

# THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2012 • VOLUME 38, EDITION 17

## WITH VOICES RAISED

Popular a cappella group prepares to release new album.

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## START YOUR ENGINES

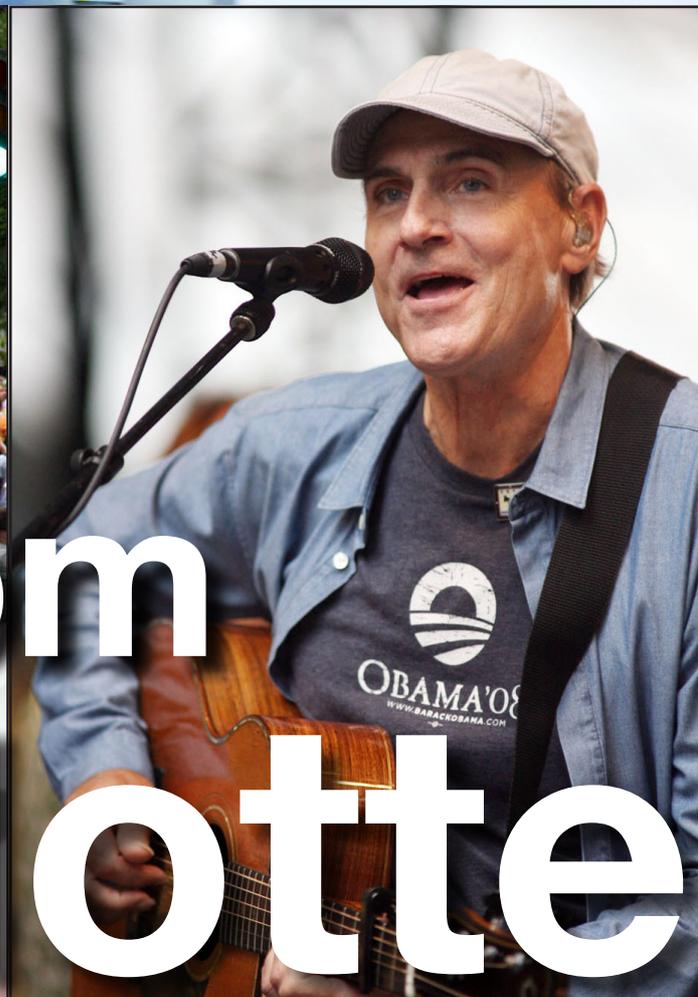
Car Club debuts as new campus organization.

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## SPORTSFEST

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# Live from Charlotte

Check [elonpendulum.com](http://elonpendulum.com) for daily coverage of the Democratic National Convention.

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## THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer  
Senior wide receiver Aaron Mellette is being scouted by the NFL.



FILE PHOTO  
The Multi-faith Center is scheduled to be completed in early 2013.

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**Front page: Convention activities commenced with the release of Elon Poll results, which provided insight into registered North Carolina voters' views of issues pertaining to the national election.**

**Photos by Claire Esparros, photo editor, and Al Drago, staff photographer.**



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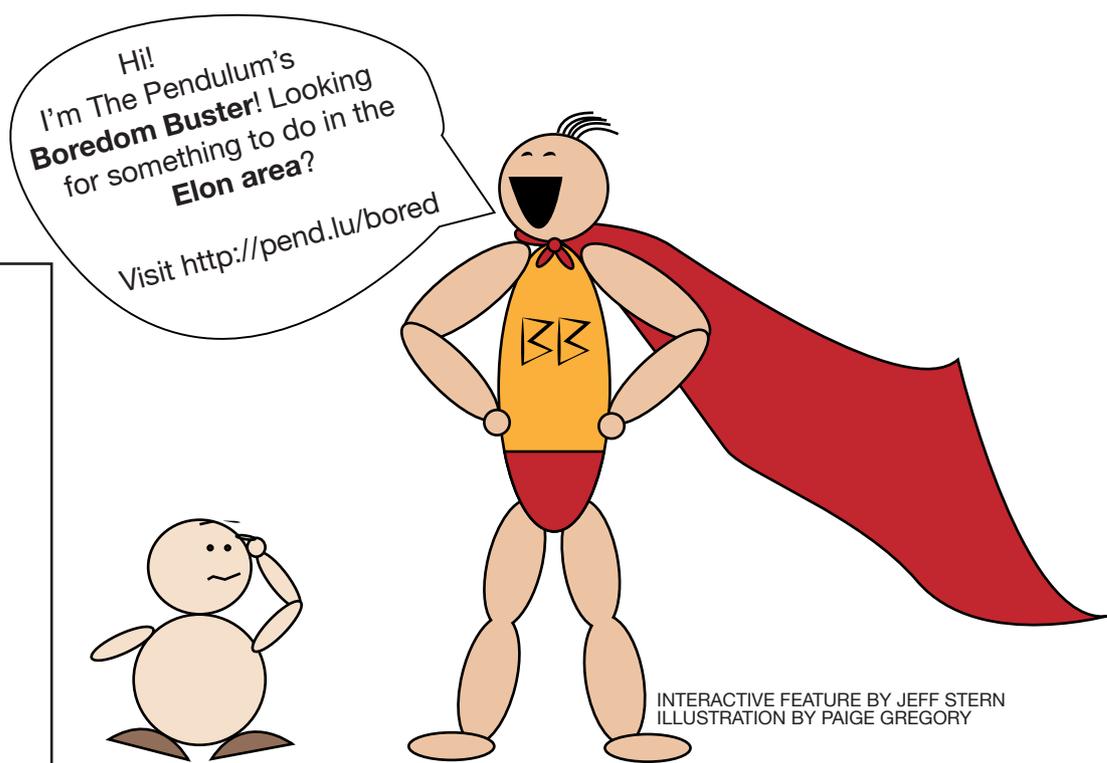
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# Sept. 5 - Sept. 18

<b>Wed., Sept. 5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avid Media Composer Workshop, 7 p.m. in McEwen 205</li> </ul>	<b>Thurs., Sept. 6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Truitt Center Progressive Open House, beginning in Kivette 11; Time not yet announced.</li> </ul>	<b>Fri., Sept. 7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall Organization Fair 4 - 6 p.m. on Young Commons.</li> </ul>	<b>Sat., Sept. 8</b> No scheduled events	<b>Sun., Sept. 9</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening ceremonies for the Center for Leadership, 2 p.m. in McKinnon Hall</li> </ul>
<b>Mon., Sept 10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charlie Cook, "A Look Ahead to the 2012 Election," 7:30 p.m. in Whitley Auditorium</li> </ul>	<b>Tues., Sept. 11</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College Coffee, 9:40 a.m. at Scott Plaza in front of Alamance</li> </ul>	<b>Wed., Sept. 12</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert Deacon, "Enhancing the Wealth of Our Oceans," 7:30 p.m. in McCrary Theatre</li> </ul>	<b>Thurs., Sept. 13</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call to Honor Ceremony, 9:40 a.m. in Academic Village</li> </ul>	<b>Fri., Sept. 14</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rising to the Challenge of Stereotype Threat, 2:15 p.m. in Whitley Auditorium</li> </ul>
<b>Sat., Sept. 15</b> No scheduled events	<b>Sun., Sept. 16</b> No scheduled events	<b>Mon., Sept. 17</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boeing career information session, 5 p.m. in Moseley Center</li> </ul>	<b>Tues., Sept. 18</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College Coffee</li> <li>• The Tartan Terrors, 7:30 p.m. in McCrary Theatre</li> </ul>	<b>For the full calendar, visit The Pendulum online at <a href="http://www.elonpendulum.com">www.elonpendulum.com</a>.</b>



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## Q&A Darien Flowers

*Student Government Association Executive President Darien Flowers explains his vision for SGA this semester.*



DARIEN FLOWERS

In preparation for convocation, I reflected on what my experiences have been over the last three years of my life. I looked at things that worked well and others that didn't go precisely as planned, but every experience is a learning opportunity and I thought to share a collection of those experiences would be of value to our new students.

*Will SGA involve itself in the politics of the upcoming election? If so, in what ways?*

Yes. The SGA is encouraging all students to be engaged members of the community by exercising their right to vote. We will be supporting an ongoing partnership between the university and TurboVote, an organization that advocates participation in the electoral process among college students. I invite any and

*You recently gave a speech at convocation. How did you decide the most important things to tell the incoming class?*

In preparation for convocation, I reflected

all students to come speak at any of our weekly senate meetings and express their opinions on how they would like to see SGA be advocates for them throughout the election season.

*Are there any definite goals SGA will aim to accomplish this semester?*

One goal that we have already set for ourselves, and I am excited to announce has been accomplished, is we wanted to encourage enough first-year students to run for SGA position that there would not be a need to appoint individuals to the senate. I am pleased that we have 30 first-year students running for positions. Also we are in the process of transitioning to an electronic voting system. This will greatly modernize the Senate as well as dramatically increase the ease and accessibility of records in SGA.

*How will you define your last semester with SGA?*

I want to define my last semester on SGA as one of fervent and diligent service to my fellow students. I hope that when the end of my term comes, I can have helped as many students as possible make the most out of their Elon experiences.

*Compiled by Katherine Blunt, News Editor*

## Elon community celebrates resource room opening



The resource room in Powell House has been designated for education about Elon University's LGBTQ population, but the open-house attracted individuals representing various facets of campus life.

"At a lot of events you get mostly students or mostly staff, and the fact that we had someone from literally every constituency shows how our space and group are supported," said Kirstin Ringelberg, LGBTQ office coordinator and associate professor of art history.

Students involved in Spectrum, faculty, alumni and members of the administration attended the event that signaled the university's recognition of its queer community.

Those who attended the open house gathered Aug. 31 for refreshments and conversation. T-shirts designed to show affiliation with or support for the LGBTQ population were distributed.

"I came over here to support the effort because, as my shirt says, I am a vocal ally," said Jan Fuller, university chaplain, wearing one of the shirts.

Fuller said she hopes to show not all religious people think negatively of queer individuals and initiate conversations about how religion functions in individuals' lives.

*For more coverage and photos of the opening, visit our website, [www.elonpendulum.com](http://www.elonpendulum.com)*

## N.C. Supreme Court agrees to review public records law case brought forth by Elon alumnus

Katherine Blunt  
News Editor

The North Carolina Supreme Court agreed Aug. 31 to review a state Court of Appeals ruling that the North Carolina Public Records Law is not applicable to state-commissioned police departments of private universities within the state. Briefs will be filed sometime in September, and a hearing may be subsequently scheduled.

The June 5 appellate court ruling both upholds and extends a decision of the Durham County Superior Court to dismiss a complaint filed April 2011 by former Elon University student Nick Ochsner, member of the Class of 2011. The complaint alleged the Elon Campus Safety and Police Department "violated the North Carolina Public Records Law by refusing to provide to (Ochsner) the documents related to (a fellow student's) arrest," according to the court ruling.

Upon examination of the North Carolina Public Records Act, which applies to all public law enforcement agencies within the state, the Court of

Appeals determined the Elon campus police department is not subject to public records law because the statute does not explicitly list campus police departments among the organizations qualifying as public law enforcement agencies.

In adamant opposition to the ruling, Ochsner petitioned the North Carolina Supreme Court to take the case on discretionary review. He filed his appeal July 10, citing a recent Supreme Court ruling on a case involving the campus police department of Davidson College. The court ruled that while the private college holds the right to oversee some aspects of the campus police department, the department is ultimately held accountable to the state and its laws. The petition argues this ruling is contradictory to that of the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

Ochsner said he is encouraged by the court's acceptance of his case.

"I think it's a good first sign that they granted review, that's an extremely tall hurdle to jump over," he said. "I hope they will look at it favorably but the one thing I've learned from all of this is you

can never count on the legal system to do one thing or another."

The battle began March 2010, when Ochsner, then a Phoenix14 News reporter, requested a complete incident report on the arrest of Stephen Connors, a freshman at Elon at the time.

"The campus police handled the arrest, even though it was made off-campus," Ochsner said. "I wanted to get the narrative because it showed that the student ran from the police and was tackled to the ground. If you look at public records law, police must disclose circumstances surrounding arrests, and I felt that the foot chase warranted the need to make the narrative public record."

But the campus police department released only the arrest report and the first page of the incident report. Ochsner then wrote to Chuck Gantos, director of Campus Safety and Police, to request the full incident report, in which he listed the report's qualifications as a public record under North Carolina law.

His request was not granted, but Ochsner stood his ground. With a grant from the Society of Professional Jour-

nalists, he filed a lawsuit at the trial court level, but the court determined "Elon University did not violate the North Carolina Public Records Act by producing to Plaintiff only the subject arrest report and first page of the investigation/incident report," according to the court ruling, and the complaint was dismissed.

Ochsner appealed, and the case took a new turn.

"We sent our briefs to the Court of Appeals, and Elon responded and got the help of four special interest groups to file an amicus brief arguing that Elon's campus police department was not subject to public records law," Ochsner said.

The question then became not whether the Elon campus police department was in compliance with North Carolina Public Records Law, but rather "whether Defendant Elon University, a private university, is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Act," Judge Cressie Thigpen wrote in the court ruling.

Because the wording of the Public Records Act does not clearly define

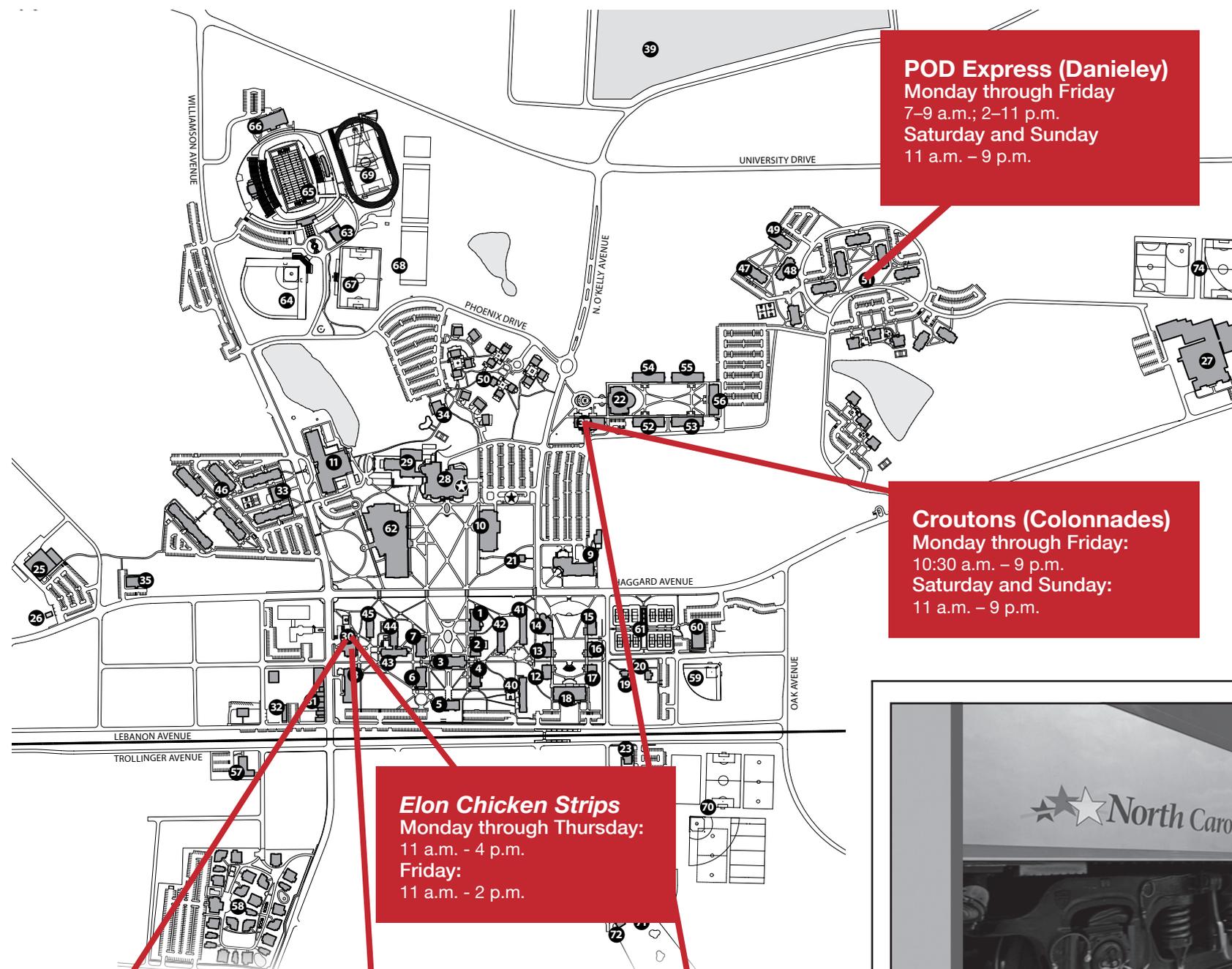
campus police departments as public law enforcement agencies subject to public records law, the court ruled in favor of Elon University.

