2001.

Quite close to getting hired at Enterprise and Verizon, Jackson has a unique outlook on job prospects. A 2008 graduate of Elon with a degree in corporate communications, Jackson regrets not having taken advantage of the resources available to undergraduate students. After leaving Elon, Jackson spent seven weeks on tour with his band, enjoying short-lived success before being confronted with the harsh realities of a disintegrating economy.

Now, he is contemplating graduate school, but said his previous indecisiveness wasn't frowned upon by his boss, who embraced his desire to take time off if he needed it.

"Wayne Burgess is the coolest boss to work for," he said.

That flexibility is precisely what Burgess values about working at the car wash. He spends time during the day inside surrounded by sweet smelling air fresheners and candy and interacting with customers. He has owned the car wash for more than 11 years, since November of 1999.

"We try to work with everyone's schedule," he said. "We have one-third more employees than we need, to allow for flexibility. Look at these



LINDSAY FENDT | Photo Editor
Paul Jones, an employee at Wheels 'N Bumpers Car Wash, polishes a window while wearing a facemask to protect him from the cold weather.

people," he said, referencing a mother and two sons sitting in the indoor waiting area. "This would never work in New Jersey."

Basking Ridge, N.J. is where his wife Linda is from, a place he said only allows for fast production and little human interaction.

"I worked in the textile business before this," he said. "This is about what customers want. Up there it's so busy."

Paul Gillian, an Elon resident, has been working at Wheels 'N Bumpers for eight years. A graduate of UNC Greensboro, he says he once found \$8,000 under the driver's side mat of a car he was cleaning.

"I mean, who leaves \$8,000 in a car?" he said. "I would remember if I left five dollars there."

Tony, who attended Southern

Alamance High School, said money isn't the only thing people leave in vehicles.

"There's been heroin, pot, crack, everything."

"And guns." Blake, a graduate of Eastern Carolina University graduate, added.

Claire, from Burlington, had advice she wished people would heed before attending the car wash.

"Wash your car more than once a year," Claire said.

Tony also had some advice.

"Remember to roll your windows up," Tony said.

A vehicle then emerges from the wash. Claire begins walking toward it, but quickly turns back, adding, "If you have a dog, put towels down — pet hair is really hard to remove from car seats."

Students in Free Enterprise organization to be established at Elon

Scott Richardson
Reporter

Two months ago, sophomores Kyle Cassaday and Chris Welch attended their business learning community meeting as if it were just any other Tuesday.

At that particular meeting, Sarah Thomas, director of Undergraduate Programs at the Love School of Business, brought two regional representatives from Students in Free Enterprise to describe their organization to the students.

The following Saturday, Welch and Cassaday were on their way to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte at 6 a.m. to attend a business training meeting in order to learn how to establish a SIFE chapter at Elon.

"When I first heard about SIFE, I thought, 'this is exactly what I'm looking for,'" Cassaday said. "We thought: 'this is what we want.'"

SIFE, established in 1975, is a worldwide non-profit organization that works with students to make a difference in struggling or developing communities by using business concepts and strategies.

"The whole objective of SIFE is to bring together the leaders of today and tomorrow to create a better and more sustainable world through the positive powers of business," Cassaday said.

The organization has more than 4,000 chapters in more than 40 countries with an overall membership exceeding 50,000 people.

"I could talk about SIFE all day. The career networking aspect for students is unreal,"



LINDSAY FENDT | Photo Editor
Sarah Thomas, advisor, Kyle Cassaday, Vice President, Chris Welch, president, Hope Williams, SIFE project leader.

Thomas said. "And employers want to hire SIFE students. They're changing communities and they're changing lives."

Thomas began working toward creating a SIFE team at Elon after Dean Mary Gowan brought the idea to her in August.

SIFE currently recognizes Elon's team as an official chapter, but it will not become active until it has completed at least one service project.

As president and vice president, respectively, Welch and Cassaday both jumped at the opportunity to develop Elon's new organization, already scheduling a project in Mexico during Winter Term.

The two sophomores will travel to Tinum, a small Mexican village that specializes in making honey.

"Tinum makes honey, sells it to German exporters for very, very low prices, and then German exporters sell it in Germany for substantially higher than they bought it for," Cassaday said. "So what we're going to do is help them brand their honey so that we can sell it in the United States for a fair market price."

While in Tinum, Welch and Cassaday will be doing research, conducting interviews and collecting as much information as they can. This is what Thomas describes as "Phase 1" of the project.

"The trip is not to figure out the problem in three weeks," Thomas said. "This trip is really for them to develop a business plan."

Welch emphasized that this opportunity is one to seize.

"It's a unique opportunity that you don't get with any other organization on campus," Welch said. "It's a chance to help out the people of Tinum and at the same time I can expand my knowledge of developing a business."

Welch and Cassaday predict that once Tinum's honey company begins selling their newly branded product in the United States for considerably more than for what they were selling to the Germans, Tinum's quality of life will increase.

"What I love most about SIFE is the opportunity to take what I've learned in class and use it to better people's lives," Welch said.

Welch first learned about the service opportunity in Tinum when he went on the business fellows' trip to Mexico last Winter Term, during which he was introduced to Don Raul, the owner of the honey company.

When Cassaday and Welch go to Tinum in January, they will meet with Raul so that he can walk them through production and shipping processes in order to better prepare them for the branding project.

Part of what Elon's SIFE chapter is doing is reaching out internationally, much like what it is doing with the Tinum project. But the chapter has local service projects that it is planning as well.

An upcoming SIFE project is called "Campbell's: Let's Can Hunger," which is a pledge for 5,000 pounds of food.

"The purpose of 'Let's Can Hunger' is raising hunger awareness, empowering people to spread the word as well, and actually gathering the food to help the cause," Thomas said.

According to Thomas, a SIFE project has to address social change, economic change or

environmental change, or any combination of the three.

Aside from business majors, SIFE is also looking to recruit students majoring in all fields, especially those majoring in sustainability and biology in an attempt to set up some environmentally conscious SIFE projects.

"You don't have to be a business student. It is taking what you're learning in the classroom and using it to help people," Thomas said. "Anyone is welcome to join."

But for the business majors, Cassaday explains that a project for SIFE could be "basically anything that you've learned in the Love School of Business that you can apply in the real world to better someone's life."

Along with the service aspect of SIFE, there is also a competitive element. Successful projects have the chance of winning regional, national and international awards.

"I love any type of philanthropy that I can possibly do," Cassaday said. "Any type of service I could possibly perform, I love it. Always. But then I found out it was an actual competition, and that just made SIFE even better."

So far, Elon's chapter has roughly 20 members. Welch says the goal is to have 40 "extremely dedicated" people. This will allow significant service projects to be carried out.

"This is something we can do at Elon and something that people could really relate to," Welch said. "This is an organization that can really make a difference."

Giving the underrepresented a voice: Student starts homeless newspaper in Greensboro

Marlena Chertock
Design Editor

The IRC in Greensboro offers services such as job training, case management, laundry, showers and support groups. Now the IRC has another opportunity for homeless individuals. The New Greensboro Voice, a homeless newspaper set up by Elon University junior Mary Yost, operates out of the IRC.

The shelter sees 40 or so homeless people a day. They come in and out, some stay for lunch and then have to leave because the Interactive Resource Center is a day shelter.

Gaining skills to form a homeless newspaper

Yost interned at Street Sense, a homeless newspaper in Washington, D.C., during the summer.

"While I was at Street Sense, I met with one of the founders, Ted Henson, and I just tried to get as much information as I could as to how he started Street Sense and how that could be replicated in another city," Yost said. "I got all that information before I left in August."

