

# THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013 • VOLUME 39, EDITION 6

## A NATION DIVIDED

How will marriage equality fare  
in the Supreme Court?



# Table of Contents

Wednesday, April 10, 2013 • page 2

in this

EDITION...

# NEWS

NC Senate Bill #666: How will it affect voting college students? • page7

The role of faith in Greek Life • page10

# OPINIONS

Check your facts before spreading the word • page14

Equals sign prompts lopsided response • page15

# INTERNATIONAL

Syrian conflict lacking serious worldwide attention • page16

French Senate debates future for same-sex couples • page17

# FEATURES

Semester at Sea student stamps passport into global citizenship • page18

Student organization helps Skid's go green, gain customers • page20

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'August: Osage County' hits familial note • page21

Student-made documentary to be shown at RiverRun • page22

# SPORTS

Football looks to fill holes as spring practice starts • page24

A man, his moped and a tennis racquet • page26

4

14

16

18

21

24

## THE PENDULUM

*Established 1974*

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

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Rebecca Iannucci

**Managing Editor**  
Jonathan Black

**News Editor**  
Katherine Blunt

**News Editor**  
Ethan Smith

**Assistant News Editor**  
Michael Bodley

**Opinions Editor**  
Audrey Horwitz

**Assistant Opinions Editor**  
Alex Francis

**International Editor**  
Alana Romans

**Features Editor**  
Kyra Gemberling

**Arts & Entertainment Editor**  
Stephanie Butzer

**Sports Editor**  
Andrew Wilson

**Assistant Sports Editor**  
Matt Krause

**Web & Social Media Editor**  
Mary Kate Brogan

**Executive Producer of The Swing**  
Dan McLaughlin

**Photo Editor**  
Al Drago

**Design Chief**  
Kristen Case

**Copy Chief**  
Tyler Oberle

**Business Manager**  
Richard Segal

**Assistant Business Manager**  
Courtney Vaughn

**Public Relations Director**  
Emmy York

**Adviser**  
Colin Donohue

*For a complete list of our staff, please visit [ElonPendulum.com/staff](http://ElonPendulum.com/staff).*

# A P R I L

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>10</b> "Fishing for Cans" Food Drive 10 a.m. Moseley	<b>11</b> Spring Blood Drive 9:30 a.m. McKinnon Hall	<b>12</b> Moodle Walk-in Support 3-5 p.m. Belk 115	<b>13</b> SUBcinema presents "The Hobbit" 8 p.m. Young Commons
<b>14</b> Softball vs. Western Carolina 1 p.m.	<b>15</b> Communications Week: Faculty/Staff Thank You Letter Campaign	<b>16</b> Preregistration begins for Summer and Fall 2013	<b>17</b> Avid Training Workshop 7-9 p.m. McEwen 205	<b>18</b> "Night of the Soul" 7:30 p.m. McCrary Theatre	<b>19</b> El Centro Soccer Tournament 3 p.m. Intramural Fields	<b>20</b> Team Hero Kickball Tournament 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
<b>21</b> Baseball vs. Wofford 1:30 p.m.	<b>22</b> "The Business Case for Implementing Sustainability" 7:30 p.m. McKinnon Hall	<b>23</b> SURF Day	For more event coverage visit The Pendulum online at <a href="http://www.elonpendulum.com">www.elonpendulum.com</a> .			

## FOX | MAcc Master of Accountancy

### GET CPA READY

The ONE-YEAR MASTER OF ACCOUNTANCY (MAcc) PROGRAM bridges aspiring CPAs to the public accounting industry and endorses them as "CPA ready."

- CPA review course included in program and tuition
- 95% job placement rate

Fall 2013 merit-based scholarship deadline December 10th

#### DISCOVER THE POWER OF FOX®

[www.fox.temple.edu/macc](http://www.fox.temple.edu/macc)  
Text FOXMS to 69302 for info



# M

**Kristina Wulber  
Marshall**

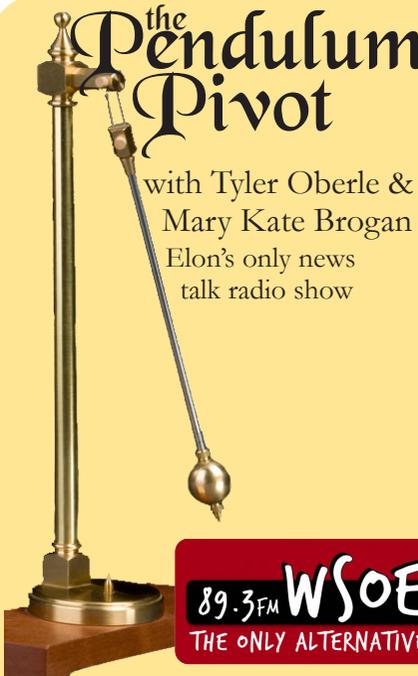
Attorney at Law

106B S Maple St.  
Graham, NC 27253

336.269.7296  
[krwulber@gmail.com](mailto:krwulber@gmail.com)

Contact for the following cases:

Underage Drinking  
DWI  
Possession of Marijuana  
Expungements



with Tyler Oberle &  
Mary Kate Brogan  
Elon's only news  
talk radio show

**89.3 FM WSOE**  
THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE

Tune in Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m.  
on WSOE 89.3 FM or online at  
[www.wsoe893.com](http://www.wsoe893.com)

# Licensed to wed? DOMA, Prop 8 stir debate surrounding marriage equality

Michael Papich  
Senior Reporter

The Supreme Court captured the attention of the Elon University community last month as it heard arguments about marital rights of LGBTQ-identified Americans, an issue that has elicited both activism and criticism from students, faculty and alumni.