"We believe if the legislature had intended for campus police departments to be subject to the Public Records Act, it could have listed campus police departments as public law enforcement agencies," Thigpen wrote.

Elon administration felt the ruling was just.

"Elon University is pleased that the North Carolina Court of Appeals has upheld the decision of the trial court, and affirmed that the university followed the law in release of campus police investigation information to Nick Ochsner," said Dan Anderson, vice president of University Communications, in a statement on behalf of the university. "Even though Elon's campus police is not an entity covered under the state public records act, the university has consistently shared campus police investigation report information as it understands public law enforcement agencies do. Elon did in this case as well."

# Dining facilities experience schedule change during construction period



**POD Express (Danieley)**  
 Monday through Friday  
 7-9 a.m.; 2-11 p.m.  
 Saturday and Sunday  
 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**Croutons (Colonnades)**  
 Monday through Friday:  
 10:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
 Saturday and Sunday:  
 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**Elon Chicken Strips**  
 Monday through Thursday:  
 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Friday:  
 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**McGo (McEwen Dining)**  
 Monday through Thursday:  
 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 4 - 7 p.m.  
 Friday:  
 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**McEwen Dining Hall**  
 Monday through Wednesday:  
 Breakfast: 7 - 10 a.m.  
 Lunch: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 Dinner: 4:30 - 9 p.m.  
**Thursday & Friday:**  
 Breakfast: 7 - 10 a.m.  
 Lunch: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 Dinner: 4:30 - 9 p.m.  
 Late Night: 11 p.m. - 3 a.m.  
**Saturday:**  
 Brunch: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 Late Night: 11 p.m. - 3 a.m.  
**Sunday:**  
 Brunch: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 Dinner: 4 - 8 p.m.

**Colonnades Dining Hall**  
 Monday through Friday:  
 Breakfast: 7 - 11 a.m.  
 Lunch: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Dinner: 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
**Saturday:**  
 Brunch: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 Dinner: 4 - 8 p.m.  
**Sunday:**  
 Brunch: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 Dinner: 4 - 8 p.m.

As a result of the demolition of Harden Dining Hall, formerly located in North Area, some changes have been made to accommodate students' dining needs during the fall semester. Until the completion of a new Octagon, Lakeside Dining Hall, which will be attached to Moseley Center, Colonnades Dining Hall will be temporarily expanded, according to Kate Nelson, marketing manager for Elon Dining Services.

"1889 has been converted into part of Colonnades Dining Hall for this semester only," Nelson said. "This was done to accommodate additional patrons."

Once Lakeside is operational in the spring, the restaurant will return to its full service capacity, she said. Nelson also spoke of two other alterations to dining facilities.

McGo, located in downstairs McEwen, will be the sole location for the reusable to-go containers. The Danieley Deli will be converted into one of ARAMARK Food Service's Provisions on Demand markets, which offers pre-made sandwiches and easily transportable food items.

*Information compiled by Ben Donohue, senior reporter*

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# The Pendulum covers the

## Elon Poll shows Romney winning battle for N.C. votes

Katherine Blunt  
News Editor

CHARLOTTE N.C. — The Democratic National Convention kicked off Sept. 3, and the latest Elon University Poll suggests President Obama will have to put up a strong front to secure a definite victory in this battleground state. With 43 percent of registered voters surveyed responding in favor of Obama and 47 percent in favor of former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, it seems, at this point, the Republican nominee is likely to win more supporters and collect the state's 15 electoral votes.

A panel of six political analysts and writers convened Monday at The Charlotte Observer to discuss the poll results and add their insight into the issues at hand. David Gergen, CNN political analyst and director of the Center for Public Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School, and Charlie Cook, editor of Cook Political Report and a National Journal columnist, were among the panelists.

The Elon Poll is a non-partisan, live-interview survey of North Carolina residents. This study, conducted in partnership with The Charlotte Observer and the Raleigh News & Observer, is the first Elon Poll to ask registered and likely voters for whom they would vote if the presidential election were occurring now. The polling team conducted interviews Aug. 25-30 using a randomized list of

active landline and cell phone numbers in the state. The poll collected responses from 1,257 registered voters, but the results reflect the responses of 1,089 individuals who were identified as likely voters. The results have a 3 percent margin of error.

The study is an in-depth look at voter preference in North Carolina. It examines residents' perception of both the candidates and the most important issues this election. Although Romney was found to be the overall favorite, the results vary when broken down into categories such as party affiliation, ideology, age, gender, education level and race.

### The nature of the battleground state

Although the poll shows Romney leading the race by four percentage points, Rob Christensen, chief political writer for the Raleigh News & Observer, said he believed the two candidates to be nearly tied with only a small margin of undecided voters to sway.

"Over the summer, we have seen something like \$50 million spent in the state by the two campaigns, and they really have not been able to move the needle," he said. "This is one poll that has shown a little larger Romney lead, but most of the polls have shown Obama up by a margin of error or Romney up by a margin of error. I think once we see two or three polls over the next few weeks, we can judge if

there's really any movement in this race."

Despite Romney's slight edge, Cook said he thought Obama's significant share of supporters illustrated the transition of the southern state, historically a Republican stronghold before 2008, to a mid-Atlantic swing state.

"The states in the South that are changing are the states with a lot of out-of-state people moving in," he said. "It's changing the nature of the state. (There are) non-native North Carolinian white voters moving down, and a lot of them are not from the South, so they just vote differently."

But North Carolina's inherent political leaning will still make it difficult for Obama to ultimately win it over, Gergen said, suggesting the poll is indeed indicative of the race's final outcome.

"Even though the state is in transition, it is more conservative than most states outside the South, and certainly among the mid-Atlantic states," he said. "If you ask people to identify not by party, but by whether they're liberal or moderate or conservative, the break is 21 percent variations of liberal, 22 percent moderate, and 49 percent variations of conservative. That is a tough environment for President Obama. That's not to say he can't win it. It is to say this convention becomes even more important for him."

### Romney and the economy

All panelists agreed the economy could be the defining issue of the election, which comes on the heels of the most severe recession since the Great Depression. In that regard, North Carolina voters consistently perceive Romney as more financially and economically trustworthy than his opponent. Forty-eight percent of likely voters identified the economy and jobs as the most important issues this election, and 55 percent of those respondents stated Romney as their presidential pick. Similarly, of the 13 percent of voters primarily concerned with the federal budget deficit, 77 percent would cast their

ballot for Romney.

Anita Kumar, White House correspondent for McClatchy newspapers, said this perception, coupled with the high unemployment rate in North Carolina, plays a role in Romney's apparent lead.

"People are looking for a change," she said. "I think not enough things have changed (during Obama's term) and (North Carolina voters) think Gov. Romney can do a better job with the economy. I think most of the other polls are starting to show this state leans Republican."

Obama has not clearly outlined a strategy to improve the economy during the next four years, Cook said, further bolstering Romney's argument for change.

"Why will the next four years be better than the last four years?" he asked. "That's a tricky question for the Obama campaign to answer."

### Votes by demographic

In 2008, Obama won North Carolina over John McCain by an extremely tight margin, and exit polls showed an unusually high turnout of black voters, who made up 23 percent of the vote. Although the poll again shows high levels of support for Obama among black voters, Taylor Batten, editorial page editor for the Charlotte Observer, said Obama cannot necessarily count on that level of turnout again.

"There was a lot of attention paid to black and white voter turnout and how that was key to Obama's victory in 2008, but when you dig into the results, the white vote has more of an effect (percentage-wise)," he said.

And Romney seems to have relatively strong support from white voters, with 59 percent choosing Romney as their preferred candidate. Although Obama is supported by 89 percent of the black voters surveyed, they make up only 13 percent of the sample.

Obama's victory in 2008 was also secured in part by the votes of adults under 30, and although he remains more popular with that age group than Romney, the group's excitement about the election is significantly lower than that of older age groups.

Jason Husser, assistant director of the Elon Poll, noted this lagging enthusiasm might prevent young people from turning their opinions into votes.

"One of the most important issues in determining electoral turnout is

excitement," he said.

On the other hand, most adults over 30 expressed both support for Obama and excitement about the election. If Husser's assertion about voter turnout holds true, these age groups will have higher turnout rates at the polls than the 18-30 group.

"I think when you look at young voters, it's going to be difficult to replicate last time," said Kumar. "They aren't swept up in the same enthusiasm of the 2008 election. This is a state that's on the cusp."

### Foreign policy

Although the economy seems to be the most prominent issue determining this year's election, foreign policy is an important part of every presidential candidate's campaign. In this respect, Romney is trailing Obama in the popular vote. Forty-seven percent of voters said Obama would do a better job than Romney in handling foreign relations, while only 41 percent of voters thought Romney would do better.

Gergen said the percentages reflect the nation's overall satisfaction with Obama's foreign policy so far.

"A lot of Democrats and even a lot of Republicans found Obama did a better job (in handling foreign relations) than they expected him to," he said, referring to the widespread approval of Obama's counterinsurgency movement that killed Osama bin Laden, as well as his efforts to withdraw American troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Despite Obama's successes in those areas, Gergen acknowledged foreign policy is not the primary concern of many voters. But the perpetual unrest in Syria, the growing tension between Israel and Iran and the economic weaknesses of the Eurozone could ultimately influence this year's election, he said.

"Here's the one big question: we don't know what's going to happen in the Middle East between now and the election," he said. "If Israel launches an attack against Iran, all bets are off."

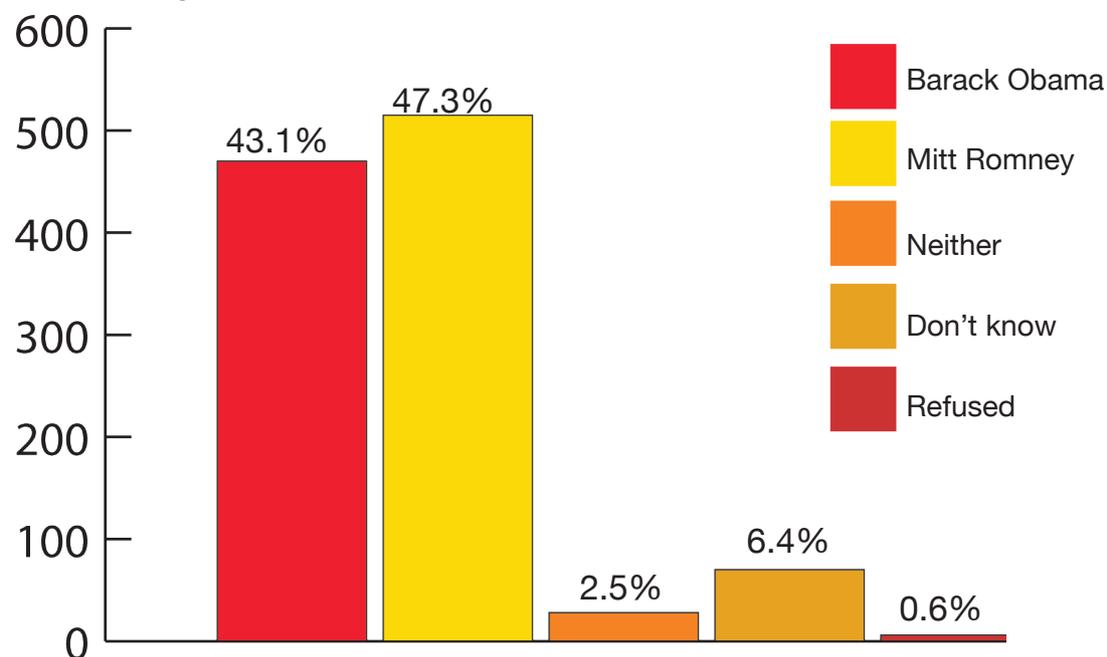
The Obama campaign will intensify this week as the president prepares to address the nation Sept. 6. Whether he can gather the support he needs to win North Carolina is unclear, but each candidate has just over five weeks to convince voters he is the man for the job.



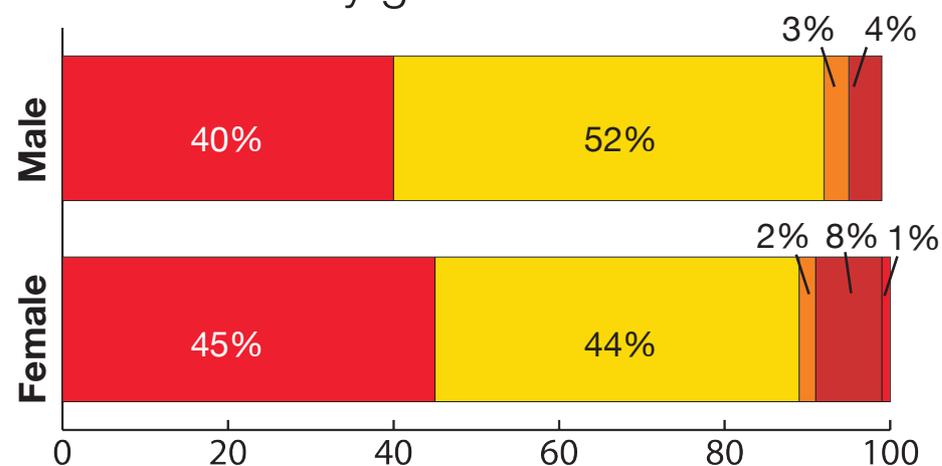
Charlie Cook, a panelist at The Charlotte Observer news conference, provides insight into poll results. CLAIRE ESPARROS | Photo Editor

# Elon Poll Results

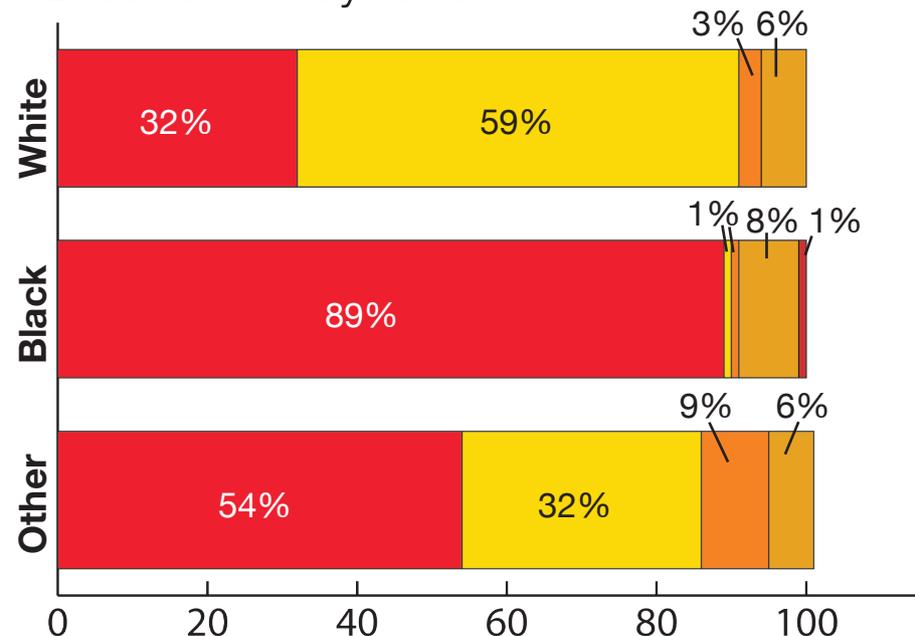
If the election was tomorrow, who would you vote for?