As an editorial intern, she wrote articles, updated the blog with breaking news stories, helped with layout and production and worked with the homeless who sold the newspaper.

"I learned a lot about layout because I didn't know how to use InDesign before I started," she said. "I laid out the first issue of The New Greensboro Voice. I also learned about patience from working with people and their writing."

From idea to print

In the middle of August, Yost spoke with director of the IRC, Liz Seymour, to discuss the idea of a street newspaper being founded in the day shelter.

Yost said Seymour told her to come back to the IRC during one of their Friday meetings with all of the guests at the shelter. She did and pitched the idea Sept. 17. During that meeting, a team of 10 or more rotating people was formed.

"A month and a half after that we got our first issue out," Yost said. "Thankfully (Seymour) set us a deadline and we got there."

The newspaper comes out monthly. The second edition came out Dec. 3 and the next will be out in the middle of January, Yost said.

There is a submission box in the IRC where people can put their poetry and art. They can also work more closely with Yost and the team to write articles.

"Since it's not printed on newspaper yet we started calling it a newsletter," Yost said. "It has that pamphlet kind of layout, so it doesn't match the description of a newspaper yet, but it will one day."

Having a voice

Elizabeth Chiseri-Strater was at the first meeting where Yost pitched the idea. Chiseri-Strater, a professor at UNC-Greensboro, is researching the IRC for a book about the shelter.

She called The New Greensboro Voice an alternative newspaper and a way for homeless individuals to have their voices heard.

Yost said she thinks the newspaper serves as a good outlet and resource for homeless individuals.

"The Street Sense office gets calls asking what happened to their vendor if they don't show up," Yost said. "They become like a friend, someone you see every day. It works in D.C. and I think it'll work in Greensboro. If people know their reporter's, their vendor's name, it might be a start to encourage dialogue."

In the first edition, reporters talked to politicians who were running for office, interviewed other homeless people in the IRC and people who run homeless or social service programs.

Shorty, a homeless individual, writes book reviews and distributes the paper to other homeless people, local churches, businesses and the Greensboro Public Library.

"I was involved in helping to distribute another homeless newspaper in Florida called The Emerald Coast Sun," he said. "I didn't write for it, but



PHOTO SUBMITTED
A group of homeless individuals, UNC Greensboro professor Elizabeth Chiseri-Strater and research assistant Lynne Buchanan meet in the IRC to discuss The New Greensboro Voice. The group offers services to the homeless, such as job training and case management.

made a small amount of money and contributed a few ideas. I liked the camaraderie and the organization and, of course, a few dollars in my pocket."

He said he's not good at interviews but likes to read and provide objective reviews of books. The hardest part is trying to stay within word limits and make deadlines, he said.

"Everyone has a story and eventually I plan to write urban and woodsman survival tips," he said. "Concrete is not comfortable to sleep on, but a piece of cardboard will insulate one from the powerful heat-sucking potential of manmade stone."

Shorty said he is involved in the paper to raise awareness for the homeless, nearly-homeless, poor and the general education of those interested in learning about poverty or volunteering to help others in need. He said he loves doing something that will help his brothers and sisters on the street.

"I'm new to this writing thing and am still getting my bearings," he said. "With everyone's help, I'll figure it out. This is what I think God put me here to do. Plus it keeps my mind active, as it is a challenge, and it helps me to stay out of trouble."

The newspaper's challenges

This is the first time many of

the homeless individuals have written for a newspaper, Yost said. To teach the reporters AP style and journalistic principles, Yost brought in her media writing handouts, detailing lede writing, story structure and more.

"(Chiseri-Strater) is a writing professor at UNCG," Yost said. "She has taken a forefront. I'm obviously still learning it, and she's a master."

When she edits stories, Yost said she looks for AP style errors and shows them to the reporters so they can be corrected next time.

Yost said the hardest part is encouraging homeless individuals to write.

"They're afraid to type on the computer or doubt they have talent," she said.

Yost said she hopes to start homeless individuals with smaller articles, interviewing other people in the shelter who are in the same position as them.

"Hopefully they'll build up to go interview their politician who represents them, to ask them about homelessness and poverty," she said. "We try to get them out there, and even if they don't want to, (Chiseri-Strater) will sit and call the person with them."

Yost said they're trying to build up homeless individuals' confidence to conduct interviews on their own.

"It took me a while to feel

confident with it," she said. "I can say I'm a student. I have that to fall back on. It's practicing the interview process, practicing asking each other questions."

The newspaper has not yet received word if they are allowed to sell on the street. The vendors in D.C. make money, and Yost said she would love it if people at the IRC could use this as a job.

Reactions from IRC guests and the community

Yost checks the newspaper's e-mail and said there are always e-mails from the community.

"(They) tell us they picked up a copy at the library, they say they're glad we're encouraging people at the IRC and other shelters to write," she said.

Shorty is the main newspaper distributor to the shelter.

"He's gotten a lot of interest from people and helped people start to submit art and poetry," Yost said.

In February, the IRC is moving closer to downtown Greensboro, right across from A&T University. Yost said with this move, she hopes some type of internship program can be established for the newspaper and A&T.

"I learned so much at Street Sense," she said. "Even if you just go to the IRC, you're still going to learn a lot. I think (the newspaper) could really take off with that kind of connection."

Tweeting correctly: 7 commandments of Twitter etiquette

Twitter was created for the purpose of staying connected with friends. It was not originally intended to be used much on the internet, thus the 140 character limit.

Twitter was mostly funded through venture capitalists who paid most of the \$50 million.

Twitter was founded in 2006, and for the first 3 years Twitter made a total of \$0 in revenues.

Twitter is expected to make \$1.54 billion by the end of 2013.

Twitter has over over 65 millions tweets everyday, averaging 750 tweets per second.

There are over 70,000 registered applications for Twitter created mostly by people who have no connection to Twitter.

The first tweet on Twitter was by Jack Dorsey, which said, "Just setting up my twttr" on March 21, 2006.

Source: <http://devilsworkshop.org/10-interesting-facts-about-twitter/>

SARAH BETH COSTELLO | Graphics Editor

Edith Veremu
Copy Editor

Twitter. You're on it. Your professor's on it. Even the person sitting next to you probably has a Twitter account. It is the fastest growing microblogging site and sometimes, people just need to know how to tweet correctly and effectively.

Here are seven rules to follow when tweeting in order not to bore your followers.

1. Thou shalt have a professional name

Whether you use Twitter for personal or professional reasons, you shouldn't have a username like "sparklesandglitter825" or "C4nDyBuBbLz." Twitter, like Facebook, connects you with people you know and those with similar interests. With a username like that, the only person who will follow you is Ke\$ha.

2. Thou shalt not overshare

Because Twitter is an open network, everyone online can see your tweets, unless you protect them. Whenever you tweet, all

eyes are on you. Don't tweet about the NSFW image your friend sent you or your bathroom habits.

The next time you have a terrible stomachache, think before you tweet. No one wants to know about the inner workings of your intestines. Save it for your doctor.

3. Thou shall provide links

If you tweet about a wonderful video or article you came across, provide links. No one likes being teased or feeling left out. So, be kind and share links, preferably with a shorter URL like bit.ly or ow.ly.

4. Thou shall always give credit or attribute tweets when re-tweeting

Re-tweeting without giving credit to the original tweet is plagiarism. If you find a clever tweet or opinion, you must re-tweet, or RT in the Twitterverse.