The court considered both the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), a 1996 federal law that awards federal benefits according to the traditional definition of marriage, and Proposition 8 (Prop 8), a 2008 amendment to California's state constitution that legally recognizes marriage as a union of one man and one woman.

During the week of March 25, when both sets of arguments were heard, many

Elon students changed their Facebook profile pictures to a pink equal sign to symbolize their support for marriage equality, and some engaged in debate both on and offline.

While the move toward legalizing same-sex marriage encourages some LGBTQ activists, others point out marriage equality is not the dominant issue for most LGBTQ people. Senior Lauren Clapp, an advocacy and education chair for Spectrum, Elon's queer-straight alliance, said marriage equality is just one of many issues LGBTQ people face.

"I get really frustrated by organizations like the Human Rights Campaign who pose themselves as the leading LGBTQ advocacy organization, but are in many ways a single issue organization," Clapp said. "They put such a strong emphasis on marriage equality, which really

only benefits a select privileged few in the LGBTQ community."

But Clinton Edmondson, an Elon alumnus and California resident, said he believes Prop 8 and other efforts to ban same-sex marriage have encouraged activism for LGBTQ rights in the state.

"I think gay rights has been something that the California public has come to accept as necessary for a long time coming," Edmondson said. "Prop 8 actually put the nails in that coffin. It's funny how that has worked for the gay rights movement in general. These lawmakers think they are preventing gay marriage and marriage inequality when in reality it's more of a 'don't kick the hornet's nest situation.'"

Both DOMA and Prop 8 are contentious pieces of legislation that have generated complex debates about their constitutionality. In the case challenging

Prop 8, *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, supporters of the amendment argued that the federal court, as part of the United States' federalist system of government, could not intervene and overturn a sovereign state's decision.

"Under the Supremacy Clause, under Article Six of the Constitution, federal trumps state in most things," said Scott Gaylord, associate professor at the Elon University School of Law. "Certain areas are reserved to the state, and traditionally, family law issues are one of those things."

Those who argued against the constitutionality of Prop 8 said the measure violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. In 2009, the Supreme Court of California found Prop 8 constitutional because it allows same-sex couples to receive benefits from domestic partnerships, even though they cannot call their partnership a marriage. But a 2012 ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and a 2010 ruling by the District Court of California both determined Prop 8 unconstitutional.

"If the court says, 'No, the federal government can do it and there's a broad liberty interest for individuals that trump any interest the states might have, then that would invalidate Proposition 8,'" Gaylord said.

In *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the Supreme Court may seem poised to decide the constitutionality of same-sex marriage once and for all, but the court's ruling will likely affect only California. It may not affect other ballot propositions to invalidate same-sex marriage, such as North Carolina's Amendment One. This is partly because same-sex marriage was legal in California before Prop 8 was passed, and the Ninth Circuit Court made a decision regarding whether the right to marriage could be overturned in the state.

"The Ninth Circuit wrote a somewhat narrow opinion in that case," Gaylord said. "You can invoke, possibly, Equal Protection and Due Process provisions, but if you interpret those only for the procedural developments in California itself, then the more limited that opinion is to California."

While the Supreme Court could still



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Last month, the Supreme Court considered the marital rights of LGBTQ-identified Americans when it heard arguments regarding the federal Defense of Marriage Act and California's Proposition 8. Both pieces of legislation have sparked considerable debate and activism within the LGBTQ community and the general public.

rule broadly and say that marriage is a constitutionally guaranteed right, some, like Edmondson, do not believe this is likely.

“As a gay man, it’s disappointing to see because I think in the public conscience it’s become overwhelmingly clear that marriage inequality is a problem that needs to be addressed,” Edmondson said. “DOMA and Prop 8 are just that. Someone else’s mess. Part of the bigger mess that is our political system where cowardice and conformity has built such a barrier between common sense and lawmakers.”

Even if the people of California win the right to have same-sex marriage back, DOMA would still prevent those couples from getting any of the 1,138 federal benefits that are related to marital status, such as federal work benefits, tax deductions and pension benefits. In *United States v. Windsor*, the case that challenged DOMA, a widow in a same-sex marriage was not given estate tax exemptions afforded to heterosexual married couples, so she argued DOMA is discriminatory.

“Arguments are being made that DOMA survives even if states recognize same-sex marriage, because at least the part of DOMA that deals with the federal definition of marriage for federal purposes is irrelevant to state issues,” Gaylord said.

While the possible outcome of the case has garnered a lot of attention and legal scholarship, the justices may simply decide not to make a decision. Supreme Court cases must have the appropriate sides being represented in each case, a policy known as “standing.” In 2011, the Department of Justice said it would no longer defend DOMA in court, so the House of Representatives selected its own legal council to defend DOMA.

According to Gaylord, the court could say the executive branch needs to be the one defending DOMA because it is a federal law. If this is the case, then the court will make no decision on *United States v. Windsor*.

Similarly, with Prop 8, the California executive branch is not defending the ballot proposition. The proposition’s official proponent, *ProtectMarriage.com*, is arguing the case instead. Like with DOMA, the court may decide that they



For some members of the LGBTQ community, marriage equality is an issue that determines whether they are able to receive marital benefits from the government. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

do not have standing in this case.