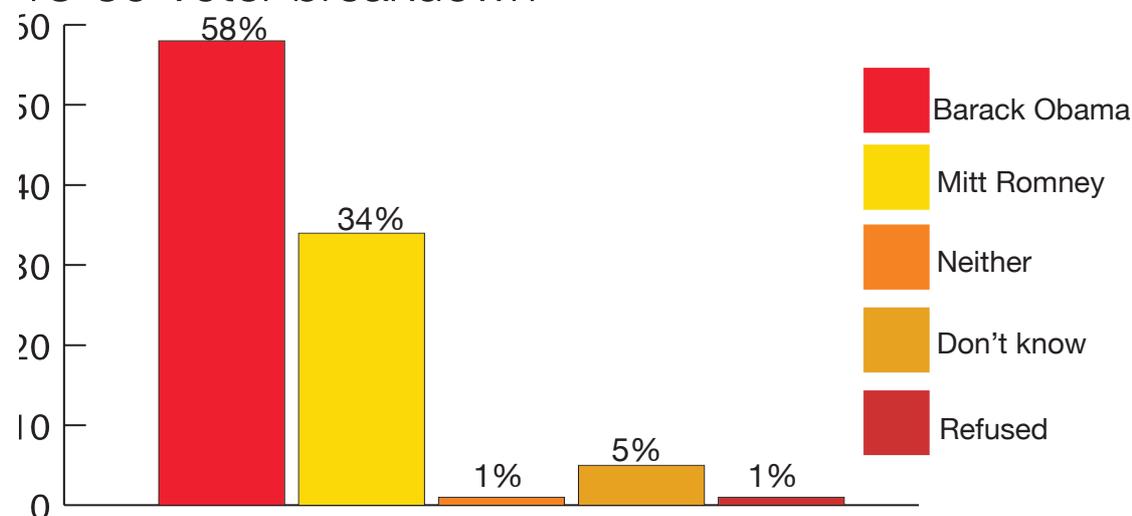
Breakdown by gender



Breakdown by race



18-30 Voter breakdown



## Before the release: Elon Poll strives to collect accurate data about N.C. voter preference

Melissa Kansky  
News Editor

The most recent Elon University Poll communicates the significance of North Carolina voter opinions in relation to the upcoming national election. The poll, which began Aug. 25 and concluded Aug. 30, questioned registered voters in North Carolina about issues in the presidential campaign relevant to their state, specifically.

"States and opinions within the state are very important," said Jason Husser, assistant professor of political science and assistant director of the Elon Poll. "Issues come up at state level."

North Carolina's characterization

as a swing state elevates the importance of understanding the interests of the state's voting population.

"Because it's election year, North Carolina is a hot spot for political elections," said Kenneth Fernandez, director of the Elon Poll.

Husser named North Carolina as the third most important state to win in this election, after Florida and Ohio. Their size and unreliable position have provoked the candidates to invest time and money in these dynamic states, he said.

"If you look at the map of the 2012 election as is, Barack Obama tends to have more states that are already leaning in his favor," Husser said. "In order for Romney to win, he has to hit it

hard in North Carolina."

While previous Elon Polls have questioned individuals about political views, this is the first time the Elon Poll directly asked which candidate the interviewee would vote for, according to Janna Anderson, associate professor of communications.

"The outcome of the election will be public knowledge, so we have to make sure we get it right," said Husser in reference to the accuracy of the poll.

The assistant director recognized a potential bias in the Elon Poll results because the Republican National Convention took place during part of the polling period. Although such a spike in attention toward the Republican candidate is ephemeral, Husser said

he expects the poll results to contain a greater inclination toward Romney than normal.

"Surveys are measurements of brief moments of what is on the public conscience," Husser said.

Although surveys provide information to society at large about voter opinions, Husser described the outcomes as "best estimates" and cautioned against touting survey results as absolute truth.

"Opinion is amorphous," he said. "Don't treat surveys as a measuring tape."

Those involved with the Elon Poll conduct a scientific survey of the population of interest, using a random selection of individuals with telephones and

wireless telephone numbers to generate the population sample.

"We're calling randomly constructed phone numbers," Husser said. "We have no idea what the people are like on the other end of those numbers."

If conducted properly, the poll results will also provide insight into the interests of subgroups and what kind of coalitions are in favor of which politicians, he said.

Participation in the Elon Poll allows students and faculty to exercise their civic responsibility.

The Elon Poll employs student volunteers to administer the poll in order to enhance their educational experience. The poll is fully funded by Elon University, a non-partisan entity.

# News

Wednesday, September 5, 2012 • page 8



# Building inclusivity

*Religious spaces overlap in Multi-faith Center*

Adriana Miano  
Senior Reporter

**E**ven on a college campus where multiculturalism is welcome, it takes a conscious effort to create an environment that is wholly diverse and accepting.

Members of Elon University's faculty and student body are now exploring ways an education about a wide range of religious traditions can increase and spread the understanding of various ideologies prevalent on campus.

"Religion is fundamental to who we are as human beings," said Jan Fuller, university chaplain. "If we're interested in living in a world full of peace that is lasting and real, we have to be understanding of other people's religions."

The construction of the Numen Lumen Multi-faith Center, scheduled to open in early 2013, will provide a space to house all of the university's religious programs and practices, Fuller said.

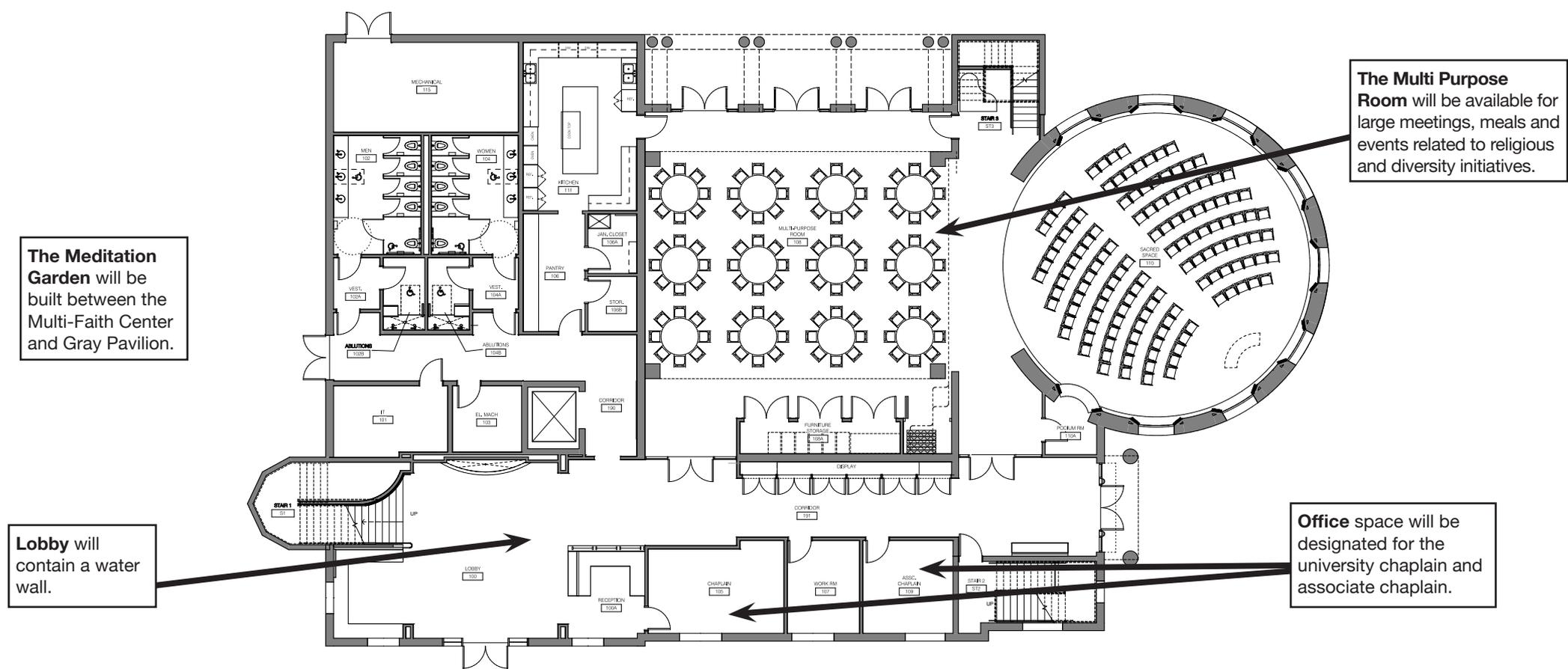
According to the university chaplain, bringing together religious groups that would not ordinarily associate with one another is a goal of establishing the Multi-faith Center.

"When Christians are in one room, Jews are in another and Muslims are in another, we're all going to meet and we're going to talk to each other," Fuller said.

But, the intention behind the center is in no way to weaken individual students' devotion to their own religions, Fuller said. Accepting the beliefs of others does not have to mean adopting them as your own.

"There may be people that are nervous that they will have to give up their claim to truth," Fuller said. "I can imagine that sometimes your truth will be very different from my truth, but we aren't afraid of that. We can learn to talk about it."

Additionally, the center may help to advance student knowledge of the intersections between all types of individuals, according to Fuller.



## Sharing common ground

### FIRST FLOOR PLAN

#### Intertwining practice and education

Lynn Huber, associate professor of religious studies, agreed there are many ways in which religious diversity can deepen understanding of other forms of diversity.

“A lot of religious tradition intersects with the ways we think about gender and sexual diversity,” Huber said. “Religion shapes the way people approach these issues.”

The faculty of Elon’s religious studies department has made an effort over the last five years to be inclusive of a variety of religions, Huber said.

The course requirements for religious studies majors are intentionally designed to introduce students to a wide range of traditions.

“I think our department as a whole thinks that someone who studies religion needs to be able to engage more than one religion in a thoughtful way,” Huber said.

However, it is important to realize that an understanding of religious diversity is necessary to many majors beyond religious studies, she said.

Additionally, Huber is the acting director for the Center for the Study of Religion, an initiative to promote the study of religion across campus. It will be housed in the Numen Lumen Multi-faith Center upon its opening this fall.

“We really want to highlight how the study of religion happens in differ-

ent majors,” Huber said. “We want to be a resource for students of all majors who are interested in studying religions, and we want to find ways of supporting that (interest).”

Senior Hunter Benson, a religious studies major, has seen the lessons of her major’s classes reflected in course work for other departments, she said.

“A lot of other subjects tie in with (religious studies),” Benson said, “I noticed it especially when I took British literature.”

Additionally, Benson found that familiarizing herself with a wide range of religions made her more comfortable around them and more open to trying new things, she said.

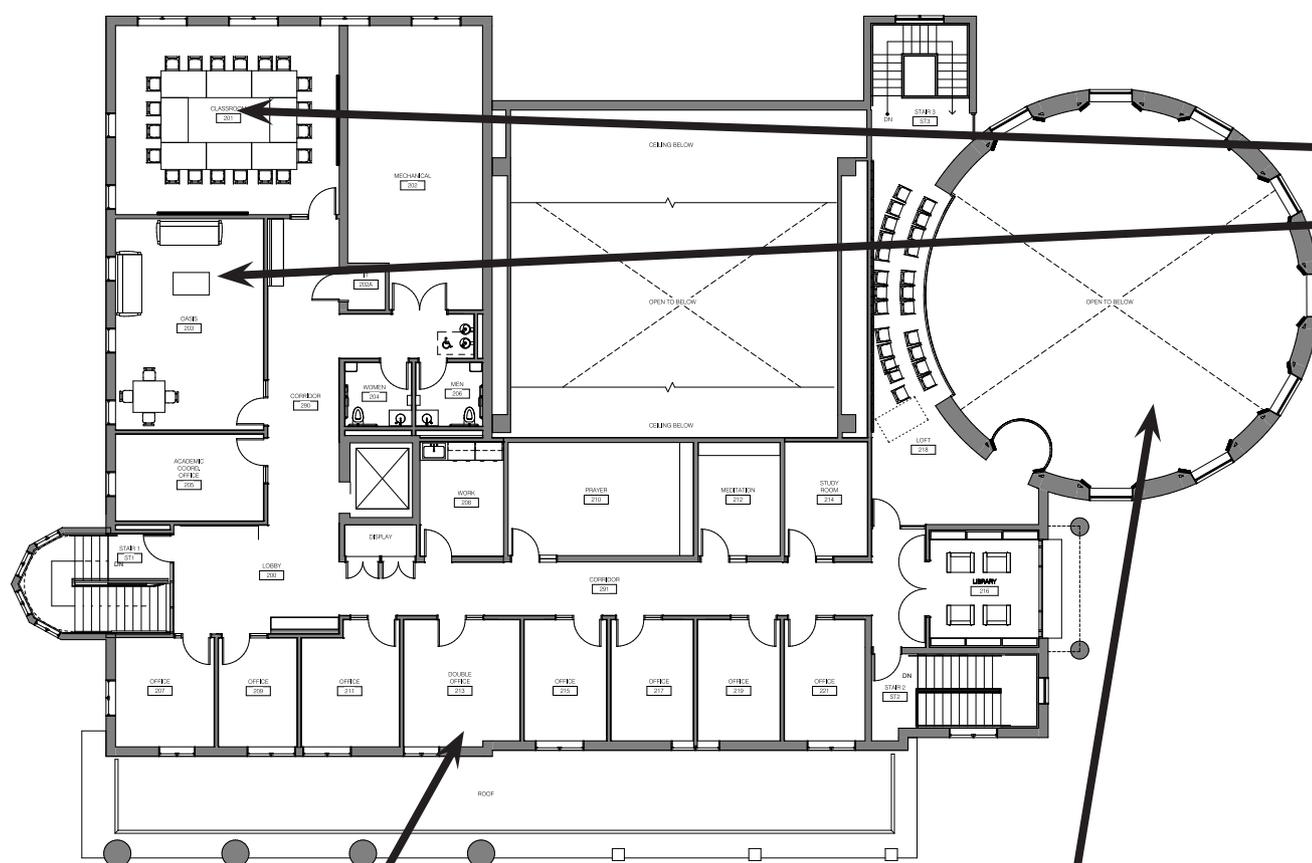
“I took Hinduism last semester and ended up deciding to go to India for Winter Term,” Benson said. “I don’t think I would have gone or been as open to learning new things, if I hadn’t taken a class that made me familiar with their traditions.”



Fall 2011: The future site of the Multi-faith Center



Fall 2011: The land is cleared for the expansion



**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**

**Upstairs offices** will house all religious organizations and professionals on campus.

**An office** will provide space for the center for the study of religion, society and culture. Lynn Huber, associate professor of religious studies, is the acting director for the center.

**The Sacred Space** is a two-story circular room, built to accommodate a broad range of religious worship practices and designed so as not to exemplify a symbol from any one religious tradition.

**The Oasis** will serve as a lounge or meeting area for students.

**Classrooms** in the Multi-Faith Center will house educational programs about particular world views.

### Examining views in our community

Even with members of Elon's faculty encouraging religious diversity, a recent study indicates that there is still more that must be done to transform the campus into a religiously inclusive environment.

Last fall, Elon partnered with the Interfaith Youth Core to conduct an assessment of the campus' climate for religious and spiritual diversity with a grant from the Teagle Foundation.

The survey asked students to describe the extent to which they feel it is both important and possible to recognize, embrace and learn about religious views that are different from their own.

Elon students who identify within religious minorities are more prone to have a pluralistic worldview than those in the majority, according to a report on the study's findings.

The study also found that students who identified with the religious majority are 23.6 percent more likely to feel as if Elon University provides a "safe space" to practice their religion.

Students who do not align with any religious beliefs were substantially less likely to feel support on campus compared to those students who identified as religious, according to the report.

Huber and Fuller both agreed a fear of conflict is one of the greatest barriers to creating an environment where

everyone feels welcome and supported.

"We need to be willing to say the wrong thing sometimes, and to let other people say the wrong thing," Huber said. "If it's done with good intentions, I think we can work on trying to hear what others have to say, and teaching one another to talk about our differences."

The best way to deal with a fear of offending others is just to begin a respectful dialogue, according to Fuller.

"It's my sense that if we stop being allergic to conflict and try it out, we could learn to do it in a very gracious and honorable way," Fuller said. "Then we might not be so afraid of it."

**RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY SURVEY RESULTS**

**66 percent** reported feeling campus was at least moderately divided with regard to religious and spiritual difference

**78 percent** reported moderate amounts of challenging, stimulating interactions

**29 percent** reported low levels of meaningful cross-worldview interaction

**30 percent** reported hearing insensitive remarks concerning a particular religious group

*Information courtesy of IFYC*



**Spring 2012: Preparing to being construction**



**Fall 2012: The frame is built and the exterior is added.**

## Would you like credits with that internship?

*Students should not be required to shoulder financial burden to earn internship credits*

Internships during the collegiate years can provide quality, real-world experience for students before entering their career fields following graduation. But requiring students to pay for internship credits, which are often required in order to graduate, is both costly and unfair.

Elon students want college credit for their internships. Actually, many of them need it.