5. Thou shall stick to 140 characters or less

There's a reason why you are allocated 140 characters. That's

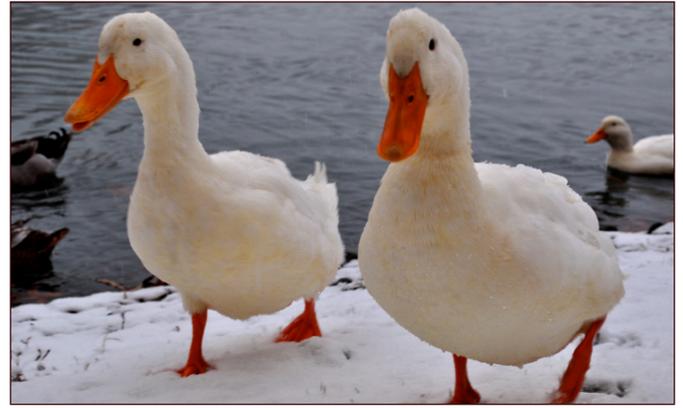
the amount of characters in one text message. If you can't stick to 140 characters or less when tweeting, then Twitter isn't for you. No one likes reading long tweets or super long text messages. Let's keep it that way.

6. Thou shalt not tweet in 1337 (leet or elite)

Seriously? Wri7In9 lik3 7HI2 WILL Driv3 P3OP13 cR42y. Leet is from the day of MySpace. If you can't write properly, it's time to get offline. No one likes having to decipher another person's tweets, especially tweets in leet. Save the 1337 for another venue.

7. Thou shalt not abuse hashtags

Hashtags are an easy way for users to organize themselves and their thoughts. The pound, or hash symbol, is placed before a word or phrase. Hashtags also indicate trending topics. It is acceptable to use hashtags that other users can relate to, such as #partylikeajournalist or #notok. But, don't include hashtags in every tweet or you will be ignored.



WINTER FESTIVITIES AT ELON



PHOTOS BY MERISSA BLITZ AND WILL ANDERSON

Snowmen and twinkling lights decorated Elon University's campus during the weekend. Starting off with the traditional Luminaries celebration and peaking with a light snowfall on Dec. 2, the last weekend before exams was a respite from studying and homework for most.

Luminaries featured caroling, cider, hot cocoa and Mr. and Mrs. Claus and the decoration of the main campus. The lights were turned on during the carol "Deck the Halls."

Students enjoyed the snow, playing and frolicking, building snowmen and having snowball fights all over campus. Though the snow wasn't enough to cancel classes, it made the campus look like a holiday spirit-filled greeting card.

The snow melted partially on Sunday, when the high reached around 40 degrees. By Monday, campus was almost back to normal.

Top 6 holiday gifts for college students in 2010

David Turkel
Reporter

1. Gift cards

According to gifts.com, gift cards continue to be one of the top-wanted gifts of college students. By this point, almost every store, retailer and restaurant sells gift cards, meaning that they're a viable gift option for any student, no matter what their interests. They're a personal gift while also being flexible; giving someone a gift card is an acknowledgment of their specific interests while also giving them the freedom to choose what exactly they want.

2. Optical mouse

For a relatively cheap and original gift, suite101 suggests an optical mouse for college students. With many students owning laptops, an optical mouse can be a nice alternative to the somewhat burdensome methods of moving the cursor provided on the laptop, such as trackpads and acupoints. They're also a nice bang for your buck; a top-quality optical mouse will often not cost more than \$25.

Still, it appears that an optical mouse may not be a universally well-accepted gift.

"I think an optical mouse is a horrible gift idea," said freshman Matt Dowdle. "I can move the cursor fine as it is. I would rather get something I would actually enjoy using."

3. Cell phone skins

Cell phones are often highly sought-after gifts during the holiday season, but why not, as suite101 suggests, purchase a less expensive and more personal gift that can still enhance the recipient's phone. A mobile phone skin is a protective covering for your phone, which can stop it from breaking if it's dropped, knocked off a desk and so on. These skins can also add personality to your phone; they come in a wide variety of styles and colors. To top it off, most cell phone skins can be purchased for under \$20.

4. Merchandise from a favorite TV show/movie

This type of gift can be practical; merchandise from a favorite TV show or movie can range from clothing to coffee mugs and all sorts of other items that are useful on an everyday basis. In addition, this type of gift is personal, and a great way for a college student to show off their favorite TV show or movie to the world. Freshman Ethan Glassman was very much in favor of receiving this kind of gift.

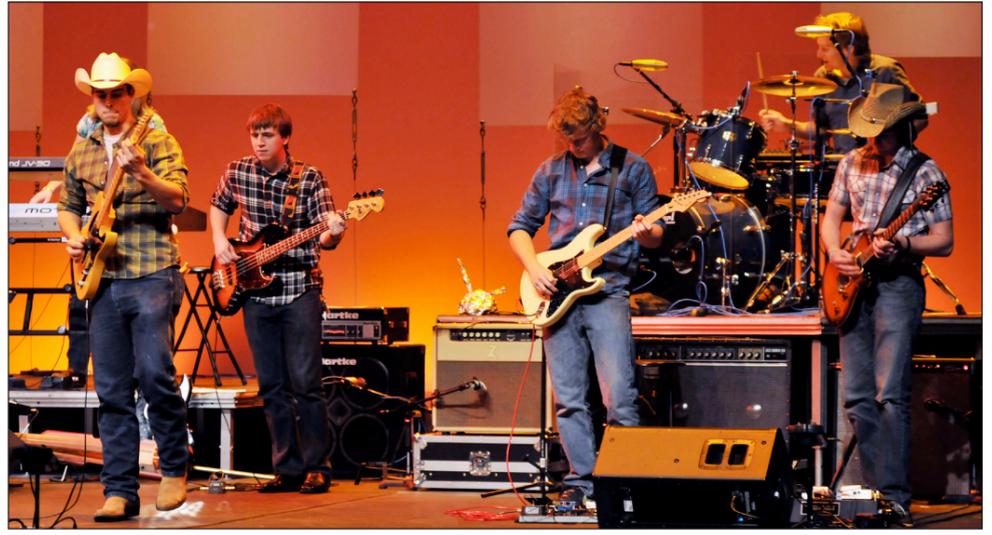
"It's original, and it would be a really cool thing to have," he said.

5. Reusable water bottles

College students are constantly on the go, and because of this, it can be difficult for some students to find the time to hydrate between classes and activities. According to suite101, most reusable water bottles are cheap, generally under \$15. They're also environmentally friendly, and can save students a lot of money on purchasing drinks. Glassman endorsed the reusable water bottle, saying that they're "really convenient. I can't remember even what I did before I had one."

6. Care packages & gift baskets

Care packages and gift baskets may not be a particularly "flashy" gift, and they may not be in demand as the latest smart phone or video game, but according to xmasgiftideas.org, they're inexpensive, personal and make a great overall gift. After all, it's easy to rush off to a store and buy something. Putting together a care package or gift basket takes a certain amount of time and effort on behalf of the giver that the recipient will surely appreciate. Both of these gifts often contain food, and what college student isn't constantly on the lookout for delicious sustenance?



Country music, electrified: Elon Electric Ensemble plays contemporary country concert

Kit Arbuckle
Reporter

Twelve Elon University students stepped onto the stage in McCrary Theatre dressed in flannel, denim, boots and cowboy hats.

Josh Carswell, a senior vocal performance major, sat on a stool with a microphone and opened the show with a haunting cover of "Jacob's Dream" by Allison Krauss as the lights first went out onstage, then in the audience, leaving Carswell alone in the spotlight. Senior Frank Hurd then came out and got the audience clapping to "Life is a Highway" by Rascal Flatts. E3, the Elon Electric Ensemble, had taken the stage.