“If they lack standing, if there are not proper parties before the court, then everything would be vacated back to the district court,” Gaylord said. “And the district court’s decision saying that these individuals have a right to marry would stand, but that’s a narrow holding with regards to California law.”

Even if the courts decide to overturn both DOMA and Prop 8, Clapp said she is worried that some people may interpret the rulings to mean LGBTQ people have achieved full equality.

“I think that federal marriage rights are certainly an important step,” Clapp said. “But when I can legally be fired or denied housing because of my sexual orientation or gender identity in more than half of the states in the U.S., it’s clear to me that we still have a long way to go.” §

## Supreme Court cases that dealt with LGBTQ issues:

**1986 – Bowers v. Hardwick:** The court decided that a state can make laws against homosexual conduct between consenting individuals.

**1996 – Romer v. Evans:** The court overturned a constitutional provision in Colorado that prevented anti-LGBTQ discrimination laws.

**2000 – Boy Scouts of America v. Dale:** The court ruled that the Boy Scouts had a right to bar gay men from serving as troop leaders.

**2003 – Lawrence v. Texas:** The court reverses its 1986 decision and makes homosexual conduct legal in the United States.

# Biosolid application in Burlington remains contested

Michael Papich  
Senior Reporter

As long as there are humans, there is going to be sewage. In Burlington, the majority of treated sewage is applied to farmland as a cheap replacement for fertilizer. But some question the safety of this practice.

In a recent report from the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, researchers interviewed 34 North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia residents who said they lived within a mile of where treated sewage, known as biosolids, was applied to farmland. Residents complained about the odor after its application and reported suffering from eye and throat irritation as well as nausea and diarrhea. Residents with chronic conditions such as asthma or a weakened immune system said they stayed inside after biosolid application had taken place.

"Odor by itself doesn't cause a health risk, but if you're smelling something, you're being exposed to other materials that are in that application," said Janet MacFall, an associate professor of environmental studies and biology at Elon University with a primary research focus

on soil ecology.

But Eric Davis, Burlington's water and sewage operations manager, pointed out that the study did not have a control group without exposure to biosolid application. Davis said he did not see evidence in the report indicating the symptoms came after biosolid applications, as the report does not detail when the symptoms began.

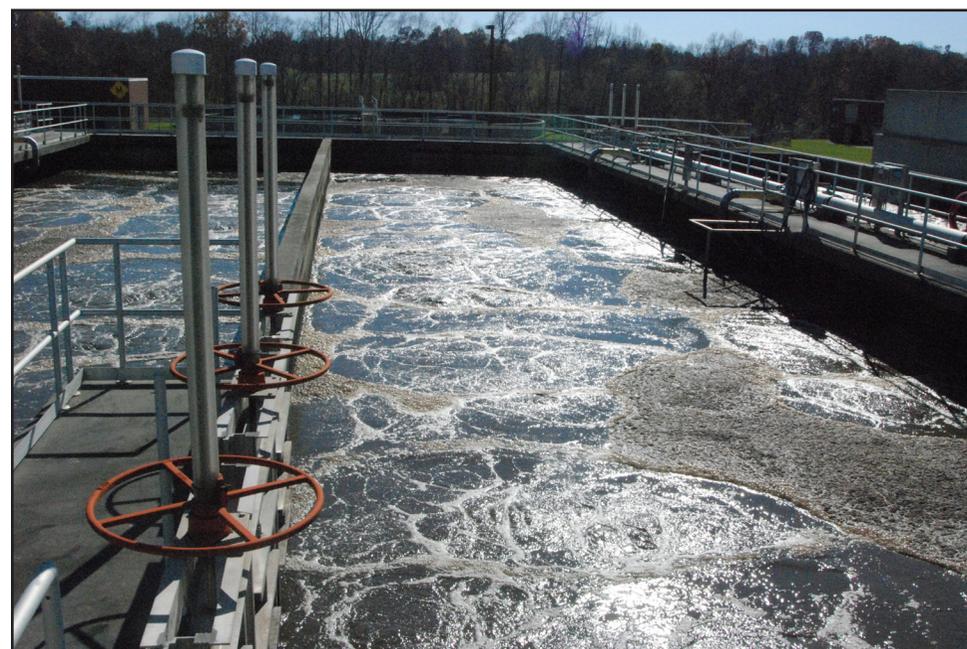
"They are simply reporting what others tell them," David said. "They are not making accusations saying it's unsafe."

Biosolids from Burlington sewage are treated to meet Environmental Protection Agency guidelines at the Burlington sewage plant. Farmers who wish to apply it to their land may do so for free, a practice that saves them a large amount of money.

The biosolids applied on Burlington farmlands are Class B biosolids. Class A biosolids are completely treated for disease and can be spread on any land.

"Class B kills 99 percent of the bacteria and viruses," Davis said. "The pathogens that remain are managed by the site restrictions."

Class A biosolids are created by composting treated sewage, but Davis said this is a very space-intensive process and Burlington does not have the resources to



FILE PHOTO BY JACK DODSON

The Burlington sewage plant produces both Class A and Class B biosolids from treated sewage.

only generate Class A biosolids.

Biosolids cannot be spread on cropland and must have a 100-foot barrier between the application site and wells and creeks. These restrictions, as well as exposure to sunlight and other natural phenomena, are put in place to prevent the spread of remaining pathogens.