All Elon students are currently required to complete at least one Experiential Learning Requirement in order to graduate. These experiences could be internships, practicums, co-ops service-learning projects, study abroad or leadership experience.

But students may not consider that in order to fulfill this requirement, they usually have to pay the university to receive the required academic credit.

The number of required internship credits varies by major and department. Students who choose to complete internships during the fall or spring semesters are not required to pay extra money besides tuition costs in order to receive the necessary credits, as long as their schedules do not exceed 18 credit hours that semester.

But during summer months, which many students spend as interns, students are required to pay per credit hour. According to the Elon University Bursar's Office website, students pay \$416 per credit hour for summer tuition costs, with most summer internships typically falling in the one-to-four-credit range.

It is understandable why students pay for credits that are gained from instructor-led classes conducted over the course of a semester, but having to pay for the hours spent working for free as an intern seems callous.

What it boils down to is this: Elon benefits financially from internships they may have had little to no part in helping students find. And while Elon heavily advertises its career services offices and various undergraduate networks as essential internship search tools, many students feel they were on their own once they began the internship search.

With the average cost of college rising every year, students are often required to work for unpaid internships.

For example, in the entertainment industry, internships that offer hands-on professional experience are primarily concentrated in New York and Los Angeles. The costs of having to relocate to a new city and work for no money, in addition to required liv-



The School of Communications is one of several departments at Elon in which students must earn at least one credit hour from an approved internship in order to receive their degrees

ing expenses, certainly lightens many students' wallets.

Meanwhile, other students who seek to obtain local internships while living at home are still subject to heavy transportation costs by commuting. Students often give up the opportunity for paid work during the summer in order to accommodate the scheduling and travel restraints of their internship sites.

Furthermore, Elon students who substantially rely on financial aid and subsidized loans to pay their way through college may not have the financial liberty of forking over the extra money for what is essentially required to complete their degrees, never mind getting a job.

Make no mistake, internships are valuable, and Elon students should be encouraged to go out and participate in them whenever possible. But they

shouldn't have to do so at the expense of their savings accounts.

Elon should either substantially reduce the current rate students pay for credit hours earned through internships, or should just eliminate the cost altogether.

Is it really appropriate to charge Elon students for credit hours they are required to have when some are already sacrificing quite a bit to earn them? We don't think so.

Students shouldn't be expected to have to pay for real-world experience. But with several departments at Elon requiring students to earn at least one internship credit toward their degree, students have no alternative but to cough up the extra cash.

There is more to a college education than just the price tag; you shouldn't have to put a dollar value on experience.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

If you ever walked in Belk Library the past couple years, he was there.

While not an Elon student, Andrew Gagliardi's favorite spot was in the right hand corner of the library. He usually could be seen in a blue sleeveless shirt reading stories on the computer. Kind and rarely shy, he was eager to talk to complete strangers about interesting topics such as tree pollen or the Mayan 2012 debacle.

Andy and I happened to be some of the only people in Belk Library during the East Coast earthquake last summer. I remember checking my email and wondering why the monitor was shaking.

Never have I seen anyone as excited as Andy was about it. A quick Google search told me the details of the earthquake. But to Andy, the whole event seemed like magic, and he was sure to tell just about everyone on the first floor that day.

On an early morning last May, Andy was walking down the tracks when he was struck and killed by a freight train. Most people probably don't know this because it happened during the summer and despite the news coverage, sadly went unnoticed.

There's a new free spot at the library now, but I think it forever belongs to Andy.

*John Tinkelenberg, Class of 2013*

FILE PHOTO BY CLAIRE ESPARROS | PHOTO EDITOR

# GOP candidates belittle women through volatile sexual comments

Four years ago, I don't know that anyone could have predicted that women's reproductive health would be one of the most hotly-debated topics heading into the presidential election season. The economy, sure, but a reignited social divide on issues of rape and abortion?



Rachel Southmayd  
Columnist

But that's where we are, forced to confront the ugly reality that many people in America, including many women, don't see women's bodies as their own.

This particular point has been shoved to the forefront of people's minds in the last few weeks as numerous political candidates in the Republican Party made comments about women that were both insensitive and simply ignorant.

The most talked about instance was Missouri Rep. Todd Akin, who said the following during an

interview: "It seems to me, first of all, from what I understand from doctors that's really rare. If it's a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down."

Let's begin by just considering the complete lack of factual basis these statements have. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently reported around 32,000 women conceive as a result of rape every year, or five percent of all rape victims. So, according to Akin, those 32,000 women weren't "legitimately" raped.

Either that, or women's bodies have these supposed ways of shutting that down. What does that mean anyway? Sperm killing secretion? A magical ovary that sucks the egg waiting to be fertilized back out of the fallopian tube? Anyone who took a basic anatomy course could tell you that Akin's remarks are ludicrous.

For women, the minute, and I mean the minute, we start adding words to the concept of rape like "legitimate" or "forcible," we imply that rape can be viewed as "legitimate" or "non-forcible." We

take away from the power that rape has and the atrocity that it is and we make it something small and something to be embarrassed about. This is simply not acceptable.

In Pennsylvania, GOP candidate for Senate Tom Smith said his daughter's pregnancy, which occurred when she was not married, was a similar situation to a woman who had conceived as the result of a rape. He said for him, it was a similar situation. For him, not for her.

I wonder what Smith's daughter felt when she heard that, for her father, her baby's appearance in the world might as well have come from an attacker as it did a consensual sexual act.

Maybe it's a generational thing. Maybe it can be argued that men like Smith and Akin grew up in an age where sex was still a taboo subject and rape wasn't something that was ever discussed.

But as a woman of the next generation, the one that's supposedly inheriting the world, I hope from the bottom of my heart that the young men that share this campus and this planet with me



Rep. Todd Akin has faced noticeable backlash over his comments about sexual assault. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

know better than Akin and Smith.

I hope they have an awareness of how the female reproductive system works, what a pregnancy means for a woman of any age in any situation and how, if men don't step up and fight for them, it will be a losing battle, because 50 percent of the audience is lost. We all need to be on the same side and recognize that rape is rape and it can't be compared to anything else and certainly can't

be hijacked to make a point that getting pregnant is somehow a woman's fault, because she certainly didn't do it alone.

So educate yourselves, young men of today. And young women: Don't let men get away with ignorance.

Gone are the days where we can't talk about these issues, and the more we can get them out there, the better off our entire society can be.

# North Carolina must strengthen inadequate mandatory reporting law

The Freeh investigation into Penn State's sexual abuse scandal shed cold light on the dark circumstances surrounding Jerry Sandusky's rape and assault of 10 young boys over a 15-year period, an unthinkable series of crimes that also besmirched the legend of the late Joe Paterno and the football program that rose and fell as he did.



Katherine Blunt  
Columnist

Perhaps the most chilling information released in the report suggests Paterno wasn't the only person to turn a blind eye as Sandusky assumed his degenerate alter ego. The investigation revealed a circle of secrecy surrounding Sandusky, a circle that both widened and strengthened for over a decade.

In Pennsylvania, the failure to report child abuse is a punishable offense, and several high-ranking Penn State officials, including former vice president Gary Schultz, and (now suspended) athletic director Timothy Curley, are now facing criminal charges. But not every state prosecutes those who fail to report child abuse.

Had the Penn State scandal occurred here in North Carolina, the deliberate and damaging secrecy of the school's administration would not have been called into legal question.

Although all 50 states have "mandatory reporting" statutes regarding child abuse, North Carolina, Maryland and Wyoming do not impose civil or criminal penalties on those who fail to comply. In North Carolina, what is generally referred to as the "child abuse reporting law" took effect in 1999. It states, "Any person or institution who has cause to suspect that any juvenile is abused, neglected, or dependent shall report the case of that juvenile to the director of the department of social services in the county where the juvenile resides or is found."

Incentives to comply include the right to remain anonymous and the provision of immunity for good faith reporting, but the statute fails to outline the consequences of withholding such critical information. Without a clear punishment for noncompliance, the mandatory reporting statute is essentially powerless.

Some argue the fear of legal prosecution may in fact deter an individual from reporting known or suspected abuse. But without the threat of punishment, the mandatory reporting statute may be overshadowed by the bystander effect.

Sure, most would agree there is a moral obligation to report abuse, but cases such as the infamous story of Kitty Genovese prove the diffusion of responsibility is a frighteningly powerful phenomenon.

Genovese was stabbed to death near her home in New York in 1964, and although witnesses and neighbors saw and heard the commotion, no one

immediately contacted authorities or called for help.

Of course, the Genovese case does not relate directly to child abuse, and the diffusion of responsibility most often occurs in large, contiguous groups. The underlying principle still applies, though.

If an individual does not feel personally obligated to undergo the potentially uncomfortable process of reporting child abuse, the mandatory reporting statute becomes an

optional reporting statute.

The Penn State scandal was horrifying in its size and scope, and it could happen again in a different context. Strengthening North Carolina's mandatory reporting legislation won't put an end to all child abuse, but it may encourage more people to come forward and prevent a terrible situation from escalating into local or national outrage.

Unfortunately, in these situations, only the victims remain innocent.



The trial of former coach Jerry Sandusky (center) may call for stricter laws for reporting sexual abuse of children. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS



The University of Seville, one of the locations of the Council of International Educational Exchange, is an example of the historical architecture common in this Spanish city. The buildings retain a traditional look from the times of Moorish Spain. PHOTO BY CLEO DAN

## Returning to Seville

*A summer visit to Europe leads to a semester in Spain*

Cleo Dan  
International Reporter

Growing up in a household in which the pantry overflowed with savory European curiosities and Swedish holiday traditions shaped the core of my childhood. I am no stranger to European culture. I was bitten by the travel bug at a young age — 13 months old to be exact — when I was taken across the Atlantic to visit my relatives in Sweden.

Even as a toddler, blissfully unaware of the adventures that unfolded before me, I have always felt an innate connection to Europe. This international bond is taking a whole new level as I begin my study abroad experience in Seville, Spain this semester.

Reflecting on my rationale for ultimately selecting Seville as my study abroad destination helped me maintain composure when I faced the daunting challenge of long packing lists and two small suitcases. So, why Seville?

Last summer, I had the opportunity to briefly visit the idyllic city in Southern Spain with my grandmother. Before visiting, I had explored the idea of studying abroad in Seville, but I also continued to research other European programs. Ireland? Rolling green hills. Denmark? Quaint and picturesquely Scandinavian. Seville? My moment of clarification appeared when walking through the grand marble halls in the University of Seville. Just like illustrations in a picture book, the mustard colored floors and remarkable

sculptures placed elegantly throughout the university provide the building with an antique and scholarly quality. The exterior of the university looks like a chiseled palace. Sitting behind one of the desks in an empty classroom, I imagined myself as a student and I felt grateful to be able to be in that precise location, piecing together my future. I knew I was bound for Seville one day.

Unlike other large, cosmopolitan cities in Spain, Seville represents a more traditional and folkloric region, where its multicultural past ties gracefully with the present day. The Moorish legacy is reflected throughout the ancient architecture, literally providing Seville with visual heritage of complex, intercultural relations. By simply walking the streets, you have been given the gift of a history lesson.

As Spain's fourth largest city and capital of the Andalucía community in Southern Spain, Seville offers a plethora of cultural avenues to explore. But, at the same time, the large size of Seville does not distract from the small-town feel one gets from passing familiar streets, small boutiques and daily cafes.

To be quite honest, I believe I am more at risk for reverse culture shock upon my return to the United States than I am for initial culture shock when immersing myself into Spanish culture. I have been anticipating my semester abroad since I officially declared my major in international studies and the realization dawned on me that studying in Europe would occur before my graduation date.

My flight just landed in Seville, Spain this week. I smiled when I crossed the Atlantic Ocean for my third flight and 22 hours of solid travel. I am so thankful to have this opportunity, and I am so excited.



# TOP 5: Cultural comparisons in Copenhagen



Laura Van Drie  
International Reporter

**COPENHAGEN** — It is only my third week in Copenhagen, so it's a little early to understand real cultural differences. But several things have immediately stood out:

**1** Biking is the preferred — and most dominant — method of transportation. Bikers have their own lanes and use hand signals to alert other bikers when they're turning. Danes are also incredibly comfortable on bikes — women bike in heels, wedges, dresses and short shorts. Parents tote their toddlers in baskets in front of them.

**2** Kids seem to be regarded much differently in Denmark than in the U.S. Glamorous mothers and fathers will walk down the street holding their mini-me's hand. Mom haircuts, mom jeans and huge diaper bags or other large, obvious signs of parenthood are nonexistent and strollers are rarely seen. It's legal to leave a child unattended in the street. For example, a mother will go into a restaurant and have dinner with her friends while she leaves her sleeping baby outside with a baby monitor.

**3** Although it is legal to leave your child unattended for extended amounts of time, it is illegal to carry pepper spray or a pocket knife.

**4** Nearly every dish involves rye bread or *smorrebrod* (buttered bread). There are also many Middle Eastern choices available, such as falafel and hummus, and Danes drink beer and coffee consistently throughout the day.

**5** Danes are very blunt and straightforward. They don't sugar-coat their opinions or try too hard to be polite — there's actually no word for "please" in the Danish language. If you ask someone how they're doing, you should expect them to tell you personal details of their lives.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY KENSEY GOOCH

## The real baggage you bring abroad: your accent

Mary Kate Brogan  
International Reporter

What is it about accents that spark our fascination? Is it the familiarity with a hint of foreign culture? Is it the knowledge of someone's geography and past within the first moments of a greeting? Or is it the hint that there is a difference in a place where many are similar?



I can't quite answer these questions, but I can say that accents fascinate me for all those reasons. Since I was little, I've loved accents

and have always wanted to be able to imitate them. Besides the fact that I do a pretty good Sarah Palin, "I can see Russia from my house" bit, I considered myself mediocre at accents until I learned I had one myself.

I did not know I had an accent until I arrived at Elon last year. I knew I probably sounded a little different to people from New England or the South, but I assumed they were the ones with accents, not me. One of my high school teachers told me a Midwestern accent was the ideal accent for an American broadcast reporter to have, so I assumed everyone knew a Midwestern accent was the American accent to have. As it turns out, I have just as much of an accent as everyone else. My hallmates loved to poke fun at the way I said I was

from "Chi-CAH-go" or the way I said "baaag" and "baaad." As much as I wanted to deny that I had an accent, I could sometimes see how my pronunciations were different from theirs — although I still maintain that I don't hear a difference between the way I say Chicago and the way the rest of the world says it.

So, a few weeks ago, while watching the Olympics with my mother, I saw an NBC reporter interviewing bronze-medalist Tom Daley, a British diver. As soon as he opened his mouth, I giggled. When my mom asked why I was laughing, I replied, "He's...he's just so British." His accent—so raw, so real, so legitimately British—completely caught me offguard.

Then it hit me. I had never heard

an actual British person speak. I had heard actors who were taught in classes to enunciate their words, but not accents from genuine British people. And yet, in less than a month, I'd be chatting with people who would think I was the one with a funny American accent. I realized I would be branded 'that American girl' in London, and my accent would make me stick out like a sore thumb. Everything I do would be scrutinized through a lens: an American in London. I could potentially make or break somebody's expectation of Americans with one false move. No pressure.

I was having a moment.

I took a deep breath and realized I was probably blowing things out of proportion. All an accent really does is show people a little bit about

your past and where you come from. Sure, it might make me more prone to being stereotyped, but I'm sure I won't prove any negative stereotypes true as long as I'm still the sociable, sensible daughter my parents raised me to be. My accent won't define me; my actions will.

So now, as I sit here avoiding packing my luggage before I depart, I know I'll be taking a lot more with me than a couple suitcases full of sweaters and jeans. I'll be bringing my values, culture and personality to London, accent included. So what if my accent sounds funny to anyone from London? It's just a friendly reminder that I'm a loud, proud Chi-CAH-go girl, and I will never forget where I come from because that's just part of what makes me who I am.

# Rip\_Chord raises curtain on eventful fall

## Senior soloist offers preview of a cappella group's semester

Senior Bert Brokaw has rapidly become an important member of Rip\_Chord, Elon University's only all-male a cappella group. Brokaw, a strategic communications major, is about to embark upon what could be Rip\_Chord's most exciting year yet, including an appearance on the "Voices Only 2012" college a cappella compilation album. The Pendulum caught up with Brokaw for a sneak preview of the group's upcoming semester.