E3's fall concert, "Get Your Country On," featured covers of country songs by a wide range of artists, from Garth Brooks to Johnny Cash to Patsy Cline. Carswell was joined by junior Laura Cella and sophomore Ivey Huey on vocals; Hurd and senior Jacob Danieley on vocals and guitar; freshmen Robert Burrell Gabriel Estes and sophomore Connor Stirland on guitar; sophomore Benjamin Soldate and director Professor Todd Coleman on bass; freshman Mac Greenan on violin; sophomore Kara Johnson on keyboards and senior Chris Lorch on drums. Professor Stephen Futrell and Tony Sawyer made special appearances on vocals and drums, respectively.

Huey brought an edginess and sass to Taylor Swift's "You Belong With Me." Laura Cella silenced the crowd with her cover of "Angel" by Sarah McLachlan. Jacob Danieley entertained with Brad Paisley's "American Saturday Night" and another song he dedicated

to Hurd, in honor of their last year playing together. Hurd, Cella, Carswell and Huey performed together for "I Run to You" by Lady Antebellum. The light-hearted, fun chemistry among the Electric Ensemble supplemented their music and made the experience enjoyable for the audience. They even performed an original song, "Country Girl in a Rock 'n Roll World," written by Hurd, Danieley, Coleman and Sawyer.

A lot of backstage work also enhanced the show. The lighting changed colors with the moods of the songs, and spotlights were used to great effect to highlight key performers. The set was simple, contemporary and versatile. The sound suffered a bit near the beginning, when the instrumentalists threatened to drown out the vocalists, but balance was restored for the rest of the show.

The Electric Ensemble's history is a short one. It was formed by professor Todd Coleman in fall 2008, according to the group's Facebook page. It performs two concerts per year. Coleman also announced during the concert that this fall's ensemble of 12 was the largest they'd had yet.

Membership is determined by audition and counts as a one credit hour ensemble class.

"Electric Ensemble is different than a lot of the other musical groups at Elon because I'd say it is the most contemporary," said Johnson, a sophomore. "We play a lot of newer rock, pop and country, mixed with some older tunes. Instead of focusing on only one genre of music, we pick a different genre to dive into each semester."



Top left: Senior Frank Hurd sang and played guitar for the Electric Ensemble. Top right: Several members of the Electric Ensemble played old-time and newer country music Dec. 4. The 12 students in the Ensemble take a class for credit and study contemporary music. Bottom: Senior Jacob Danieley was one of the band members who played lead guitar.

COREY GROOM | Staff Photographer

WSOE CD REVIEW



Cotton Jones - 'Tall Hours in the Glowstream'

Hunter Ertel
Reviewer

Somewhere between watching the twinkling Milky Way from high atop a mountain and enjoying walking slowly in a dewy meadow in the morning, lies the Glowstream.

As described by Cotton Jones (formerly The Cotton Jones Basket Ride) frontman Michael Nau, the Glowstream is the name of a perch above a Cumberland, Md. highway where one can watch the cars in the evening make their own radiant river.

Although there is a specific Glowstream that served as inspiration for this new album, the lyric Glowstream Cotton Jones brings us to in the album feels more like an ethereal dreamlike place, like that land we sometimes find hidden between laying awake in bed and being asleep.

We can see this Glowstream, not only in the unending lights of

cars travelling about, but in the all-consuming light we can see radiating from the world if we open our eyelids wide enough.

Many will claim this album to be a departure from Cotton Jones' previous work, the "Paranoid Cocoon" album and the "Rio Ranger EP" and in part they are right. Gone are The Doors-influenced funk-rock rifts and moaning electric organs, which Nau, along with his long-time musical collaborator and wife Whitney McGraw, traded in for a gentler, psychedelic dream-pop sound.

McGraw has also apparently temporarily retired her glockenspiel in favor of gentler, less sharp instruments, which flow more with the sound stream than jab about in it. In many ways, Nau is getting closer to the sound of his previous band, Page France, which disbanded in 2008 so he could fully focus on Cotton Jones.

Even the album art suggests the

beautiful simplicity of the previous project, rather than the psychedelic explosions of sound in earlier Cotton Jones albums.

Despite the aesthetic changes, the music and lyrics are still rooted in mountain-folkiness that emanates from all of Nau's work, and continues to shine brightly in this record. Although this album is different in sound than its predecessors, there are subtle underlying connections in the themes of finding contentedness in nature, enjoying the splendor in simply being alive and getting to partake in the world.

Nau says on the band's website: "We spent a lot of time on the bank of that stream — alone, together, gathered like a flock of birds, examining the next move. Many of the tunes on this record feel like Cumberland to me. When I'm there, it's all like a dream — all familiar sound and light, where the factories and birds sing the same song."



ALBUM ART COURTESY OF MUSICDIRECT.COM

Like the simple yet reassuring art that adorns its cover, this album invites us a place both surreal and familiar, where we can explore knowing we are safe and loved.

Fans will be able to see Cotton Jones opening for Crooked Fingers at the Local 506 in Chapel Hill on Dec. 8.

FRIENDS & FOOD & FUN at Hillel Hanukkah party

Sarah Beese
Reporter

The lights went out for blessings Friday evening on the eve of the Shabbat, the weekly Jewish day of rest. Except this night was different: Elon University Hillel put together a Hanukkah Party for all members of the Elon community. Oaks 212 was resonating with the sounds of dreidel tournaments, Pin the Candle on the Menorah, and many other activities for those in attendance.

Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights, celebrated by more than 300 million in the United States each year, is a tradition that takes its roots from ancient times. In 168 BCE, the Greeks seized the temple in Jerusalem, and Emperor Antiochus forced Jews to worship Greek gods. Resistance from a group known as the Maccabees began and the Temple was soon back under Jewish ownership after the rebellion was won.

Unfortunately, the temple was no longer spiritually pure, because of the worshipping of foreign gods in it. To remedy this, and to purify the Temple again, Jewish troops decided to burn ritual oil in the

Temple's menorah for eight days. Problems ensued when the troops discovered that there was only one day's worth of oil. They lit it anyway, and it surprisingly lasted for eight days and nights.

To celebrate and remember this miracle, Jews light a special menorah called the hanukkiyah for eight days every year. One candle per night is lit, until all the candles are lit on the eighth night. In recent years, Hanukkah has become more similar to Christmas, with children receiving a gift for each night of the celebration.

Though a Jewish holiday, everyone was invited to Hillel's Hanukkah party to celebrate the miracle of the oil burning for eight days. Friday's party had a more special meaning than most Hanukkah parties because it fell on Shabbat. As explained to those in attendance, the menorah had to be lit first, because to do it after Shabbat prayers would be considered work.

There are special rituals on Hanukkah, and different families have different traditions. Most families light the hanukkiyah, a special menorah for the eight days. Others play the game of

dreidel, which is a four-sided top with Hebrew letters on each side, with chocolate coins called gelt as prizes.

Freshman Tessa Jones recalled her family's Hanukkah celebrations.

"My sister and I would watch the 'Rugrats' Hanukkah," she said. "When we were younger we watched it to learn about Hanukkah in a fun way. As a family we would read books about Hanukkah and how it is special to everyone in different ways."

Another traditional part of Hanukkah is the food, and if Hillel's celebration was any indication, the food at this event was a delicious and important part of the holiday. Potato pancakes called latkes and jelly filled donuts known as sufganiyot are eaten to remember the oil that burned for those eight days. Many in attendance remarked that the latkes and food reminded them of home, and the celebrations they had with their families.

Jones agreed. "Going to the celebration last night made me remember all of the wonderful times I spend with my family during the holidays and now I get to celebrate with my new family at Elon," she said.