"It will break down naturally, but the time of breakdown varies by pathogen," MacFall said. "Some bacteria and viruses will be killed sooner than others. If it's a rainy day and it gets washed into a stream, it won't break down as quickly either."

MacFall added there could be materials in biosolids that will not break down like pathogens.

"If there are materials that don't break down, not biological materials but chemical materials, like detergents or flame retardants or any kind of material that might be in wastewater, that can build up on the land," he said.

Davis said wastewater in Burlington is tested for flame retardants.

While biosolids are currently sprayed on top of farmland, Amy Lowman, one of the researchers who conducted the UNC study, suggested the possibility of injecting the biosolids directly into the soil in-

stead.

"That method means that the substance of the sludge is less likely to become airborne," Lowman said.

Davis said injection is effective at reducing odor, but because the biosolids are then covered by the soil, "deactivation of pathogens is less effective."

In the UNC report, a common complaint among all respondents was that they were not informed about the application of biosolids ahead of time.

"If they knew anything about it, it was because they were first feeling some impact in one way or another, leading them to research it and ask questions to find out for themselves what was going on," Lowman said.

Davis said there is no regulatory requirement to inform residents that spraying will occur, but the water resources department contacts the local health department before application and puts up signs informing residents about biosolids and giving their permit number and phone number.

"We'll notify the school system if we're going to spray near the schools," Davis said. "We also try to only spray near schools when they are out of session."



FILE PHOTO BY JACK DODSON

Some farmers use biosolids generated by the Burlington sewage plant as fertilizer for farmland.

# New legislation takes aim at college students, early voters

Katherine Blunt  
News Editor

Three Republican senators challenged North Carolina's voting procedures last week with two pieces of legislation targeting college students, one-stop voting registration sites and early voting periods. The bills, titled "Election Law Changes" and "Equalize Voter Rights," both passed their first reading in the North Carolina Senate.

If passed, the bills will redefine how and when certain constituencies may vote. One part of the "Election Law Changes" bill threatens to eliminate dependency tax deductions for North Carolina parents if their child lists their college address, rather than their home address, on their voter registration form. Dependency tax deductions may save parents as much as \$2,500 each year per qualifying child.

**"I hope this bill doesn't pass because I feel like students would have a much more difficult time voting."**

-Margaret Walter  
SOPHOMORE AT NORTH CAROLINA  
STATE UNIVERSITY

The "Equalize Voter Rights" bill provides additional incentive for college students to register at their home address. The legislation requires voters to register their vehicles at the address where they are registered to vote. If students register their vehicles at their college addresses, they would have to pay local property taxes.

The same bill also amends North Carolina's eligibility requirements for in-state tuition at state universities. It asserts "evidence of voter registration in North Carolina is not sufficient evidence in and of itself" to prove eligibility for in-state tuition, though it may be used to help establish legal residence. This portion of the legislation may impact students at public universities, but it would not affect students at private universities such as Elon, where all students pay the same tuition rate.

The sponsors of the bills — Senators Bill

Cook, Norman Sanderson and Ronald Rabin — could not be reached for comment on why they are supporting these changes to the state's election laws. Some speculate the bills are an attempt to shift the district breakdown of election results in Republicans' favor.

"Gerrymandering is very important to the Republican party at this time," said Jason Hussler, assistant director of the Elon University Poll. "There is the perception that college students vote democratic more often, but on the other hand, they also tend to vote like their parents. Gerrymanderers who have students that vote like their parents may want them to vote in the same place so as to not cause instability in their districts. This bill definitely enforces district lines."

The proposed legislation does not strictly prevent students from registering to vote at their college address — a constitutional right determined by the 1979 Supreme Court case *Symm vs. U.S.* — but it may indirectly force some students to file absentee ballots or travel home to cast their votes in order to qualify for dependency deductions. For some, the extra step would conflict with their college schedules.

"I hope this bill doesn't pass because I feel like students would have a much more difficult time voting," said Margaret Walter, a sophomore at North Carolina State University who is registered to vote at her college address. "If the bill passes, I would change my voter registration address to that of my parents. This would be an inconvenience because I don't go home often and I would have to request an absentee ballot instead of voting on campus, which was an extremely easy process this past fall."

Gabby Gonzales, a sophomore at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro who is registered to vote at her college address, said she would face similar challenges.

"I don't have a car and both my parents work, making it difficult for me to get home to vote," she said. "I am also in class almost all day and have a very limited amount of free time, which is the reason I change my registration address in the first place. I feel my parents should be able to collect the tax deduction no matter where I am registered."

Jeffrey Pugh, a religious studies professor at Elon, said the bills send a clear message to all college students in the state.

"This shows the legislature fears college students, who overwhelmingly tend to vote

democratic," Pugh said. "Many share little of the social agenda of the members of our state legislature. They're doing anything they can do to make it more difficult for students to vote. A governing body that rules on the basis of fear and not on the strength of its ideas doesn't deserve to hold power."

The bills also eliminate one-stop voting registration sites and shorten the early voting period from 17 to 10 days. A press release issued by the offices of Rabin, Cook and Sanderson said compressing the early voting period has financial benefits.

"One day of early voting in North Carolina costs \$98,000," the release said. "Our counties bear this cost exclusively. Cutting back early voting from 17 to 10 days does this by saving roughly \$686,000 per election. This money would be better used to hire teachers and first responders."

According to Hussler, there may be other motivations behind the change. He pointed to

data that showed many early voters supported Democratic candidates in the November 2012 election, providing incentive for Republicans to shorten the early voting period.