*Q: You've been heavily involved with Rip\_Chord during your time at Elon. What about the group appealed to you?*

*A: I was originally really nervous about coming to Elon because I didn't think I could find an organization that I would fit into. I saw Rip\_Chord perform at spring orientation and was blown away by both the diversity of the group and the chemistry that they all had on stage.*

*Q: Your concerts cover a wide range of music, from old to new. What has been your favorite song to perform throughout the years, and why?*

*A: My favorite song that we performed was our Disney medley that was featured on our last album, "Pitch, Please." It really became a group staple, and was so much fun to sing. We're hoping to make another Disney medley at some point this year.*

*Q: How did you guys get the song "It Girl" on Voices Only 2012?*

*A: We were actually extremely surprised when we got on the compilation. At the time, "It Girl" was the only song that we had finished recording for our new CD. So, where most groups were submitting entire albums, we were only able to submit one (song). We are in-*



Senior Bert Brokaw (left center) sings with Rip\_Chord at Rhodes Stadium Aug. 27. The group will release a new CD and complete an East Coast college tour during the fall semester. MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

credibly thankful to be part of the compilation.

*Q: What's next for Rip\_Chord this semester? We hear you guys have a tour in the works.*

*A: The most exciting announcement for us is that we're going to be releasing*

our new album "Baby Back Rips" at the fall organization fair. We made sure to keep this album as up-to-date as possible, and it features many songs that we still perform including "I Won't Give Up" by Jason Mraz and "Some Nights" by Fun. We're also going on our first tour since the group's origin. During fall break, we're going to be singing at

different schools across the East Coast.

*Q: How valuable is a cappella performance to Elon's campus culture?*

*A: I think a cappella is actually very important on Elon's campus. There are four groups, despite our relatively small student population, and each group av-*

erages more than 200 attendees at their seasonal concerts. To me, it shows that a cappella music is an essential part of the college experience.

*Compiled by Rebecca Iannucci, Arts & Entertainment Editor*

### Year of performing arts: Upcoming department events

- *Alpha Psi Omega 1 Day Plays*, Sept. 8, Yeager Recital Hall
- *Collage*, Sept. 28-29, Yeager Recital Hall
- *Dancing in the Landscape*, Sept. 30, Koury Business Center, Outdoor Pavilion
- *"Story of Home"* by Logan Sutton, Oct. 5-11, Black Box Theatre
- *Choreography Salon I and II*, Oct. 18-19, Dance Studio A
- *"Crazy for You,"* music by George Gershwin, book by Ken Ludwig and lyrics by Ira Gershwin, Oct. 25-27 and Nov. 1-4, McCrary Theatre
- *Dancing in the Black Box*, Nov. 8-10, Black Box Theatre
- *Senior Acting Major Thesis Production (Titles TBA)*, Nov. 14-18, Black Box Theatre
- *First-Year Acting Showcase*, Nov. 19, Black Box Theatre
- *Senior Music Theatre Major Thesis Production (Titles TBA)*, Dec. 2-4, Black Box Theatre

# Ancient Greek epic returns with new angle

## *Acting major pens spinoff of classic Homer tale*

Stephanie Butzer  
Senior Reporter

The Greek epic “The Odyssey,” written by Homer, tells the story of a man leaving his family to fight in the Trojan War. But nowhere in the epic is the story of his wife and son told.

Through his production, “Story of Home,” senior BFA acting major Logan Sutton is exploring what Odysseus’ family was doing for the 19 years he was away at war.

“I’ve turned the lens, using modern dramatic theory, away from the man in the myth and towards the family he left behind,” Sutton said.

“Story of Home” will be the Department of Performing Arts’ full-length play in the Black Box Theatre for the fall semester. It is also one of the first times a student has written and produced one of the university’s main productions for the semester. Fred Rubeck, chair of the Department of Performing Arts and Sutton’s mentor, will direct the play.

Sutton saw Mary Zimmerman’s rendition of “Odyssey” when he visited his high school during his freshman year at Elon. He became curious about Odysseus’ son, Telemachus, and his struggles as he grew up without his father.

During his College Fellows sophomore seminar, Sutton started looking more into the topic. When he became a Lumen scholar and started conducting research, he began reading more plays and watching more television and films related to the epic. Every new piece of material helped him develop ideas for “Story of Home.”

As he dug deeper, Sutton developed more questions and became interested in how Odysseus’ wife, Penelope, fared in addition to Telemachus. She had to maintain the kingdom of Ithaca in her husband’s absence and remain loyal to her husband, even with more than 100 suitors in the home.

“What I’ve tried to do is explore in a more realistic way, or modern way, the struggle of a wife dealing with this absent but present character,” Sutton said.

Although Odysseus never makes an appearance in “Story of Home,” Sutton said his presence is just as important as any other character.

Sutton has explored many con-

nections between the struggles of the Trojan War era and the trials of the present. The Trojan War lasted 10 years and the United States has passed the 10-year mark for the War on Terror. In addition, both wars were sparked by a single terrorist attack.

“Story of Home” will analyze the validity of war and how it affects those at home. Sutton said challenges like the ones Penelope and Telemachus experience can change how people proceed into the future and how one identifies a “good” human being.

Sutton hopes to shed light on the recurring nature of history and how the challenges of the present day are largely the same as those the people of Ancient Greece experienced.

“Struggle is plain,” Sutton said. “It’s plain in the way that anyone would look at any of our lives and say, ‘Well, everyone goes through that.’ But that doesn’t make it any less valid to us and any less moving. I think by blending the two, I can find a greater amount of empathy.”

“Story of Home” will count as Sutton’s BFA acting senior capstone project, College Fellows senior thesis project and Lumen Prize project. Auditions for the play were held Aug. 27 and the cast was announced Aug. 30.

“It’s very dynamic,” said senior BFA acting major Mallory Marcus. “There are some humorous parts, but it’s mostly very dramatic and it follows the form of the Greek tragedy. But it’s a little more contemporary so we can relate to it a little more.”

Sutton was fortunate enough to have several chances to further “Story of Home.” He studied abroad in Greece, which gave him the opportunity to do site-specific research for the Lumen project.

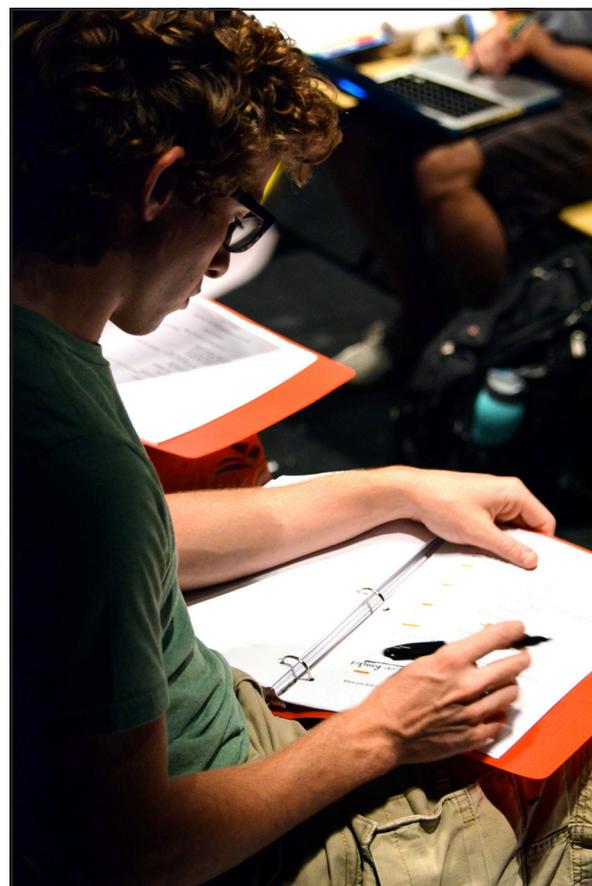
Sutton met a woman in Greece who helped him understand the culture around which his play is centered. He valued this experience and said it helped him solve validation issues with his setting and characters.

In addition, he got the chance last summer to have a workshop reading of his script at a regional theater in Raleigh.

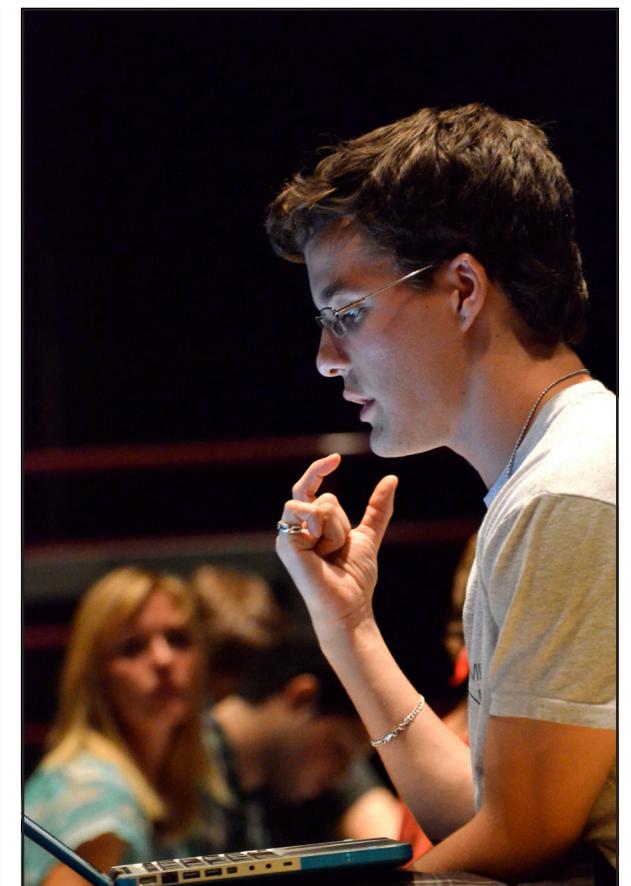
During the spring after his return from Greece, Sutton wrote three drafts of “Story of Home.” Now that auditions are complete, rehearsals will begin. The play will run from Oct. 5-11 in the Black Box Theatre.



Cast members in “Story of Home” read through the script during the play’s first rehearsal Sept. 2. The play will open in October. STEPHANIE BUTZER | Senior Reporter



STEPHANIE BUTZER | Senior Reporter  
Sophomore Sam Jones will play Telemachus in “Story of Home.”



STEPHANIE BUTZER | Senior Reporter  
Senior Logan Sutton leads his first play rehearsal Sept. 2.

# Elon Car Club revs up for fall semester

## *New organization on campus begins first official year*

Rebecca Wickel  
Features Editor

Only seven miles from Elon University is Ace Speedway. Drive five miles further and reach the Piedmont Dragway. Venture 90 miles south, and you'll find the famed Charlotte Motor Speedway.

There's no doubt, this is car country.

Elon senior Michael Palombo and junior Taylor Davis fit right in, having founded the Elon Car Club last spring.

"We met last year in a class, we had a philosophy class together and we discovered that we both love cars," said Palombo, the club's president. "We got to talking and we figured it might be cool to start a club for this, because we both know guys on campus who love cars."

With what Davis called "the wherewithal to take the lead," Palombo went through the motions to officially start a student organization. After months of work, the two began welcoming members to the university's newest club.

"I knew three or four people interested in cars, and they also knew a few," Palombo said.

Davis said they got the word out pretty quickly. Now, they're continuing to gain momentum and remain hopeful.

In May, the club lost only one member to graduation — its only female. Without her, they still have 24 members. With this week's organization fair approaching, they expect participation to increase.

"It's becoming more and more common for people to be interested in cars," Davis said. "You go on the Facebook group and we're consistently growing."

The two attribute the club's popularity to a change in the industry and its perception.

"People watch 'Top Gear' and they say 'Oh I want to do that,'" Davis said. "With shows like that, that are getting more mainstream, people are getting more interested in cars, especially since now is such a weird time for cars because they're changing so much. Cars are the leading forefront of that, especially with electric and all that stuff."

Palombo agreed, citing Ferrari's

new 1,000 horsepower hybrid.

Whatever the reason for joining, members of the Elon Car Club have a lot in common.

"The thing I like most about the car club is when we just hang out and talk," Davis said. "Most people don't know a lot about cars, but the people we have in the club, most of them do know a lot."

According to Davis, this type of shared interest is difficult to find on campus, which makes the Elon Car Club an especially unique student organization.

"We bring all different kinds of people together," he said. "(Palombo and I are) in fraternities, but there's people involved in all different stuff, but we all have a common interest, and that's sort of cool. That's one issue with Elon, that there's not a lot of inter-Greek groups."

Even the club's adviser Anthony Hatcher, associate professor of communications, was an unexpected ally for both Palombo and Davis, neither of whom had met Hatcher prior to last semester.

"My psychology adviser is big into cars, but he didn't have the time to do it," Palombo said. "He recommended I talk to Dr. Hatcher. I didn't expect it, but at the end of our first meeting I asked if he'd be comfortable being our adviser and he said yes."

Palombo said Hatcher has been a huge help, even recommending programs and events in the area, including a monthly cars and coffee gathering in Greensboro.

"This semester, we're looking to get some speakers in from some of the car clubs, or some racers if we could get in touch with them," Palombo said.

Although hopeful, Palombo and Davis have a lot of planning to do for the upcoming semester. Active clubs at Elon have requirements and guidelines, including a minimum number of members. But no matter if the club gets off the ground, Palombo and Davis will always have their passion for cars.

"My family owns a dealership back in Cleveland. My dad bought it before I was born and I've been around cars ever since," Davis said. "Along with the dealership, my dad was a car guy. It's in my blood."



Junior Dallas Reynolds gets out of his 2003 Subaru WRX. Reynolds met other members of the Elon Car Club in the parking lot between Colonnades residential neighborhood and Danieley Center to talk about their cars. AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer



Junior Taylor Davis (right) talks with members of the Elon Car Club. Davis is the club's vice president and one of the founding members. AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

# From Sigma to stardom

*Alumna competes for final spot on 'The NEXT' reality show, enlists fan votes from alma mater*

Kyra Gemberling  
Design Editor

The long line of hopefuls waiting for hours to audition for "American Idol" has become synonymous with an average citizen's attempt at stardom. But for Elon alumna Jenny Leigh Freeman, fame came knocking at her door.

The creators of CW's "The NEXT," a singing competition TV show that holds a nationwide search for undiscovered artists, sought Freeman out when scouts were sent to Baltimore, one of six cities to which "The NEXT" traveled.

And Freeman was an ideal candidate for the show, because she has been steadily working on a country music singing career in Baltimore since graduating from Elon in 2006.

"The point is to find people who are already on the brink of stardom and give them the platform to get over the hump," Freeman said. "I've been booking my own shows, seeing my own manager and writing my own music, so (the talent scouts) recognized the hard work I'm doing and the show is helping me out by providing national exposure."

On top of television publicity, each contestant is given a celebrity mentor that visits the contestant at their home and coaches them throughout the show. Luckily for Freeman, she was given the chance to work with John Rich of the country band Big & Rich, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for an aspiring country star.

"I've been a fan (of Big & Rich) ever since I heard of them in college when they did 'Save a Horse (Ride a Cowboy),' she said. "It was a great honor to work with John. He can write songs out of the blue, plus he's really creative, witty and has so much star power."

Freeman performed on the Baltimore episode of "The NEXT" that aired on Aug. 23, and will now compete against contestants from Los Angeles, Orlando, New York, Dallas and Chicago for a spot in the finals. A fan vote episode on Sept. 20 will determine who advances, so Elon alumna Cindy Tew, Class of 1977, has been working diligently to get the word out about Freeman's TV success.

"Seeing Jenny's performance on the show blew my mind," Tew said. "That's

why I've gotten behind this thing — anyone should be motivated and excited about this opportunity."

Tew and Freeman are both sisters of Sigma Sigma Sigma in addition to being Elon alumni, so Tew said it's only natural for Elon and its Greek organizations to want to help Freeman succeed and gain publicity for Elon.

"Jenny is an inspiration to all aspiring artists," Tew said. "She has already made her peers, sorority sisters and Elon proud of her. We should all support her by voting for her and help push her to the finals. She is living proof that dreams do come true."

And Freeman hasn't forgotten about her time at Elon — in addition to being in a sorority and playing on the club women's rugby team, Freeman was a member of the co-ed a cappella group Twisted Measure for three years, which she credits for teaching her a lot of what she knows about music.

"Twisted Measure taught me a ton about music, especially since I was with people from all different states and backgrounds coming together for a shared love of music," she said. "And being in Tri-Sigma gave me a great support system, so I feel like I had a really well-rounded college experience."

Freeman said Tew's effort in spreading the word about the fan vote is a prime example of the power of an Elon support system, especially since she and Tew have never met.