HEATHER CASSANO | Staff Photographer

ABOVE RIGHT: Elon students get food at the buffet at the Elon Hillel Hanukkah party. In the tradition of the holiday, Hillel served oily foods like potato latkes and donuts.

ABOVE LEFT: Professor Tom Mould and his son Jack Barnett-Mould celebrate when they get gimme! while playing dreidel at the Hanukkah party. Spinning gimme! on the dreidel means that they get all the gelt in the middle.

BOTTOM: Members of the Elon Hillel play dreidel for gelt. The dreidel has four Hebrew letters on it that represent how many chocolate coins a player can take or give back.

VersaEmerge takes the stage

Taylor Reneau
Multimedia Intern

Sierra Kusterbeck of alternative rock band VersaEmerge took her place center stage at The College Street Tap House at Elon University in front of students before they launch their holiday tour later this year.

Kusterbeck began the show Dec. 3 with VersaEmerge's new single "Fixed At Zero," which the band released a video for in July. The band played for about an hour before exiting the stage to meet the members of the audience. But who is VersaEmerge?

"Only the best band ever," said Robert Hicks, who traveled from East Carolina University. "Vultures forever."

Along with the music, the fans are a large part of the lives of VersaEmerge. They try to make themselves available as much as possible in order to connect with their supporters, which they call "The Versa Vultures."

"We just want to be there with them, for them,

because they're here for us," Kusterbeck said, "so I think it has to be vice versa, in a way."

VersaEmerge came to Tap House after being asked by Elon's SUBLive. Originally from Florida, the band played the show after finishing up a full United States tour on Nov. 22.

But the band did not always have the same lineup they do today. They started with a male vocalist named Spencer Pearson before Kusterbeck joined the band as lead vocalist three years ago. She has been the lead vocalist since then and is the only girl in the band.

"It's probably the best job in the world," said Kusterbeck, lead vocalist. "You get to hang out with a bunch of boys all day."

VersaEmerge has toured with bands such as Cobra Starship and Boys Like Girls in the fall of 2009. They have done two full runs of the popular summer music festival, the Vans Warped Tour. The tour gives unknown bands the chance to gain exposure.



"We didn't really know what to expect the first year we did the whole thing," said Blake Harnage, guitarist and backing vocalist, "but going into it the second year we kind of new more what to expect, but it was still crazy."

VersaEmerge released its first full-length album "Fixed At Zero" shortly before the 2010 Vans Warped Tour. It has been a large step in terms of publicity and marketing

for the band. The main influences behind the albums are bands such as Bjork, Radiohead and Muse.

"We just take little details from each one and incorporate it into our sound," Kusterbeck said.

VersaEmerge is scheduled to do a holiday tour in the U.S. before touring in the United Kingdom with pop-punk band We The Kings in early 2011.



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Above: Drummer Devin Ingelido performed with the alternative rock band VersaEmerge at College Street Tap House on Dec. 3. VersaEmerge has garnered a fan base through touring and word of mouth.

Right: Guitarist Blake Harnage performs with VersaEmerge. The band has switched lineups several times, but has recently released its first full-length CD and will be back on the road soon.

Vocal group explores Steely Dan through jazz, a cappella stylings

Cat Valero
Reporter

On Wednesday, Dec. 1, Elon University hosted a Steely Dan tribute concert showcasing the student group Elan, directed by Professor Stephen Futrell. Like in years past, Elan was proud to serenade the audience with many rock hits that were sure to boost people's energy and maybe encourage them to sing along.

Elan started back in the early 90s with Catherine McNeela, coordinator of Elon's music theatre program, guidance and leadership to create an ensemble of vocal performers and comradeship among its members. Eventually, Elan was given its official listing as a Music Department ensemble under Choral Activities.

Elan is Elon's vocal jazz, commercial pop and vocal ensemble that is offered as a class through the Music Department and requires an audition. Its unique style and musical selection is what makes it special and different from other choral groups. Just last year, the group performed

at the North Carolina Music Educators Association In-Service Conference in Winston-Salem and in the spring they performed an a cappella version of Pink Floyd "Dark Side of the Moon."

"Steely Dan has always been one of my favorite groups," said Futrell. Hired in 1999 as Elon University's Director of Choral Activities, Futrell has since directed the two ensembles, Elan and Camerata and has been an oversight director of choral activities programming and budget issues. Professor Futrell said his students are all very talented and enthusiastic about putting on great shows with great music.

In honor of such a talented and committed group like Elan, Professor Futrell has given the opportunity for all members to do a solo and "a chance for everyone to shine."

Rebekah Carmichael, a sophomore B.F.A. Acting major, is one of three returning members of Elan this semester who performed solos for a Steely Dan favorite "Black Friday" and an a cappella version

of "Good Lovin'" by The Young Rascals.

Her favorite songs of the night include "Black Friday" thanks to the band and "My Old School," because "everybody was connecting with it and having fun."

Carmichael said that performing is a chance to "play a side of myself that I don't typically get the chance to play." Carmichael describes the group as being very diverse, talented, friendly and supportive of one another. She said Elan is "meant to be for singers that are real," who manage to have fun in the process of hard work and it shows.

A full band ensemble accompanied the singers with a great group of musicians including lead guitarist and professor Chip Newton and senior Kaitlyn Fay on saxophone. Lighting and set by Rick Earl served as an added element to the show. The combination of the band, singers and lighting gave the illusion that audience members were watching a live Steely Dan concert. A trickle of raving reviews heard from several audience



TRACY RAETZ | Photographer

Songs from Steely Dan including "Black Friday" and other songs in the same genre were sung.

members coming out of McCrary Theatre was a stamp of approval and job well done for Elan's fall performance.

The group has already prepared music selections for their spring show, including an eclectic mix of a cappella numbers from the Swingle Singers to Bobby McFerrin to Yes, Peter Gabriel, the Eurhythmics and more. Professor Futrell made note at the fall performance that the show in the spring will be all a cappella.



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Elan is Elon University's audition-based vocal jazz ensemble.

VAGINA MONOLOGUES annual play celebrates femininity

Ashley Watkins
Reporter

A controversial name to some, the Vagina Monologues is a show consisting of a series of monologues about women. The monologues vary, but typically have one common theme: vaginas. The monologues feature all kinds of women talking about what makes them women.

The show will be directed by sophomore B.F.A. acting major Rebekah Carmichael. She graduated from Weaver Academy School for the performing and visual arts in Jamestown, N.C. where she studied drama. She chose to direct the show after having a discussion with fellow student, Elisabeth Maselli, who encouraged her to direct it this year.

"This will be a kind of premiere of my directing at Elon, unless first year showcase is included," Carmichael said. "I'm trying not to think of it like, 'This is a make it or break it for you as a director at Elon.' I'd rather think of conveying the message that this show contains, which of course, can be different for everyone who sees it. I'm just trying to do my best here because that's all I can do and I can only hope that people like the work."

The target audience for the play is all women: black, white, short, tall, old, teenage, poor, rich, American, foreign — every single one.

"I was talking to a girl the other day about holding auditions and she said, 'Well I'm just not into that kind of subject,' and honestly I used to be like that too," Carmichael said. "Why would anyone want to talk about a part so private to them? Isn't that embarrassing? Or scandalous? Well, go figure, this play really answers those questions. I remember seeing it for the first time last year and thinking, 'wow, I am who I am, and I'm proud of that, and I'm not afraid to say vagina.'"

The monologues are also a good show for men to see. Carmichael stressed that men who do come to see the show should be open-minded.

"There are a lot of serious subjects that cannot be made fun of," Carmichael said. "But then there are a lot of comedies as well. Firstly, it's meant to build honest pride in women, and then create understanding in men."