"Early voters disproportionately voted for Obama and Walter Dalton," he said. "There was a real gap between early voters and regular voters."

Pugh said these aspects of the bills are part of a larger agenda to ensure Republicans retain power in the state.

"When you look at all the data you have, and you shorten early voting, that means you're making it harder for working people to vote," he said. "Why would a legislature want to find ways to prevent people from exercising their rights? For the first time in my memory, not just conservatives, but extremist conservatives, have gained absolute political power. How the state of North Carolina responds to this will tell us a lot about how the state's politics will play out in the next decade."

[www.ncat.edu](http://www.ncat.edu)

The North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

[www.carolinatheatre.com](http://www.carolinatheatre.com)

*Lyceum Series Proudly Presents*

Valuing and Exploring Cultural Expressions: A Cultural Journey and  
Prowess through Music and Movement!

World  
Renowned  
Russian  
National  
Ballet  
Theatre



Tuesday, April 23, 2013  
7:30 p.m. at the Carolina Theatre  
Auditorium in downtown  
Greensboro

TICKETS AVAILABLE @

NCA&T Tickets Office 336-334-7749

Carolina Theatre Box Office 336-333-2605

# Locked out: Paywalls prevent nonsubscribers from accessing online news content

Lauryl Fischer  
Senior Reporter

For years, the proliferation of free online news content has encroached on newspaper revenues, causing a marked decline of the industry. But lately, online news organizations have begun vying to reclaim their share of the market with a controversial tool: the paywall.

The number of news sites using paywalls to block previously free online content has increased significantly in recent years. Since The New York Times put up its paywall in 2011, 72 other news outlets have followed its lead, according to information collected from Ebyline, a Los Angeles-based company that provides software and services for professional journalists and news publishers.

But the effectiveness of paywalls is a question debated among both industry professionals and online readers. Some argue they're necessary for online newspapers to stay afloat, while others argue they chase readers away.

## Paywalls hinge on newspaper size

Newspapers and magazines have been losing revenue for years as subscribers drop off and head online. Digital advertisements have sought to bridge the revenue gap, but according to research by media consultant Alan Mutter, advertisements account for less than 10 percent of digital revenue for most sites.

Enter the paywall, the news industry's latest attempt to make more money. Several recent studies suggest it's working.

The Nieman Journalism Lab, a journalism research center at Harvard University, released a study that showed both the New York Times and the Gannett Company increased profits after adopting paywalls. The study declared the industry was bouncing back.

But not everyone is convinced. Many media professionals are skeptical about paywalls. Some wonder whether they can bring money in without keeping readers out, and some aren't sure whether they can keep small newspapers afloat.

"The New York Times only works because it has a large audience," said Michelle Ferrier, an associate professor of communications at Elon University. "They can put a paywall up and get away with it because they have highly valued content and a large base of support."

A recent Ebyline study supports Ferrier's position. The study examined what kinds of news sites are adopting paywalls and whether the size and circulation of the paper affects paywall success.

The research drew from a list of news sites with paywalls and combined the sites' circulations with daily newspaper online data. Results showed big newspapers are using paywalls more than smaller newspapers.

Ferrier is the founder of a small news site called locallygrownnews.com. The site, which focuses on local eating and sustainable lifestyles, has a niche subscriber base in and around Alamance County. Ferrier has not erected a paywall.

"My site is very hyper-local, and you have to make money a variety of ways," Ferrier said. "A paywall wouldn't work because I don't have a big enough audience."

Small newspapers and online news sites like Ferrier's account for a large percentage of online news content in America, with two out of three papers having a circulation under 25,000, according to Ebyline's study. The study found 16 percent of these papers have chosen to use paywalls.

The Burlington Times-News is planning to jump on board. Starting next fall, the Times-News will erect its own paywall. Executive Editor Madison Taylor said he has mixed feelings about the switch.

"I'm not a genius and I can't say if it's right or wrong," Taylor said. "One of our biggest concerns is losing our audience, but we hope since our competition has already set up paywalls before us, our readers will stick around."

## Readers weigh in

Concern about paywalls revolves not only around the cost, but its effect on content produced.

In Ferrier's opinion, those who read and comment on content can affect the actual content itself. If only middle-upper to upper-class, college-educated, 40-something-year-olds are able to pay for news, "their issues, the ones they care about, are the only ones that will be addressed," Ferrier said.

The demographics of two of the most successful papers with paywalls — The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal — are skewed toward readers with higher household