"She went to college before I did, but she found me on Facebook and has been reaching out to everyone she knows to vote for me," Freeman said. "I think that shows the strong bond between sisters. I am blown away by what she's doing and it's something I'll cherish forever."

As for Freeman's plans after the show, she wants to continue pursuing music, whether she wins or not. And since the show has allowed her to make great connections, Freeman feels confident about her future as a professional artist.

"My ultimate goal is to tour the world and have singing be my one and only job," Freeman said. "I'm juggling a lot like everyone else my age, but I don't really care about having a ton of money. I just want to be supported financially while doing what I love."



Alumna Jenny Leigh Freeman currently works full time in marketing for the athletic wear company Under Armour, but she's been pursuing a career in country music since graduating Elon University with a degree in psychology in 2006. PHOTO SUBMITTED



Freeman is featured in the Baltimore episode of "The Next" which airs at 9 p.m. Thursdays on the CW. PHOTO SUBMITTED

# New students start semester in spotlight

## 4 freshmen honored during Convocation ceremony

Rebecca Wickel  
Features Editor

More than 1,400 incoming freshmen and transfer students sat Under the Oaks during Elon University's 2012 New Student Convocation. From that number, four were distinguished.

Each year, Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, selects four students to recognize at the ceremony. By describing their accomplishments, challenges and future goals, Jackson said he unifies the incoming class while solidifying the university's commitment to certain values. According to him, these students — freshmen Tristan Alexander, Megan Gravley, Jessica Shult and Kathleen Hupfeld — embody what it means to be part of this academic community.

"We are trying to communicate that these are pretty extraordinary students, but there are other students we could have picked as well," Jackson said. "It doesn't mean that every student in the class has done all of these things already. Sometimes the students we choose are easier to articulate that they do match the Elon values, but you don't have to look very far to see that our students are doing service and leadership."

No one knows this better than the students selected. Each of the four freshmen said the same thing — they couldn't believe they stood out among their accomplished incoming classmates.

Megan Gravley was selected because of her role in organizing a cancer research fundraiser in her hometown. But for her, this accomplishment was not a standout among her fellow classmates.

"For me to be chosen is just amazing, because I know everyone here has done awesome things," Gravley said. "Not just with cancer research but with their lives, so it was crazy to be singled out as one of the top four."

Although the selected students have succeeded in different ways, there are common threads weaving their stories together, all of which tie together in the same place — Elon.

### Commitment to service at home and abroad

Investing time and energy in com-

munity engagement was a priority for each of the honored students.

Gravley, a volleyball player from Apex, organized the Peak City Gala of Hope, a charity fundraiser for The V Foundation for Cancer Research, during her senior year. For Gravley, what started as a class assignment took on new meaning in a matter of days.

"Each of us had a tie to cancer, either a grandparent or a friend, but we just started the project in a class and we said we'd see where it goes," she said. "In two weeks, my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer. It just showed that this is the right thing, we're supposed to be doing this."

Serving others was also key for Jessica Schult, who has lived in Singapore for the past six years. Schult has been visiting the same village in Nepal every summer in hopes of creating a better life for those in poverty. By installing solar panels, composting toilets and water collection systems, she said she has learned about herself and the world around her.

"It's interesting living (in Nepal) because you have your own accommodation, but it's very basic," she said. "Everybody walks in and out, but everyone's so nice. They offer to cook food for you and stuff like that."

Understanding people of other backgrounds is an important part of an Elon education, which often influences Jackson when choosing students for his convocation tradition.

"We look at international students or students with international experience, because being global ready is certainly important for Elon graduates," he said.

The summer before his senior year, Tristan Alexander of Brooklyn, N.Y., participated in a five-week study experience in Italy. His passion for global awareness also shows in his involvement with Girl Up.

"Girl Up is funding for girls in other countries who are forced to be pregnant at 13 and married at 14, with men who are sometimes around 40," he said.

Kathleen Hupfeld, the final fresh-



MEGAN GRAVLEY



Provost Steven House greets incoming freshmen while they receive their acorn after convocation ceremonies ended Aug. 25.

AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

## We are looking at students that would represent some experience and achievements that show they fit well with the values of the university

Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of student life

man Jackson honored, was an active volunteer in her community of Columbia, M.D. In high school she worked frequently with Special Olympics, which she said she hopes to continue doing while on campus.

### Developing leadership

At the root of an Elon education is the ability to lead, according to Jackson. It is no surprise, then, that each



JESSICA SHULT

of this class's recognized students have a history of spearheading projects. Whether it be Hupfeld serving as president of her high school's chapter of the National Honor Society or Alexander leading his classmates in fund-

raising, these students have worked on their ability to engage peers.

Under Gravley's leadership, the Peak City Gala of Hope raised \$30,000. But as a leader on the court as well, the fundraiser was a challenge.

"It was during volleyball season, we started in August of 2011, and we had to make meetings work around my workouts, work around my practice," she said. "I had to miss some meetings, they had to sacrifice some time, but it all worked out."

Meanwhile, in Nepal, Schult taught the villagers to make and sell paper bags to generate additional income. She also received her dive masters certification this summer, and can now lead others on SCUBA dives.

### Academic excellence

This year's selection of outstanding freshmen also included an emphasis on scholastic success. According to

Jackson, this is usually a criterion that does not change.

"Typically, we're looking for some-



KATHLEEN HUPFELD

one who has demonstrated academic excellence, so the Kenan scholar is usually chosen," Jackson said.

This year, the recipient of the William R. Kenan Jr. Award, a full scholarship awarded to one Honors Fellow, has already demonstrated an interest in academia. Hupfeld has been researching the difference between traditional physical therapy practice and new methods when treating stroke patients and those with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis disease. As a high school senior, she completed an internship at a private practice focusing on neurological patients.

With the award, she may study abroad. As an Honors fellow, she will also participate in undergraduate research.

But for another one of the selected freshmen, succeeding in school seemed like it was against the odds.

"I am a first generation college student because from what I know, my mom didn't finish college, my sister



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

President Leo Lambert welcomes new students to the university during convocation. Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life is responsible for introducing the students to Steven Housev during the ceremony.

didn't finish college and my brother dropped out," Alexander said.

Born in the United States but raised in Trinidad until second grade, Alexander did not always have access to quality education. Upon his return to the United States, it was a challenge for other reasons.

"Living in Trinidad was not easy," he said. "I remember I didn't have shoes to walk in to school, and the education system wasn't that good. I came to the United States for second grade, and they tried to hold me back a year. I was different, because a lot of the kids recognized the accent."

Getting an education was challenging for other reasons as well.

"I haven't had a father figure in my life," Alexander said. "I used to watch the boys in my neighborhood, and those without fathers would end up dealing drugs on the street and fighting all the time. But that wasn't me. I fortunately had a mother who was a mother and a father to take care of me and watch over me, which is why I'm at Elon now."

In addition to his family's support, Alexander said he had help from Sponsors for Educational Opportunity, a nonprofit program that helps innovative high school students of color achieve.

"Through that program my SAT scores were raised 400 points, and they help with college preparation," he said. "And it was because of SEO that I was able to do Experiments in International Living."

Through this hard work, Alexander was awarded Elon's John L. Georgeo scholarship, which will allow him to continue exploring his interest in international studies by studying abroad.

#### Creating a tradition

Selecting four students for recognition on the morning of convocation is not a new process for Jackson. He has been introducing the incoming class to the provost and faculty since becoming vice president for Student Life in 1998.

"We are looking at students that would represent some experience and

achievements that show they fit well with the values of the university," he said. "The university attracts students who want to be in those engaging programs, so they're not hard to find."



TRISTAN ALEXANDER

Not hard at all. The process includes the Office of Admissions, which sends dozens of files to Evan Heiser, assistant to the vice president for Student Life and dean of students.

From there, Jackson and Heiser read about the students the Office of Admissions has suggested. But choosing only four is a difficult task, they said.

"They're all very similar, these students could all be used," Heiser said. "It's really just looking for the ones that jump out and represent Elon, and see which ones really help represent this particular class."

And there are other opinions to take into account as well. Heiser said he usually works with faculty and staff, as well as athletics, to find suitable students.

"All of our athletes have tremendous athletic careers, and then we need to find the ones that really stand out," he said. "Megan was one of those, having that great service experience. That's something that I immediately saw."

Jackson has seen the students he has recognized in the past become successful adults. In 1996, he included freshman J. McMerty in his welcome speech, who now directs the Elon in Los Angeles program. In 2001, he welcomed freshman Laith al-Majali to the university, who produced the film "Captain Abu Raed," recipient of a Sundance Audience Award in 2008.

"It's hard to think that being recognized once can change your life, but it makes you feel welcome, feel special and feel confident," Jackson said. "These people have done great things, and they will do great things in the future."

#### Meet the four freshmen

**Tristan Alexander**  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

*Major:* Psychology, minors in biology and child development  
*Career goal:* child psychologist

**Megan Gravley**  
Apex, N.C.

*Major:* Communications  
*Career goal:* Broadcast journalist

**Kathleen Hupfeld**  
Columbia, M.D.

*Major:* Biology  
*Career goal:* doctor

**Jessica Schult**  
Orefield, P.A.

*Major:* Environmental studies  
*Career goal:* Undecided

## Former Elon pitcher speaks about minor league baseball career

Former Elon pitcher Jimmy Reyes is currently a relief pitcher for the High-A Myrtle Beach Pelicans, one of the minor league affiliates for Major League Baseball's Texas Rangers. He is also taking classes to complete his degree at Elon. The Pendulum spoke to Reyes about his experience being drafted out of Elon, playing minor league baseball and playing a role in Pelicans history.

*Q: Talk about the experience of playing minor league baseball.*

A: It's great. Every day is pretty much the same, just like the last one. Every now and then some crazy things happen, cool things happen to spice it up. It's great to be able to play this game every day, so that's obviously a blessing. I thank God every day for that.

*Q: Minor league baseball has a reputation of being kind of quirky with the between-inning promotions. How does that compare with being at Elon?*

A: College baseball is a little more serious and it's not so much about getting fans in the stands as it is about winning games. I think the funniest promotion so far this year has to be a dog that was running around and had a monkey strapped to its back and they were herding goats, so that was interesting. A close second, there was a midget running around who was doing some funny things, too.

*Q: What was it like to be drafted in the top 10 rounds of the MLB Draft? (Note: Reyes was picked in the seventh round of the 2010 MLB June Amateur Draft by the Rangers.)*

A: It was pretty cool. Coming into Elon, I wasn't expected to be drafted or anything like that, so to

get better and progress as I went along was kind of cool. Just to hear my name called at some point in the draft, didn't matter where, made me feel really good.

*Q: Talk about your journey from being drafted to being in Myrtle Beach.*

A: Being a college guy, a left-handed guy who is a little on the shorter side, I definitely have to prove myself. I know I'm not a huge prospect or anything like that, so I know I have to perform day in and day out. But it's been a great journey so far. Every year has been a great experience and every offseason, I can't wait to start the next (season).

*Q: Talk about completing a no-hitter. (Note: Reyes completed a no-hitter against the Wilmington Blue Rocks May 19, throwing one and two-thirds innings of no-hit ball to share a no-hitter with fellow Pelicans pitcher Nick Tepesch.)*

A: It was pretty cool to be a part of that. You don't really get an opportunity to do that very often. And to have the first one in Pelicans history was pretty cool as well. When I heard my name called, I was trying hard not to mess up Nick Tepesch's outing, because I came in with a runner on first and second, and I know that if I get those runs, not only is a no-hitter not intact, his outing goes from great to good. So I didn't want to mess that up, that was my first priority. Going into that last inning, the ninth inning, I was like, "Alright, let's do this, let's close it out."

*Q: You come back to Elon in the fall and train. Why?*

A: Even though I'm two years removed from



Former Elon pitcher Jimmy Reyes is currently a relief pitcher for the High-A Myrtle Beach Pelicans.

FILE PHOTO

Elon, I still feel really connected. Ever since I first stepped foot on that campus as a junior in high school, I knew that was where I wanted to go. It holds a special place in my heart. I'm finishing up classes — I got drafted as a junior, so I still have a year of school left. So I went back and did a semester of school. It's always great to come back and talk to the coaches, talk to the players and work out with the guys. So it's awesome.

*Q: It really seems like Elon baseball is a family.*

A: Absolutely. And even though they may not have had the greatest year this year, sub-par for Elon standards, the team's really close. Everyone hangs out together. The coaching staff has been there for almost 15 years now. It's definitely a family at Elon.

Compiled by Zachary Horner, Sports Editor

## Men's cross country runners share their faith with teammates



FILE PHOTOS BY JULIA MILLER  
Junior men's cross country runners Ben Perron (top) and Jimmy Stevenson lead a Bible study on their team.



Zachary Horner  
Sports Editor

For junior men's cross country runner Jimmy Stevenson, it's just part of who he is. He can't ignore the message he says has given him joy.

That's why, with fellow junior runner Ben Perron, Stevenson is leading a Bible study with members of his team.

"If you believed that there was a message of salvation forever with your creator and your lord, free of all pain, complete in joy, why would you not share with everyone you know?" Stevenson said. "The guys on the

team are some of my best buddies. I'm close to them, we spend so much time together. So I have a heart for those guys and I want them to experience the same joy that I experienced in Christ."

Meeting once every week for 30-45 minutes, the Bible study normally draws five or six guys on the team. It was started by Tim Garber, a former runner and current Elon senior.

"I was going to start it my freshman year, I guess I just wasn't as bold back then," Garber said. "Sophomore year, I learned more and more the joy that Christ would have given me in himself. I wanted that to be shown to my teammates, I wanted them to feel that joy. If there were Christians on the team, I wanted to grow with them. That's when Jimmy Stevenson and I started getting together and started the Bible study."

When Garber quit the team before the 2011 season, Stevenson took the

reins of the study.

"I just really had a fire to continue just sharing the Bible and the gospel with others," he said. "The cross country team, they're some of my best buddies, I live with them, I eat with them, we do everything together. So why not study the scriptures with some of your best buddies and grow on a level that is more than just running as friends?"

Perron shares the same "fire" as his teammate and roommate.

"I love it because it's just another opportunity to hang out with my teammates and really grow with them at a deeper level," Perron said. "Me personally, I pursue my faith in God and Jesus Christ, my Savior, and to do that with fellow teammates, fellow brothers, it's something that I love to do."

Stevenson said his teammates were not surprised by the Bible study happening because of the way Stevenson lives his faith among his teammates.

"Some guys on the team were excited to get it going, and, once it did get going, they came back week after week," he said. "And I guess it wasn't much of a surprise to the team because my faith with Christ is the most important thing in my life, so I don't try to hide that and put on a front and pretend like I'm not, I guess, in love with the Lord."

Perron points to the difficulties of living as a Christian in college as a motivation to have the Bible study as well as the saving truth he believes it offers.

"It's something that the Bible calls us to do," he said. "Digging into the truth of the Bible, the fact that Jesus Christ, our savior, took away the sins of the world. Especially in a place here like college, in an environment like this, just looking at what it means to follow him and to be a Christian in this environment and on a day-to-day basis."

# SPORTSFEST 2012

*Tug-of-war, sack race and stretcher run returns to Elon in Campus Rec's annual year-opening athletic competition*



Members of team 2VA try to win their tug-o-war heat last Friday as they competed in SportsFest. Teams participated in several field day-type events at South Campus.

MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer



Freshmen Nicole Ivan (left) and Victoria Bell compete in the potato sack three-legged race for their team from Kivette Hall.

MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer



Team Train Panda Dynamite huddles together to celebrate after their win in the potato sack three-legged race.

MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

## Upcoming Sports Events

### Football

- North Carolina Central University: 7 p.m., Sept. 8, Elon
- West Virginia State University: 3 p.m., Sept. 15, Elon

### Cross Country

- Elon Invitational: 9 a.m., Sept. 15, Elon
- Charlotte Invitational: TBA, Sept. 28, Charlotte

### Men's Soccer

- Lipscomb University: 8:30 p.m., Sept. 7, Nashville
- Belmont University: 1 p.m., Sept. 9, Nashville

### Women's Soccer

- Troy University: 5 p.m., Sept. 7, Wilmington
- Campbell University: 2:30 p.m., Sept. 9, Wilmington

### Volleyball

- Duke University: 7 p.m., Sept. 7, Durham
- Northeastern University: noon, Sept. 8, Durham

# MELLETTE TRAVELS PATH LESS TAKEN

Zachary Horner  
Sports Editor

Sanford, North Carolina to New York City. That's the jump he hopes to make in the coming months. From a first day playing safety to a top wide receiver prospect for the 2013 NFL Draft. Above it all, he credits his family for everything he has done so far.