This show is important as it marks a monumental chapter in playwriting history. It asks the questions, "Is this a dirty play that should be banned?" and "Is this an eye-opening play that everyone should see?" The monologues cover a lot of material, so essentially every woman in attendance will be able to relate to at least one of them, and men in attendance are sure to gain a better understanding of women in some aspect.

Auditions for the show were open to everyone and were held

on Nov. 29. Actors were chosen based on the passion they showed and their willingness to create a great show.

"We had some performing arts majors come out, but we also had women from other majors as well," Carmichael said. "The monologues were great, but my personal favorite part was asking each of them why they wanted to be in this show. All of them shared with me beautiful answers and I couldn't be more happy to cast them."

The show will take place on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 2011 in Yeager Recital Hall. The rehearsal process will consist of an individual rehearsal between the actor and director as well as group rehearsals and two line-throughs over Winter Term. Carmichael said her biggest challenge as a director is overthinking things.

"I've found that when I think of what I need to do before or during rehearsal, I mess up and confuse actors by letting my own fears get in the way," she said. "It's better for me to just let things go and let words and understanding happen. My job as a director is to be an audience member who gives feedback that the actors can understand."

What is nice about a monologue show is that each actor has the chance to work the monologue however they want to.

"This is their story to tell," Carmichael said. "I just want to help them tell it."

ONE ON ONE SPORTS

Baseball discussions heat up at the winter meetings

Conor O'Neill and Andy Harris
Sports Commentators

Yes, we know there's snow on the ground. But for die-hard baseball fans, the hot stove league is heating up. Major moves have already been made in baseball's first month of the offseason, so who has made the best and worst move?

Conor O'Neill:

The best move of the offseason thus far has to be the Boston Red Sox trade for Adrian Gonzalez. The first baseman for San Diego comes to Boston after averaging 34 home runs and more than 100 RBI in the past four seasons. Keep in mind that those numbers come with half of his games in a terrible hitters' park, with minimal protection in the batting order (Really? Chase Headley?). Sure, Boston gave up its best pitching prospect in Casey Kelly and three other prospects, but what they got is a great talent who will be there in Fenway Park to play first base for years to come.

Andy Harris:

While Boston's trade for Gonzalez was certainly terrific, I'll take this one in a different direction and highlight a trade that flew under the radar. The Toronto Blue Jays flipped starting pitcher Shaun Marcum to the Milwaukee Brewers for promising second base prospect

Brett Lawrie. I love the deal for both teams. Toronto was able to deal from a position of depth and received a potential stud in Lawrie. Milwaukee is already set at second base with Rickie Weeks, and they managed to bolster a rotation that ranked 28th in baseball with a 4.65 ERA without trading away Prince Fielder. Marcum posted a 3.64 ERA with a K/9 higher than seven and a BB/9 less than two in the American League East. Now, he gets to pitch in baseball's worst division, the NL Central. In other words, Shaun Marcum will be on every single one of my fantasy teams next year.

Conor:

Well, Andy, as one of your inferior competitors in fantasy baseball, I like that insight. Now for the worst move of the offseason. For this move, it is something that will hurt other teams as much as it hurt the team that made the move. It is the definition of a team overpaying for an overrated talent. By the way, I'm not talking about Jayson Werth. Rather, I'm talking about the Detroit Tigers signing reliever Joaquin Benoit to a three-year, \$16 million contract. Sure, he had a great 2010 season with a 1.34 ERA, but his career average before that? 4.79. Not only did the Tigers get robbed, but now every reliever on the market will ask for more money, and teams will be forced to give it to them.

Andy Harris:

I completely agree. The Benoit contract is indefensible. But I don't find it surprising, because bad GMs routinely pay far too much for free agent relievers. Francisco Rodriguez, anyone? As far as the worst contract of the offseason, the easy answer would be to say Derek Jeter. But with the resources the Yankees have, giving an old shortstop coming off his worst season to date three years and more than \$50 million won't hinder them in the least. The worst deal of the offseason was offered to one of Jeter's fellow shortstops — Troy Tulowitzki. I really don't want to bash Tulo, as he's quite clearly established himself as one of the 10 best players in baseball. But, it's impossible to argue that his 10-year \$119 million extension was a wise move by Rockies' GM Dan O'Dowd.

Tulowitzki was already under team control for another three seasons, and the deal carries him through his mid-30s. We have no idea how well he will age, or if he'll suffer a career-altering injury before the contract is half over. There's simply too much risk across too many years for a mid-market team like Colorado. I guess I gave the Rockies' management too much credit, because I assumed they would have learned their lesson with the Todd Helton and Mike Hampton contracts.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Former footballers make strides in professional careers

Three former Elon football players signed deals with professional Arena League Football teams.

Terrell Hudgins now has a contract with the Chicago Rush of the Area Football League, while Andre Campbell will be playing for the Columbus Lions of the Southern Indoor Football League.

David Harrison also signed a contract with a team in the Arena Football League. He will be suiting up for the Philadelphia Soul.

Also, seniors wide receiver Sean Jeffcoat and offensive lineman John Rubertone will try their luck with professional scouts by taking place in the first-ever Football Championship Subdivision Senior Scout Bowl for the South team.

Volleyball adds 3 to 2011 team

Elon volleyball head coach Mary Tendler signed three high school seniors for the upcoming season.

Kris Harris of Apex, N.C., and twins Chanelle and Danielle Smith of Fayetteville, Ga., will join the team in the 2011 season.

Baseball tickets now on sale

Season tickets for the upcoming Elon baseball season are now on sale from the Elon Athletics Ticket Office.

Tickets can be purchased for a full season or just a weekend. Individual game tickets will go on sale in mid-January.

ATHLETIC RESULTS

DEC. 1 – DEC. 6

Men's basketball
Dec. 1
Elon 65
Furman 80

Women's basketball
Dec. 5
Elon 61
Morgan State 69

Dec. 4
Wofford 75
Elon 69

In only meet of December, indoor track starts off season

Sam Calvert
Sports Editor

Since October, the Elon University track and field team has been preparing for this moment. On Dec. 4 in Lynchburg, Va., it happened.

The team started its indoor season at the Liberty Kick-off.

"It was the first meet of the season," head coach Mark Elliston said. "We've been practicing for two months, and I'll tell you, we really did show a lot of determination out there."

Freshman Bria Bell broke the first record of the season with her performance in the 200-meter dash. She finished in 25.9 seconds, breaking the previous mark of 26.14 seconds.

Bell also won the 400-meter dash, followed by junior Amy Salek, freshman Veronica Luedke, junior Lauren Wilmer and senior Sarah Skogen to take the top-5 spots in the race.

In the 4X400 meter relay, Bell, Luedke, Salek and Wilmer took the top spot with a time of 3 minutes and 56.9 seconds.

Senior Veronica Day also grabbed two titles, with wins in the long jump and the

triple jump.

"We've all been working really hard, and I think we all did really well," Bell said. "I'm just excited everyone had good times at the first meet."

This meet — the only one before winter break — is a good measure of where the team is in terms of competitiveness and readiness for the season, Bell said.

"Since we had the meet, now they know what they're up against," Elliston said. "They've had a chance to see other teams and what their competition is like. They know the kind of work they have to maintain in order to stay competitive."

This is important to know because the team has a month off during the holidays before practice begins for the rest of the season, Elliston said.

"It'll be up to them to keep up what they have accomplished over break," Elliston said. "They're going to have to work out on their own."

Working out during the break is going to be tough for the players, Bell said, but it will not be too bad, especially for her because there is an indoor track nearby.

This work is important because

when the team comes back from break, the track and field season will be in full swing.