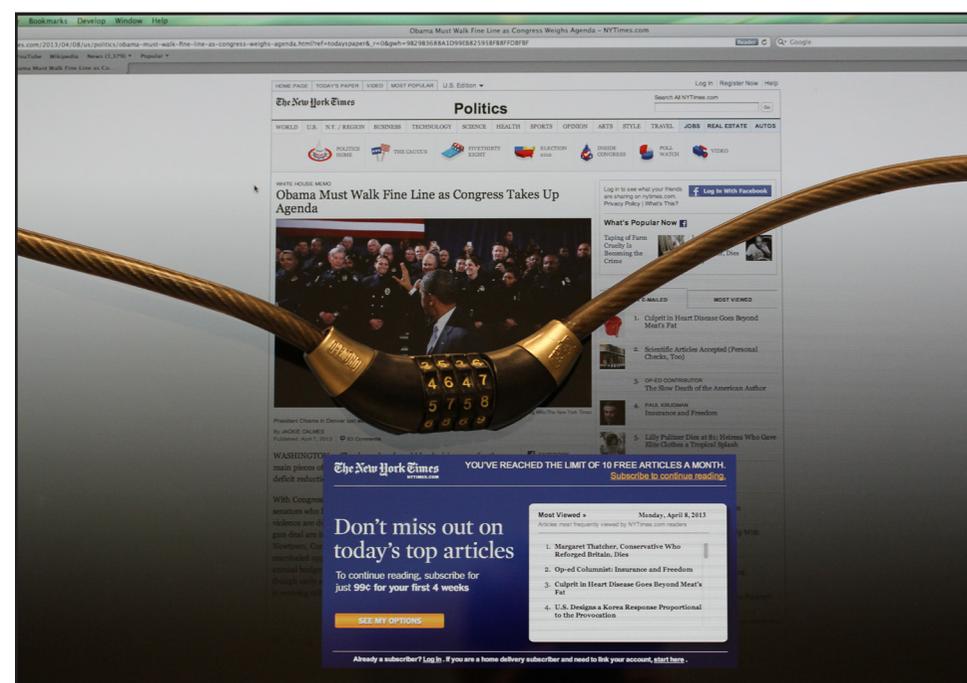


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TIMOTHY DEWITT

Many newspapers are erecting online paywalls in an attempt to generate revenue from online readership.

incomes. The average income for a New York Times subscriber is around \$74,000. For The Wall Street Journal, 31.5 percent of subscribers have an income of more than \$100,000 and 10 percent have an income of more than \$150,000, according to statistics supplied online by the newspapers.

"A paywall takes what is a valuable function in a democracy, and it makes it accessible to only those who have money, and it disenfranchises those who don't have money," Ferrier said. "If people have to choose between food on the table and news, they're going to feed themselves and their children first."

The cost of paying for online news may also push away the younger demographic, according to Mark Fox, an adjunct communications instructor at Elon. He predicts readers older than 45 will mainly be consuming digitalized news if advertising can successfully target an older audience.

"Two-thirds of the world isn't willing to pay for online content," he said. "The prepared users tend to be older and less targetable to advertisers."

Senior Megan Martin said as a college student, paying for news doesn't seem worth it, given her lack of income and the lack of a permanent community for those studying outside their state.

"Living somewhere full-time, I would want access to things such as town events, sale circulars and up-to-date focused local news," Martin said. "But I feel that global news can be accessed easily online or on television, so to me a subscription to something like The New York Times wouldn't be necessary."

Junior Joe Bruno expressed a similar feeling. He said he doesn't feel the need to pay for national or international online news.

"Until all online news providers have paywalls, there is no incentive for me to pay when I can find the same story somewhere else," he said. "As of right now, I'm not in love with a brand enough. Now, if my local hometown paper had a paywall, I probably would subscribe."

But some students don't recognize the viability of paywalls as a means to increase newspaper revenue. Junior John Bowden said newspapers may need to find a different way to make money.

"I respect the idea that newspapers have to find a way to monetize online content, and I don't personally have a problem with paywalls, but I'm just absolutely sure they aren't going to work," he said. "It's a great way to drive people to your competition. Any story you can get behind a paywall, you can probably get somewhere else."

# Newly admitted students begin to form the Class of 2017

Michael Bodley  
Assistant News Editor

After application decisions were released online at midnight March 14, 5,294 Elon University hopefuls received the news they were hoping for: They were accepted. The 9,925 applicants this year made up the second largest applicant pool in the school's history, trailing only the 10,209 students who applied last year.

Coming from all corners of the United States and all around the globe, about one-fifth of accepted students identify themselves as ethnically diverse. The class itself remains very fluid, according to Greg Zaiser, vice president of admissions and financial planning.

As other schools release their regular decisions, Elon's incoming class will fluctuate, he said. The 53 percent of applicants who were

admitted this year have GPAs consistent with Elon's admissions standards. The middle 50 percent of GPA values range from 3.64 to 4.56, and the middle 50 percent of SAT scores range from 1800 to 2030.

Noticeably above the national averages in these two categories, admitted students chose Elon for other distinct reasons.

Britt Chertock, an incoming freshman, said she is excited about North Carolina's different seasons, something she never experienced back home in West Palm Beach, Fla. The application process won her over, causing her to choose Elon over the likes of Northeastern and Tulane.

"The overall college application process was crazy, but Elon definitely made it easier and more of a personable experience," she said.

Some chose Elon for very specific reasons. Zoe Ross-Nash is a ballerina who

cares about the classroom experience.

"Not many schools have a dance program that has ballet," she said. "Since my high school doesn't have a dance team, I am now able to be involved with my school from dancing which I have never been able to do before. It's nice that my school will actually be able to see me dance."

Lizzie Murphy knew exactly what she wanted to do when she started her college search. A future elementary education major and dance minor, she chose Elon after considering many options.

"I also really liked how there is an elementary school so close to the campus to do student teaching in for elementary ed," she said.

Elon's commitment to engaged learning left an impression on Briana Konecke.

"When I was there they talked a lot about how they focus on engaged learning, which I loved, because I'm not the kind of

person who likes to listen to lectures and take a bunch of notes," she said.

Visiting campus sealed the deal for Paige Pauroso. Discussion-based classes and academics were a plus, she said, but the people really convinced her.

"What really sold me were the ridiculously friendly people," she said. "When I toured I felt so welcomed. I really just liked the vibe of all the happy students, and I wanted to be in a happy environment."