"I think family is the No. 1 influence in any kid's life growing up," said Elon University senior wide receiver Aaron Mellette. "I'm such a family-oriented guy. If I go home, I'd rather hang out with my family than my friends or anything like that. I'll just lay around the house, just hang out with my pops and my mom and do nothing."

From his mother making an important phone call to kick-start his football career, to his high school quarterback Donte' Alston, his cousin Josh Mellette to teammate and fellow Elon wide receiver and junior Rasaun Rorie, Aaron Mellette's family has been a huge part of his success on the gridiron. He has put himself in a position to become an NFL draft pick, the first from Elon since linebacker Chad Nkang, picked in the seventh round by the Jacksonville Jaguars in 2007.

Coming from only playing two years of high school varsity football, that's

pretty impressive.

## "Couldn't even put on pads"

Bryan Lee will never forget the moment.

He was the first-year head football coach at the brand-new Southern Lee High School in Sanford. The school was the second high school in the small city located in Lee County. The other school, Lee County High School, or "Lee Senior" in shorthand, had become overcrowded and a new school was built.

Lee was two days into practice with his new team, just a junior varsity team, at West Lee Middle School, not far from where Southern Lee stands today. He got a phone call from a woman who was "incredibly nice," he said.

"(She said,) 'My husband is a pastor here in town, and my son wants to play football,'" he said. "As a head coach, you get this phone call a lot."

It was Aaron Mellette's mother, Beverly.

Mellette had no prior organized football experience, having only played around in the backyard messing around with friends. But Lee said that when he stepped out of his mom's car, things changed for the Southern Lee program.

"As the car pulls up, you expect the kid to be 5'6", 100 pounds," he said. "You don't expect Aaron Mellette, who has to unfold himself to get out of the car."

Mellette was initially placed at safety, which was weird for him, but nothing compared to the little things.

"It was all new to me," he said. "I didn't know how to put pads on, I didn't know none of that. It was all new, but it was a fun first day and the best decision of my life."

Eventually, Aaron got moved to wide receiver and began doing some crazy things, surprising for the wing-T, run-first offense that Lee ran at Southern Lee. But when you've got a fast split end standing at 6'4" like Aaron Mellette, you can change things.

"What Aaron allowed us to do, when anybody put eight in the box — we had Aaron Mellette," Lee said. "He was a great equalizer because he made everybody else on that team better. He was incredibly proficient. He made life for the running back easier and life for the offensive linemen better



Elon University senior wide receiver Aaron Mellette started playing organized football in his sophomore year of high school.

FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO



Mellette has five receiving touchdowns in three career games against Appalachian State University.

FILE PHOTO BY COREY GROOM

because he took one guy out of the box."

In just two varsity football seasons, his junior and senior years, Mellette caught more than 100 passes for over 2,000 yards and 32 touchdowns for Southern Lee, helping them to the state playoffs both years. For a first-year program, Lee said it was "virtually unheard of."

"Everything we had was new," he said. "When you start a new school, you get a lot of kids, not unlike Aaron,

who give football a try. We averaged 30 points Aaron's last year there. For a first year varsity program, we were really happy with that."

## Two-sport standout

While Mellette was getting accustomed to playing football, he was also a star on the basketball court. He played in the post and was mentored on the hardwood by then-assistant coach Gas-

ton Collins, who is now the head boys' basketball coach for the Cavaliers.

"He was a phenomenal athlete," Collins said. "We like to press and trap the basketball, and we used to put him right on top of that press and he used to get a lot of steals and take them back down for dunks and all that kind of stuff."

With the nickname "Big Time," Mellette grew especially close to his basketball pals, but pursued football instead.

"I never got into the summer portion of basketball, with AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) and all those camps and things like that," he said. "I never took out the time to do things like that because I've got football stuff to do or I was being lazy at the time."

Interestingly enough, his cousin Josh is now a star on the court at Southern Lee.

"He's taken it over," Mellette said. "If I could, I'd live my basketball life through him just because I couldn't pursue it and picked up football instead."

Mellette gives his little cousin advice: work hard and get stronger because college is not as easy. He jokes about capitalizing on Josh's success.

"That's my twin brother if he goes somewhere," he said, chuckling.

Collins said Mellette comes back and works out with the current Southern Lee basketball team sometimes and talks to them.

"He always reminds them to work hard," Collins said. "He had a great work ethic, he really pushed himself to be where he is now. He always comes in with encouraging words, just tells guys, 'Hey, I played here at this very school, and if I can make it, with your hard work, you can do the same.'"

#### The recruitment process

Because Southern Lee was a new school, it was unlikely that any scouts would come calling. But Mellette got a break thanks to a guy named Nick DeMuro.

"The very first recruitment I got was from East Carolina my junior year," Mellette said. "They came and watched our first game against Athens Drive. They had a quarterback, I think Nick DeMuro."

DeMuro was a "gunslinger" at Athens Drive High School in Raleigh who was being looked at by East Carolina University. The Pirates were looking at DeMuro, but they ended up seeing Mellette.

"That was the first time," he said. "After that game, I got letters from East Carolina."

On a side note, DeMuro ended up attending Jacksonville State University, throwing for 4,050

yards and 41 touchdowns his senior year. In 2009, though, he ended up back at Athens Drive as the quarterbacks coach.

Mellette was also recruited by the University of Virginia, Coastal Carolina University, Marshall University and North Carolina Central University. And by some big ACC football school.

"I received a letter from Florida State (University)," he said, laughing. "I was like, 'Whoa, wow, Florida State, that's pretty cool.' Then I was like, 'Well, I'm a (University of) Miami fan, so I hope Miami comes. I'm going to be a Hurricane when I grow up, I know it.'"

Florida State ended up not doing anything else.

Mellette especially liked going to Virginia, and East Carolina tried to get him a last-minute scholarship, but it was the Phoenix that stuck out, thanks to an interesting recruiting strategy by then-head coach Pete Lembo.

"When we were (at Elon), recruiting the state of North Carolina was priority No. 1," said Lembo, who is now the head football coach at Ball State University. "Our goal was to be very thorough to get to every school in the state. When you look at those high successful teams we had there, a lot of those good players were right here in North Carolina."

A peek at the rosters from the Lembo years shows it. Elon quarterback legend Scott Riddle came from Eastern Randolph High School in Ramseur, current Detroit Lions practice squad

## A GRIDIRON STAR AT SOUTHERN LEE



PHOTOS BY ZACHARY HORNER | Sports Editor

**Above: The front page of the sports section of The Sanford Herald the day after signing day, February 7, 2008. Mellette shared the spotlight with former Lee County High School running back Jay Hollingsworth, who signed with Duke University. Right: Mellette's jersey from his senior year at Southern Lee High School. That year, he helped lead the Cavaliers to a berth in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association playoffs, where Southern Lee lost in the second round.**



Former Elon head coach Pete Lembo was the coach when Mellette came to Elon in 2008.

FILE PHOTO

center Rodney Austin was recruited from East Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte, and wide receiver Terrell Hudgins attended Rocky Mount High School in Rocky Mount. All players Lembo recruited.

"Aaron is an example of that plan coming to fruition," Lembo said. "We got on Aaron early. As it turned out, we really didn't have to compete against any really high level competition for him. If Aaron Mellette is from Atlanta or Virginia Beach, or Burgin County, N.J., there's no way we're getting him at Elon. He would have had so many other schools interested in him that we would have had no shot."

Elon came calling, saw a quick spring workout and offered him a scholarship a week later. Despite the other offers, the Phoenix quickly became the obvious choice for Aaron Mellette.

"They were really, really dogged, when it was legal, to come watch Aaron work out," Lee said. "They made him feel like he was their No. 1 concern. He doesn't have a very big ego for someone of his talent. He knew it was going to be a good school as far as size and liked the way they did things."

#### Donning the maroon and gold

Aaron signed his letter of intent to play for Coach Lembo and Elon Feb. 7, 2008, at Southern Lee, becoming the first Division I athlete in school history.

Lembo knew he was getting more than a good player.

"I spent a lot of time around (Mellette's family) in the recruiting process," he said. "When you're recruiting close to home, you have so much more

of an opportunity to interact with the parents. We saw Aaron and his parents quite a bit. Just very, very down to earth people. You knew that, when he decided to come on board, we were getting a great family, not just a great kid."

Mellette arrived on campus and was redshirted his freshman year. His 2008 recruiting class was filled with key pieces of future Elon football teams. Quarterback Thomas Wilson, kicker Adam Shreiner, wide receiver Darrius McQueen, running back Jamal Shuman, defensive lineman/linebacker Dale Riley, defensive lineman Olufemi Lamikanra and tight end Andre Labinowicz all came to Elon in the 2008 recruiting class.

"I'm never going to forget our first summer up here," Mellette said. "We didn't know what we were doing, sitting in health class joking around. We used to call Thomas 'Sweet T.'"

Wilson had met Mellette through various camps in North Carolina during the pair's junior and senior years of high school.

"I've been completing balls to him from freshman year on the scout team to now our fifth-year senior year and we're playing with the (first-string)," said Wilson, a product of Leesville Road High School in Raleigh.

Mellette became fast friends with Riley and Shuman, who became his roommate.

"If we got in trouble, it'd be (Shuman) and me doing something crazy together if anything, throughout our four years together," he said.

Wilson and Mellette's connection began their redshirt freshman year in 2008, sitting on the side

"Me and Thomas were just sitting back, waiting, saying, 'Man, I'm ready to hit the field,'" he said. "Of course, he was behind Scott Riddle and I was behind Terrell."

## CONNECTING WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF PLAYERS



Mellette, shown here during a preseason scrimmage in 2011, has worked with several Elon Phoenix stars during his career. FILE PHOTO BY HEATHER CASSANO



Record-setting wide receiver Terrell Hudgins was the No. 1 receiver when Mellette came to Elon in 2008. FILE PHOTO



Quarterback Scott Riddle completed 94 passes and 14 touchdowns to Mellette during their two years together. FILE PHOTO



Quarterback Thomas Wilson was in the same recruiting class as Mellette and threw 12 touchdowns to him in 2011. FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

Riddle and Hudgins were the two stars of the Elon football team in 2008 and 2009, helping the Phoenix to a 17-7 record over those two years and a Football Championship Subdivision playoff berth in 2009.

The relationship between Hudgins and Mellette was a friendly competition. Lembo described the two as different types of receivers.

"Terrell was playing wide receiver with almost a tight end-size body,

where Aaron has got a little bit more wiggle and he might be a little more explosive than Terrell," he said. "Terrell, on some of those screens we would throw to him, he might run somebody over for a seven or eight-yard gain, while Aaron might make some guy miss and turn that into a 28-yard gain."

Mellette also noted fellow receivers Sean Jeffcoat and Lance Camp, Class of 2010, as inspirations.

"From (Terrell) to Sean and Lance,

those three guys were the guys I paid attention to in practices and meeting rooms and on the field, trying to learn as much as possible," he said. "I told Terrell, 'I'm going to break your records.'"

He also credited Keith Gaither, Elon's receivers coach from 2009-2010 and now in the same position at Ball State, for helping him develop his game.

"When I first got here, no disre-

spect, but I had Coach Lembo," Mellette said. "And when he was talking, I was like, 'I'm lost.' I had no idea what he was talking about. I just remember blocking every day, so I got really good at run blocking. But when Coach Gaither came in, we did more receiver-oriented drills, like footwork drills and catching drills. I started coming into my own and learning things."

### Replacing a legend

Mellette called 2010 "a year of expectations."

The Phoenix was coming off a 9-4 year in which it reached the FCS playoffs, where Elon lost to No. 4 University of Richmond 16-13.

Mellette played in 12 games in 2009 as a redshirt freshman, grabbing eight receptions for 117 yards and two touchdowns. But in 2010, a significant piece of the Elon offense from the previous four years, Hudgins, was gone.

Jeffcoat and Camp were still there, but the No. 3 receiver spot, which belonged to No. 19 before, needed to be filled.

"At the time, it was between me and Rasuan Rorie, competing in the spring," Mellette said. "Even going into camp, he and I were competing for that job. He pushed me to where I needed to be pushed because I wanted to be that guy. If it wasn't for him during spring ball and camp, I don't know if I would have taken the extra step to unlocking my potential so early. I'd like to thank him for that."

Rorie earned the No. 3 slot at wide receiver in 2012 behind Mellette and senior Jeremy Peterson.

Mellette earned the spot. But he felt he had not earned his teammates' respect until Sept. 18 that year, against those same Richmond Spiders the Phoenix had lost to in the playoffs the year before.

"The first day of our meeting for game planning, their star linebacker, (senior Eric McBride), was talking about, 'We'll lock up man (coverage) and our cornerbacks will have more catches than them,'" he said. "It just awoke the inner monster inside of me. That whole week, I was like, 'Let's play, let's play.'"

The inner monster had the game of his life, grabbing an Elon-record 18 catches for 195 yards and two touchdowns, including a 25-yard game-tying

score from Riddle with no time left in the fourth quarter.

"A bunch of guys were like, 'Yeah, yeah, Merle (Mellette's real first name), yeah, Merle. I got your back,'" he said. "I think that was the chance where finally the other guys on the team respected me, and the question of who was replacing Terrell was answered."

### Becoming a star

Although the Phoenix lost the Richmond game 27-21 and finished the season out of the playoffs at 6-5, Mellette garnered personal accolades for his productive sophomore season. He was a first-team all-SoCon selection by both the conference's media and coaches and second-team All-American by The Associated Press, finishing with 1,100 receiving yards and 12 touchdowns.

"It was a goal of mine accomplished," Mellette said about the all-SoCon selection. "Before I came here, I had a set of goals that I wanted to achieve within my four or five years here, and it was just one of those goals to be the best receiver in the conference, and be an all-conference guy, and get a plaque. I just like getting plaques and stuff, so I wanted that."

In 2011, despite a 5-6 record as a team, things just got better for the wideout. He said he had more motivation. The all-SoCon selection was nice, but "it was about (former Appalachian State wide receiver) Brian Quick and (wide receiver Joel) Bradford from (the University of Tennessee at) Chattanooga," Aaron said. "They're still coming back next season. They're still the top two guys. I was like, 'Well, now I've got to go out and do it again, because I've got nobody's respect but my own teammates.'"

And he earned that respect. He led the FCS in receptions per game (10.27) and receiving yards per game (149). He set a new SoCon record (previously held by Hudgins) with 1,639 receiving yards. He racked up 12 touchdowns and had 100-plus receiving yards in Elon's last nine games.

All those garnered him first-team all-SoCon again and a first-team All-America choice by The Associated Press, The Sports Network, the Walter Camp Football Foundation, College Sporting News, Phil Steele, College Sports Madness and College Sports Journal. Mellette also finished fifth in voting for the Walter Payton Award, the FCS's version of the Heisman Trophy, given to the best player in the nation.

All of this with a new coach, a new system and a new quarterback.

"I saw the film when I first got hired and I just didn't know the competition that he was playing with and that he

had a great quarterback throwing him the ball," current Elon head football coach Jason Swepson said. "I didn't really get my hopes up too high."

But all it took was a rainy February morning to change Swepson's mind. The team was running 40-yard dashes on the track, a wet and cold surface. Four coaches clocked Mellette's 40-time below 4.5 seconds.

"And we all went, 'Okay, okay,'" Swepson said. "He's running this in early morning at 6 a.m. on a cold rainy track. This kid can run."

His new quarterback wasn't exactly new either. Wilson came with Mellette in the 2008 recruiting class, but didn't take over the starting quarterback job until his junior season.

"It was huge," Wilson said about having Mellette already established in the No. 1 receiver role when he took over as the starting quarterback in 2011. "He's a playmaker that almost every offensive coach wants on their side of the ball. He can do just about anything for us."

But it took nearly four years for Wilson to do something every quarterback must do.

"He took me out to eat this summer," Mellette said. "Finally got him to do that, lazy guy."

Wilson explains the story.

"We went down to (North Carolina) State (University) for a seven-on-seven (scrimmage)," Wilson said. "On the way back, I took him and a few other guys to Cracker Barrel, and we had dinner."

Despite Mellette describing Wilson as "weird," he said there is nothing ill between the quarterback and receiver combo.

"We always joke around about everything," Mellette said. "I joke more than he does, he jokes around a little bit. It's a really good relationship. It's nothing that's going to tear the team apart, it's all positive when it comes to me and him."