On Jan. 22, the team will compete in the State Farm Games in Morgantown, W.Va. After that, there are five more meets before the Southern Conference Indoor Championships.

After break, women from the cross country team will also join the track and field competitions.

"We're hoping we continue what we've done the last two years and look to score more points than we did the year before," Elliston said. "Individually, everyone in their events wants to try and do better than they did last year, continue to improve, work hard and contribute to the team performance."

Most of that success comes down to practice and working hard in preparation for the meets, Elliston said.

"There's no substitute for hard work," Elliston said. "It's about getting it done in practice, making sure they're lifting and staying strong, and really being dedicated to learning more about what they are doing in their event. As each individual improves themselves, it improves the overall effort of the team."



AUDITIONS

At Elon University Sunday Jan. 16

Get a spectacular job in a live show at Busch Gardens

Dancers, Singers, Musicians, Stage Technicians, All Talents Welcome

Dancers will be taught a routine. All other talents bring a prepared 90 second audition. Stage technicians should bring a resume and 2 letters of recommendation. Stage Manager resumes will be accepted. Stage Manager interviews are conducted by phone, by appointment only. Email resumes to: BGWENTSM-TechResumes@buschgardens.com

Visit our website for helpful audition tips, pay rates, video, photos.

TalentSearchBGW.com

If you are under 18 you must have a parent or legal guardian with you to audition. Performers must be at least 18, and technicians must be at least 18 to begin work. Proof of age is required. Busch Gardens is an equal opportunity employer and supports a safe and drug-free workplace.

Auditions and Interviews held at:
Elon University
Sunday, January 16, 2011
303 N. Williamson Ave.
Center for the Arts
111 Studio C, 112 Studio B

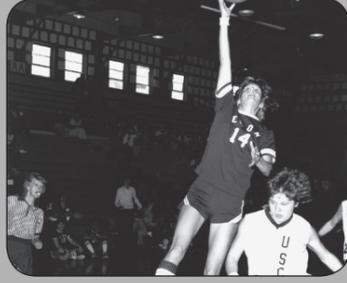
Dancer's Registration 5:30 pm
Dancer's Call 6:00 pm
All other talents 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm
Tech Interviews 9:30 pm to 11:00 pm

40 years *of Elon University women's basketball*

Compiled by Pam Richter and Sam Calvert
Executive Editors



In 1971-72, was the first season of women's basketball at Elon. The program started one year prior to the passage of Title IX. In its first season the team had a 5-11 record led by future hall of fame coach, Kay Yow.



In June of 1972, Title IX was passed, providing equal opportunity for men and women in collegiate athletics.



1974-1975 was the first year that Elon had an All-American with Susan Yow. Susan who played for her older sister Kay, helped lead the team to a 19-4 overall record and an AIAW championship.



Venessa Corbett hold the record for the most points scored in an Elon women's game with 43. This happened Jan. 26, 1980 against the University of Richmond.



After the 1991-1992 season, the Fighting Christians had two South Atlantic all-conference members in Laura Case and Jana Siler.



Brenda Paul was hired as the head coach at the start of the 1994-1995 season. She compiled a 172-225 overall record in her 14 season with the Phoenix.



The 1999-2000 season was the first in which the team competed at the Division I level.



On May 30, 2002, the Southern Conference voted to have Elon join the conference to replace the Virginia Military Institute.



On Feb. 11, 2008, the team lost to Western Carolina University after four overtimes in the longest game in Elon women's basketball history.



Karen Barefoot was hired in 2008 and has been the Phoenix head coach since. In two total season, she has a 17-45 record.



The team has two consecutive Southern Conference Freshman of the Year honors with Tiara Gause in 2009 and Ali Ford in 2010.



The start of the 2010-2011 season marked the first for the Phoenix in the newly renovated Alumni Gym. The inside of the gym was redone throughout the summer and part of the fall on 2010.



Sitting down with Matt Matheny

Conor O'Neill
Assistant Sports Editor

Phoenix basketball fans have gotten to know men's head coach Matt Matheny through his calm demeanor on the sidelines, as the coach has yet to draw a technical in 39 games for the Phoenix. Here is a closer look at how the Elon coach became the coach that he is today:

Q: Let's talk about your college basketball experience.

A: I was recruited to Davidson to play football. I walked on to the basketball team at the time for the coach at the time who was Bobby Hussey. Then coach (Bob) McKillop was there the next year, and he said he couldn't see me making the team after football season. So I didn't. In my third year I played football and in my fourth year around Christmas, the basketball office said to me that they'd like me to come back out. So I did that, and ended up playing that year. And then my fifth year in school, I played the whole year.

Q: Between the years off from basketball, did you play pick-up?

A: Yes, intramural basketball. Had a lot of fun with that because you can shoot every time and never be held accountable.

Q: Did you beat everybody?

A: I don't really remember intramural records. We won a lot. I remember playing against one of the assistant coaches in an intramural game, and I scored about 30 on him. I remember reminding him about it for years.

Q: So right after you finished playing, you became a coach?

A: I was graduating in May of 1993, and I got a job in Germany to play American football. I said (to coach McKillop) if you do have staff changes, would you consider me for what was then known as the part-time assistant. He said no, you're too young. I'm in Germany, he called me in July, and I don't remember exactly what he said, but he basically offered me the job.

Q: What was it like coaching players you had been on the team with?

A: It was awkward at times. My best friend on the team was in a situation where he was a senior, and I was a coach. He was a three-year starter, and during that year we decided to take him out of the starting lineup and start a sophomore above him. Here he is, my best friend on the team, and I'm sitting in these staff meetings listening to why we're going to make that change. But I learned a lot from it.

Q: Is there anything special you tend to do before a game?

A: After a pre-game meal here, I always like to go home immediately. I try to go home and from 4:00 to 5:00, I try to devote all that time to Brock, and now Eva, my kids. I feel like it's tough on them, that every third night in the season, there's a game. So I try to commit time to that.

Q: Does it also work to drain your energy?

A: (laughs) No, it doesn't wear me out. I think it relaxes me. We have, in a two day span,

you're just building and building as you prepare for an opponent. To take that time, and to completely get away from that build-up and to relax and focus on something that is the most important thing, my family, is good for me.

Q: How important is it for you to teach during games?

A: Because our program is in its infancy stages, we are coaching every possession. Not just me, it's our whole staff. And we have a great staff. I might be talking to Jack (Isenbarger), Tim Sweeney is talking to Scott Grable and I could go down the list.

Q: How important is it to tell yourself that it's Ok if the wins aren't coming and you're still teaching?

A: The only thing that I know is through experience. Experience says to me that if you work on a daily basis and focus on the task in front of you, and if you continue to improve in that process, then there will be rewards at some point.

Q: Beating Davidson in the Conference Tournament last year, six days after the heart breaking loss to the same team, how much of a positive was that experience?

A: I've never thought of it that way. For our guys, who had been through so much adversity, to be able to bounce back and five days later have a very similar game, it was almost identical for how the game evolved, and then to come out victorious, the good feeling that I have was that our guys were able to do that.



COREY GROOM | Staff Photographer
Elon men's basketball head coach Matt Matheny is in his second year leading the Phoenix. He came to Elon last season after working as an assistant coach at Davidson College.



Fall 2010 Senior Memories



Senior runner Matt Richardson

"What I'll take away from my four years on Elon cross country cannot be summed up with a single story, workout or race. It's not a moment, but a mentality ... Having the privilege to be in the presence of teammates like that has allowed me to spend my college career building a legacy I am proud of. Motivation like that is not something that you find often, but it is certainly something that I'll always take with me when I leave Elon, wherever I go."