Lauren Weaver was drawn to the biochemistry program at Elon. Impressed by the campus, she applied early decision after visiting the campus last fall.

"When my family came back for the accepted students day a couple weekends ago my dad fell in love just as quickly as my mom and I did," she said. "We got in the car and he started crying. It's amazing how blessed I am to have found Elon."

# Elon University launching campus-wide writing initiative

Corinne James  
Senior Reporter

Elon University will soon implement the Writing Excellence Initiative, a project aimed to make writing a key component of every student's Elon education.

The Elon community started developing the project in 2010 to build on the school's mission of putting knowledge into practice.

The Writing Excellence Initiative is a part of Elon's overarching Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), as a required part of Elon's reaccreditation process.

The goal of the initiative is to prepare every Elon student to be an outstanding writer, regardless of his or her major.

The initiative is focusing on developing students' abilities to write in three ways: writing to learn, writing in a discipline and writing as a citizen.

Writing to learn will focus on analyzing and problem solving, while writing in a discipline will gear toward a student's individual major. Writing as a citizen will prepare every graduate to communicate effectively with others.

Academic departments will "enhance the writing instruction and support they provide for their majors," according to the Writing Excellence Initiative. Courses will be refined to build student abilities and outcomes. This may mean courses offer an essay exam instead of a multiple-choice test.

The General Studies Program at Elon University has been redesigned to focus heavily on writing, as well. The Global Experience will have smaller class sizes throughout the next five years to provide more writing instruction individually.

The Center for Writing Excellence will be created to manage success of the initiative and integrate the student Writing Center.

The new center will focus on support of graduate programs, job applications and even blog posts to enhance student writing.

This initiative is unfolding progressively during the next five years, with each department or course adapting one step at a time. Each idea will be implemented by a small group for testing before full implementation into a department.

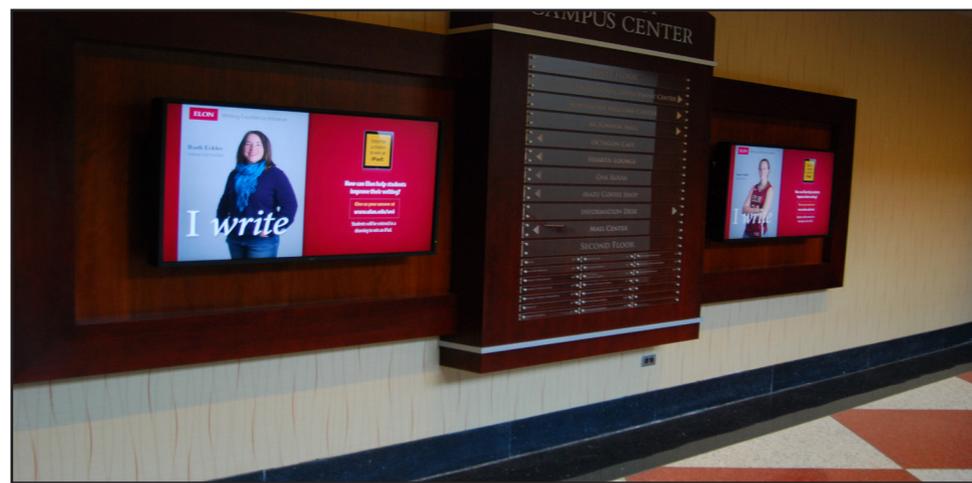
Paula Patch, English lecturer and college writing program coordinator, previously told *The Pendulum* having strong writing skills will also be important for students in their endeavors after graduation.

Freshman communications student Sydney Plovsky said writing is already a heavy component of her Elon education.

"Class assignments are constantly focused on strong writing skills," Plovsky said. "Whether it's a communications or science course, I am always writing at least a few papers for each class."

As students begin to consistently use writing skills in classes and beyond, Patch expects quick results.

"We hope that students will use writing to somehow make an impact on the world," Patch said. "If a student is able to write well, their statements will have a widespread impact."



CAROLINE OLNEY | Staff Photographer

Signs posted around campus highlight the objectives of the Writing Excellence Initiative, a new project.

# The role of faith in Greek Life

*How religion, morals and Greek culture collide — and the conflicts that arise for some*

Natalie Allison  
Senior Reporter

Cate LeSourd may not be the poster child of the average college Greek Life experience.

When LeSourd, a sophomore, decided to go through recruitment her freshman year, she wanted to make friends — a motive not entirely different from most other students. She got her bid, accepted it and is quite active in her sorority. But her primary identity in college isn't as an ΑΟΠ.

LeSourd, like others involved in Greek organizations, was tasked with her own personal quest to figure out the role of faith in Greek Life. And she's pretty sure she's got it down.

"My faith is just such an integral part of who I am that I knew it wouldn't change," LeSourd said. "It's definitely been challenged, but in a really great way that it's gotten a lot stronger."

The challenges haven't been easy, though. Merging together two facets of her life — a deep commitment to Christi-

anity and strong ties to her sorority, part of a larger picture of revelry and college parties — has resulted in a dilemma: LeSourd made a commitment that she wouldn't drink until she turns 21.

"I knew drinking, Greek or not, was a huge part of life at Elon," she said, referring to her first impressions on campus. "I still went out with my friends but found when I joined a sorority, it was a lot harder to keep my stand on not drinking because it seems like everyone around you is doing the same thing."