### Staying grounded

Despite being a guy with serious NFL prospects, Mellette tries to keep himself humble.

"I don't let it get to me, make me a prima-donna or anything of that nature," he said. "I'm just one guy, there's tons of guys out there getting looked at by the NFL, the same stuff told to them. It doesn't make me more special than anybody."

The primary ways he stays grounded are his family and the way he handles his social life.

"My family, they let me know how real it is and make sure I stay grounded," he said. "I don't put myself out there because I don't want to get caught up in the wrong situation at any given moment. I would stay in my room and play Call of Duty before going out to a party any day of the week, just try and keep a low



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO  
Current Elon head coach Jason Swepson joined the Phoenix in 2011.

profile."

Lamikanra, who was in the same recruiting class as Mellette, notices his way of flying below the radar.

"Aaron will stay in his room and play his video games," he said. "He doesn't go out that much. He really focuses on what he has to do football-wise and academic-wise. He stays close to his family, plays video games with his friends back home."

Mellette credits that to his upbringing and the people back in Sanford. When he goes home, whether he hangs out with his friends or his immediate family, his presence is known. Needless to say, it would make an impact on his home town if he was drafted.

### "Future NBA Superstar"

Part of his Southern Lee family is former principal Hans Lassiter. Now the principal at Hillside High School in Durham, N.C., Lassiter went to church with Mellette.

Lassiter is enthusiastic about his former student. He tells of an Aaron Mellette who had a different professional sport in mind at a younger age.

"Aaron and I attended the same church, so I met him before the (first Southern Lee) school year commenced," Lassiter said. "I spoke at the church for their Youth Sunday, and he had this dog tag that lit up in red that said, 'Aaron Mellette, Future NBA Superstar.' I told him that day that football was in his future."

Lassiter spoke of watching Mellette play in high school and the Southern Lee athletic director looking over at him and saying, "We better enjoy watching him play now while it's free." He keeps up with his former student, who made him a promise.

"He and I chat on Facebook often, and I re-



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer  
Mellette started the 2012 season poorly, catching just two passes for nine yards Sept. 1 against North Carolina.

mind him of a pledge he made to me while he was in high school that I would be on his guest list at the NFL Draft," he said. "I am certain that we are looking at an excellent NFL prospect, sure-fire Elon Hall-of-Famer and potential NFL All-Pro receiver."

Reminded of that promise to his former principal, Mellette stays true to his well-grounded ways.

"He's been right on a couple things that I wouldn't believe," he said. "If I do get called up to sit in the green room, he would definitely be there. I always keep my promises. I don't want anybody calling me a liar."

And his teammates would be proud of that name being called.

Senior kicker Adam Shreiner, recruited with Mellette in 2008, notes a growth into su-

perstardom.

"From day one, when he was on scout team, he was one of the best players on the field," Shreiner said. "Just watching his confidence level and his ability to really command a presence on the field, and being that dominating presence has really changed from even last year to this year. He's really kind of accepted that role and became that superstar that we all knew he could be."

They may not be calling him a liar, but soon, they may be calling Aaron Mellette's name in the NFL Draft in April 2013. Maybe even on the first day, in the first round.

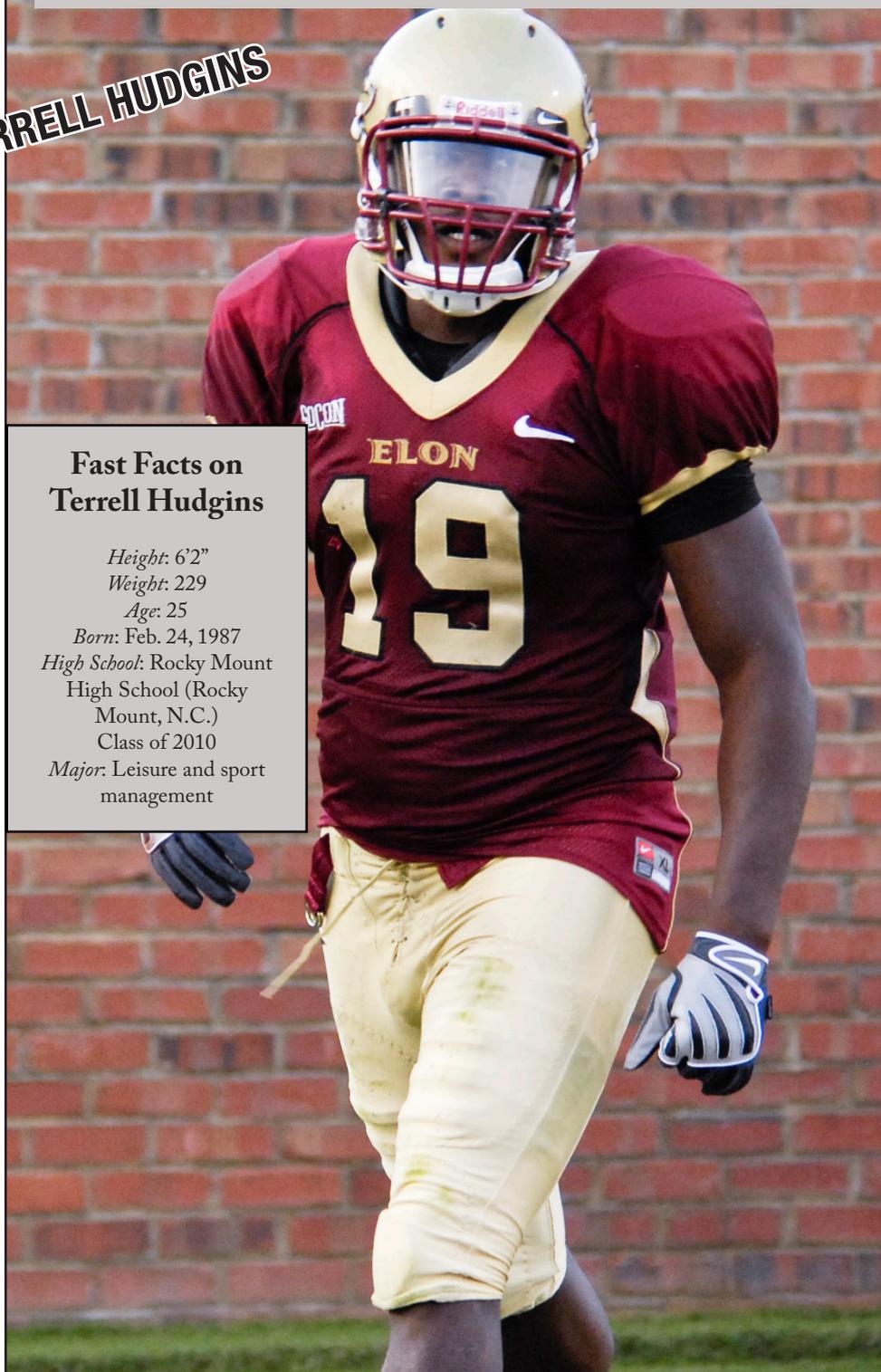
From Sanford to New York City. The two-year high school player to taking snaps on Sundays. Not exactly your typical story of an NFL prospect.

# Comparing prolific Elon wide receivers

Stats (as of Sept. 2, 2012)	Terrell Hudgins (2006-2009)	Aaron Mellette (2009-2012)
Games	44	35
Receptions	395	209
Yards	5,250	2,865
Touchdowns	52	26
Yards per reception	13.3	13.7
Best Walter Payton Award Voting finish	2 <sup>nd</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>

Elon senior wide receiver Aaron Mellette took over as the No. 1 receiver in 2010 when former wideout Terrell Hudgins graduated. Hudgins broke many records, including the NCAA's all-time receiving yards mark formerly held by NFL Hall-of-Famer Jerry Rice. Mellette has set a couple records as well, including most receiving yards in a season (1,639) in the Southern Conference.

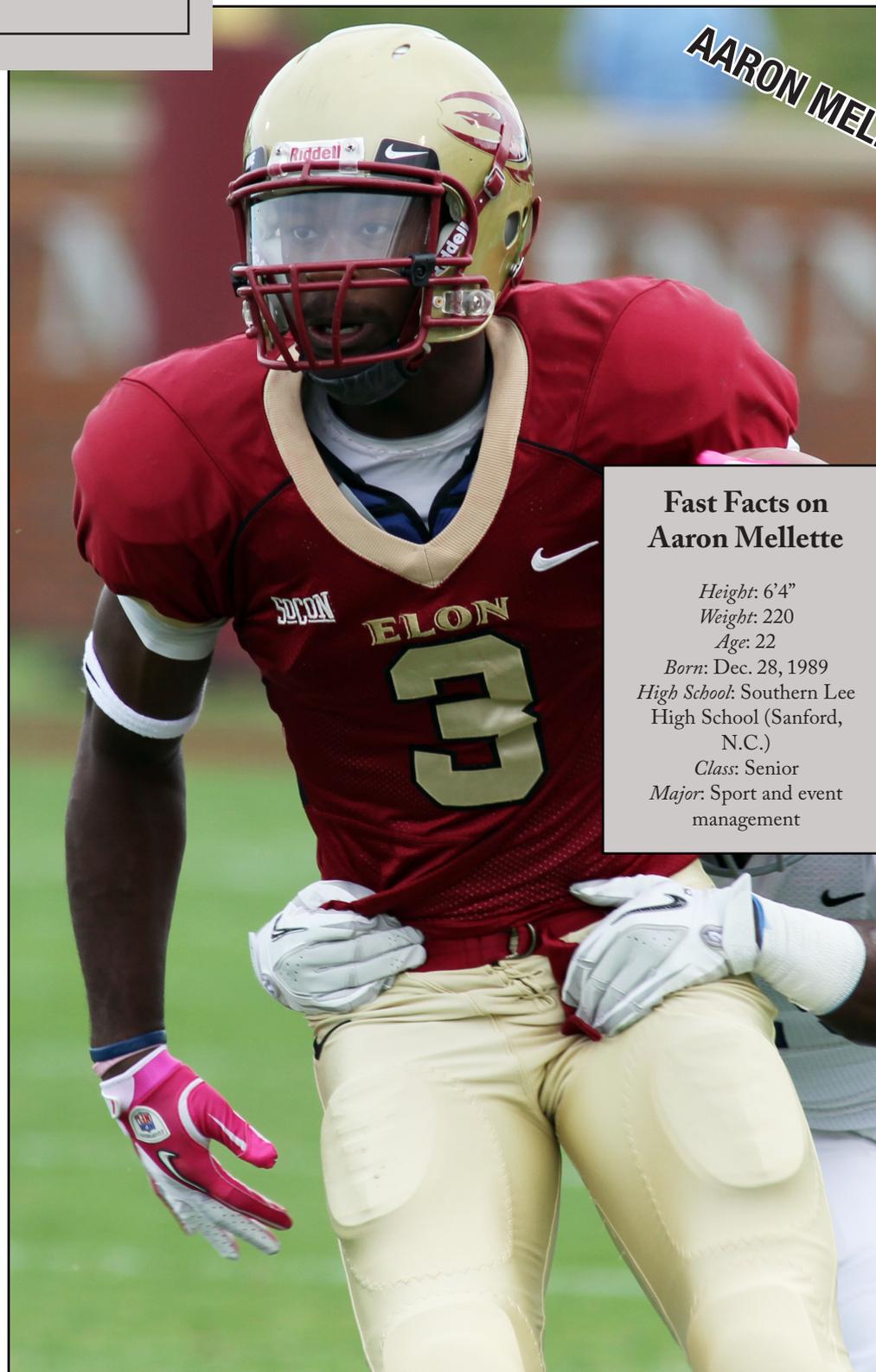
TERRELL HUDGINS



**Fast Facts on Terrell Hudgins**

*Height:* 6'2"  
*Weight:* 229  
*Age:* 25  
*Born:* Feb. 24, 1987  
*High School:* Rocky Mount High School (Rocky Mount, N.C.)  
*Class of:* 2010  
*Major:* Leisure and sport management

AARON MELLETTE



**Fast Facts on Aaron Mellette**

*Height:* 6'4"  
*Weight:* 220  
*Age:* 22  
*Born:* Dec. 28, 1989  
*High School:* Southern Lee High School (Sanford, N.C.)  
*Class:* Senior  
*Major:* Sport and event management

FILE PHOTO  
 Former Elon wideout Terrell Hudgins set several NCAA and Southern Conference records during his career.

AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer  
 Elon senior wide receiver Aaron Mellette is entering his senior year as one of the top receivers in the country.

# CAPTION THIS!

Tom DeLuca, a tradition during Elon University's Orientation events, was on campus Monday, Aug. 27 to hypnotize a new crop of Elon students. The SUB-sponsored event was open to all students, free of charge.

Some fell in love with a piece of fruit, some were hypnotized to sing incessantly and others to kill DeLuca with a bottle of water.

Think you have the best caption for these two photos? Submit your best caption by posting on our Facebook wall or tweeting to @elonpendulum. We'll feature the best in a page on our website, www.elonpendulum.com.



YOUR CAPTION HERE.

MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer



YOUR CAPTION HERE.

MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

## Top Tweets

### @NatalieStovall

Love y'all! RT @elonpendulum: @NatalieStovall plays for the #Elon Class of 2016 at Community on the Commons #ElonMoveIn

### @SportsEsquire

#Elon fall sports are underway, here are some good follows (all year long): @elonphoenix @elonpendulum @ELNsports #SportsBiz

### @LindsayEney

I miss my home! "@elonpendulum: Lambert: 'This is Elon. We are one family, and this is your new home. Take care of one another.' #ElonMoveIn"

### @SportsEsquire

@elonpendulum – This is an interesting case for those who practice in government and/or deal with FOIA requests #law #FOIA



# TOP PHOTOS OF



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Elon senior wide receiver Jeremy Peterson (in white) is tackled by three University of North Carolina players during Saturday's 62-0 North Carolina victory in Kenan Stadium in Chapel Hill. The Phoenix struggled offensively, only crossing midfield twice on offense all afternoon.



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Members from team Big Fat Lay, consisting of club Frisbee players, compete in the SportsFest relay race.



CLAIRE ESPARROS | Photo Editor

The Elon University Poll, an independent non-partisan survey of North Carolinians who are likely to vote, announced its results on Sept. 3. According to the poll, Mitt Romney has the lead above President Barack Obama.



CLAIRE ESPARROS | Photo Editor

President Leo Lambert was involved in the Elon Poll presentation at The Charlotte Observer on Monday.



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

North Carolina Singer/Songwriter James Taylor performs at CarolinaFest, a Labor Day event celebrating the involvement of community members at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte on Monday.



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

Cathy Santos of Fort Mill, S.C. takes a video of James Taylor at CarolinaFest in Charlotte on Monday, an event to launch the Democratic National Convention.

# THE WEEK



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer  
Sophomore CJ Moore protects his fruit from hypnotist Tom DeLuca during orientation events.



CLAIRE ESPARROS | Photo Editor  
During freshman move-in, President Leo Lambert and President Emeritus Earl Danieley oversaw the events of the day near Danieley Center.



STEPHANIE BUTZER | Senior Reporter  
Motivational speaker Jonathan Sprinkles presents his insights to audience members Aug. 28 in McCrary Theatre.



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer  
Students rock climb at Community on the Commons, an annual event held during New Student Orientation, the weekend before classes begin.



MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer  
Elon junior midfielder Kimmie Krauss (10) battles with a Coastal Carolina player during the Phoenix's 3-0 loss to Coastal Carolina University Aug. 30.

# Get involved with... THE PENDULUM



Are you interested in contributing to an award-winning, daily student news organization? The Pendulum is looking for talented, dedicated students from all years and majors to contribute to our various publications. We have opportunities for involvement in our newspaper, magazine, web show, radio show and website, even if you have no prior experience.

Applications for official staff positions will be available in late November, but we welcome contributions from any student throughout the semester. We encourage students to become familiar with our staff and contribute regularly before applying for a full position.

Feel free to stop by our office on the third floor of the Elon Town Center (the building with the bookstore) and say hi. Our weekly budget meetings are held Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and are open to anyone.

Questions? Email Pendulum representative Madeline Monaco at [mmonaco@elon.edu](mailto:mmonaco@elon.edu) to sign up for our email lists or get more information about our team.

A full list of opportunities for involvement can be found at [www.elonpendulum.com/apply](http://www.elonpendulum.com/apply).

## *Upcoming Pendulum Events*

*Org Fair: 4-6 p.m.,  
Sept. 7, Young Commons*

*Interest Meeting: 6 p.m., Sept.  
12 in our office*