Senior midfielder Brad Franks

"I don't know if I can summarize my four years in any way, but the best feeling was after winning the Southern Conference in 2008. Just to be around the team, being so successful that year, and seeing everybody celebrate was great. I've never seen (head coach) Darren Powell act that way."



Senior wide receiver Sean Jeffcoat

"I may have another game in me with a different team, but it's not the same. I've been around so many of these guys for four years. It's not going to be the same playing without those guys."



Senior middle blocker Sarah Schermerhorn

"It was so weird watching the other seniors play (at the Southern Conference tournament). It was strange knowing I was watching them play their last games in college. But when I got out there, I couldn't think about it. I had to push the thought out of my mind that this might be the last time I played with this team."



Senior midfielder Alanna Winsper

"So I've been on the team for four years, and I've played soccer for 18 years, so I'm really thankful that I was able to be a part of the women's soccer program. I got to see the whole turnaround of the program, which is so exciting because I'm excited to see where the program is going to go from here with all the new girls coming in. But I guess the most important thing to me is the friendships I've made. Soccer is finished and I'm sad it's ended, but these are some of the best friends I've ever had so that's the best thing about being on the team."

Women's basketball upperclassmen continue to work, despite adversity in previous seasons

Pam Richter
Editor-in-Chief

As she wakes up early for morning weights, pushes herself to do one last sprint, studies film diligently or takes the court for a game, there is a certain motivation that crosses the mind of an athlete.

Julie Taylor, a senior guard on the Elon women's basketball team, motivates herself by not doing anything halfway and laying it all on the line. But during her first three seasons with the Phoenix, the team compiled a 29-65 overall record, and with a record like this, it isn't always easy to continue to compete day in and day out.

"The hardest part about losing is not seeing results," Taylor said. "It hasn't been easy, having lost so many games."

After her freshman season, the women's basketball program went in a different direction, hiring current head coach Karen Barefoot. But in Barefoot's first season with the team in 2008-2009, the team finished with a 5-26 overall record.

"It can be very frustrating, but every game is a new game, and you can't dwell on past games," junior forward Erica Keto said.

During Barefoot's first season, the team lost 19-straight games at one point, before ultimately winning one

in the Southern Conference tournament at the end of the season.

"Looking back as freshmen, we were underdogs, and people thought we were an easy win," junior guard Tiara Gause said.

Seeing the success Taylor, Gause and Keto were all a part of during their high school and prep careers, playing for a team with a losing record has been different. Taylor led her team to its first state title in school history and led the team to the regional title in 2006. Gause was part of the 2006 AAU Championship team, and Keto won a WPIAL AA Title as a junior.

During her high school basketball career, Taylor led her team to its first state title in school history and to the regional title in 2006. But while she's been at Elon, the wins and losses haven't necessarily been the same as they were in high school.

"It's definitely frustrating," Taylor said. "In high school, I probably lost 15 to 20 games total. Definitely humbling and hard to swallow."

This season the Phoenix has started out 5-3 and has higher expectations surround the team.

"Early on there was not a lot of maturity on the team," Keto said.

After being in the program for a few years now, Taylor said she has seen something in this year's team that she

never saw before — an ability to respond to adversity.

The team traveled to Virginia Tech earlier this season Nov. 18 and played competitively with a tough ACC opponent, losing 73-66. A late 14-7 run over the final 2:51 led to an eventual Hokie lead.

"Biggest thing in order to get through adversity is you have to do it together as a team," Taylor said.

Gause agreed, saying the team has two mottos that help it motivated and also provides one another with a sense of accountability: "One heartbeat" and "Count on me."

For a team that has a lot of young talent, including last year's SoCon Freshman of the Year, Ali Ford, it is easier for the upperclassmen to see the progress the team is making.

As upperclassmen, Taylor said the biggest thing they provide is composure and passing this along to the younger players.

With a sense of accountability to one another and motivations within themselves as they try to motivate one another, Gause said the team has come a long way with opposing teams now taking the Phoenix seriously.

"We don't want vampires, people who suck negativity," Gause said. "You need to believe in yourself as well as others."



FILE PHOTO
Junior forward Erica Keto is part of the group of upperclassmen that have seen its share of struggles the past few seasons, compiling a 24-39 record since Keto and the other juniors joined the team two seasons ago.

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Sports



The top 10 moments of 2010 Elon Athletics

Compiled by Conor O'Neill and Jack Rodenfels
Executive Editors

Volleyball wins North Division title

Finishing the season with four straight wins, the women's volleyball team captured its first-ever SoCon North Division crown with a win over Appalachian State University. The Phoenix took its No. 1 North Division seed to the SoCon tournament, and although the Phoenix lost at the hands of the Georgia Southern University in the SoCon semifinals, it marked the team's first-ever regular season conference title.

Men's soccer players honored

Senior keeper Clint Irwin became the first Elon student-athlete to be named as a Lowe's Senior Class award finalist because of his performance on the field and in the classroom at Elon. Sophomore forward Chris Thomas was named the Southern Conference player of the year, scoring 10 goals, three of which were game-winners.

Success at Sea Trails

Both the men's and women's golf teams played host to a 22-team tournament at the Sea Trails Intercollegiate tournament at Sunset Beach, N.C. earlier this fall, and both teams walked away on top of the SoCon podium as winners of the tournament. Junior Tanner Norton led the men's team with a three-day score of 210, and earned the second overall spot in the tournament. For the women's team, senior Tara McFadden led the Phoenix with a one-under-par 215 after three rounds and captured an eight-stroke individual medalist victory.

Scott Riddle has big senior year

The senior quarterback completed his career holding all-time Southern Conference passing records for yards, touchdowns, completions and attempts. Riddle went out with a bang, throwing for a career-high five touchdowns on senior day at Rhodes Stadium.

Women's soccer wins its first SoCon tournament victory

In its seventh shutout victory of the season, the Phoenix women's soccer team recorded its first ever victory in the Southern Conference Tournament. The team finished with a 12-8-1 mark and 6-5 in the conference, which gives Elon the school's first back-to-back seasons with 12 victories and a winning record in the conference.

Football wins against Chattanooga

Entering with a 2-5 record and without a road victory in four games, the Phoenix beat the No. 20 University of Tennessee Chattanooga 49-35. The game was the first of a four-game winning streak to close the season, giving Elon four consecutive winning seasons for the first time since the 1980's.

Renovations at Alumni Gym

After construction throughout the summer and fall, Alumni Gym opened for play Oct. 22 when the volleyball team defeated The Citadel. Improvements to the gym included new seating, more efficient lighting, the addition of sound and video boards, updated coach and staff offices, locker facilities and a south entrance facing Haggard Avenue and courtyard.

Men's soccer sets the streak

It started in the first game of the Elon Classic, as the Phoenix was playing host to the University of Richmond. After a commanding 4-0 victory, the men's soccer team carried that success through the next month, as the Phoenix set an eight-game unbeaten streak during the regular season. The Phoenix went 29 days without losing a game, while winning four games and tying four during the streak.

Men's tennis plays host at Elon Fall Invitational

Junior Cody Stauffer-MacDowell led the Elon men's tennis team while hosting the Elon Fall Invitational. Stauffer-MacDowell earned a straight-set victory in the championship match of the B1 Singles Draw. Thirteen schools from the SEC, ACC and SoCon competed. Freshman Carlos Arboleda earned a 6-7, 6-4, 1-0 (12) win to claim the consolation championship.

Tendler wins Coach of Year in SoCon

Winning Elon's first-ever North Division crown was the credential for volleyball head coach Mary Tendler to win the Southern Conference Coach of the Year honor. The team finished with a 21-14 record in her eighth season at the helm for the Phoenix.