LeSourd said she regularly goes to parties and joins her sisters in most of their weekend activities, but is always sober. And though she shares close relationships with other women in her sorority and is having the time of her life in college, pressure to conform is always present for her.

"What's ironic is that I feel judged for not drinking in Greek Life because everyone else is, and I feel judged by the Christian community for being in Greek Life," she said. "It kind of feels like I'm not fully in both worlds, which I guess can make me



NATALIE ALLISON | Senior Reporter

Further adding to the sense of community shared by members of Greek organizations, Greek houses are places where students can foster friendships and deepen their identities in sororities and fraternities.

feel alone in it."

But the irony lies in the fact that many Greek organizations were founded on principles of Christianity — the very belief that is causing some students to get tripped up about how they should act as a Greek member of faith.

Alex Ward, a junior and chaplain of Pi Kappa Phi, organizes and directs all of the fraternity's rituals. He says a prayer at the beginning and end of each chapter meeting and is available for his brothers to come talk to about issues they're facing, moral dilemmas and other struggles.

Ward said his fraternity has a Christian affiliation and promotes the "highest ideals of Christian manhood," though it is open to any male whose values are in line with the larger concepts of respecting others.

"It is a little bit awkward [for people who aren't Christian] when you might have a prayer or say something in the ritual that has to do with ideals of Christian manhood, but as a whole, it has more to do with the moral code of being just and be-

ing fair and being a good person," he said.

Ward said he admits the stereotypes associated with Greek Life don't typically involve being deeply religious.

"I think that fraternities have a reputation for the party lifestyle, and that may not correlate to the most Christian ideals per se, but I also think people realize it's college," he said.

Junior Zach Csillag, president of Zeta Beta Tau, a newly formed fraternity at Elon, said his fraternity also emphasizes strong morals without being religiously exclusive, though ZBT has strong Jewish ties and 74 percent of its 33 members are Jewish.

"For the non-Jewish members, religion is not really discussed," he said. "It's just a fraternity that was founded on basic Jewish values, but we're not a religious organization. We're a social fraternity."

But even though ZBT isn't a religious group and its members aren't necessarily active in the Jewish faith, Csillag said students who have Jewish ties would always



NATALIE ALLISON | Senior Reporter

Cate Lesourd, a sophomore, made the decision early on that she would remain outspoken about her faith while staying very involved in her sorority — something that presents challenges at times, she said.



NATALIE ALLISON | Senior Reporter

Panelists for the “God and Greek” forum talk about their experiences being committed Christians and committed members of Greek organizations while at Elon.

make up the majority of the fraternity.

Mason Sklut is a junior and one of ZBT’s founding members, who, along with junior Garret Mann, started the process of bringing a Jewish fraternity to campus. He said the fraternity is “going to have things like Shabbat and Passover,” and members are encouraged to learn about Jewish traditions, but won’t be forced.

And there’s no denying the historical religious associations of other Greek organizations on campus, Sklut said.

“I don’t know how much is understood by people, but these are actually religious fraternities,” he said. “Believe it or not, most of the fraternities here are Christian fraternities, no doubt about it.”

More can be added to the complicated social/religious dynamic: Though some Christians feel uncomfortable abstaining from drinking alcohol and participating other activities during social settings, Sklut said students of other faiths may also feel that same pressure during rituals.

“I think it’s harder for people who are not part of the majority religion in the sororities and fraternities to feel comfortable saying, ‘I’m Jewish. I’m not going to hold that Bible for that ritual.’ Even certain sects of Christianity may not feel comfort-

able doing those rituals,” Sklut said.

### Closing the gap

To help ease the tension and close the gap between Greek-affiliated students and religious life on campus, Elon’s InterVarsity organization started Greek IV, a group for Christians in sororities and fraternities. It meets every other week, and anywhere from five to 15 people show up at a given meeting, according to Sarah Endorf, a junior who hosts the meetings in her apartment.

“A lot of times, Greek life and religious life are kept on very separate planes,” Endorf said. “(Greek IV) kind of merges it. It’s easy to get caught up in Greek life and be afraid to show your faith because of all the stereotypes.”

She said it’s not as common for people highly involved in campus ministry organizations to also be Greek-affiliated.

At a panel discussion March 19, four Greek students talked about their experience being in sororities and fraternities and being religious. The forum, called “God and Greek,” attracted a crowd of about 30 students who wanted to hear their peers’ experiences.

“Being a Christian in a Greek organization is like swimming upstream all the time,” said Blair Menzel, a senior.

She said throughout her time at Elon, she’s struggled with having to explain to her sisters why she doesn’t get drunk and having to stand up for her morals when other people think she’s strange because of it.

Parker Tobin, a senior and member of Delta Upsilon, said he and another friend may be the only openly Christian members of the fraternity, which has put the two in difficult social situations at times. He said he tries to follow simple guidelines he sets for himself, like limiting the number of drinks he consumes at parties and not carrying around a cup.

He said though his Greek life experience has caused him, at times, to act contrary to his convictions, he wouldn’t trade his time in DU because of other lessons he’s learned in the process. But at the end of the day, his identity in the organization doesn’t define him.

“While I’m pretty involved, I’m not the most involved,” Tobin said. “If someone were to say, ‘Define who you are. Say one or two things you’re a part of,’ the first thing I’d probably say is, ‘I’m a Christian,’ not, ‘I’m in this fraternity.’ It wouldn’t come to mind as the very first thing I want people to know about me.”

LeSourd said the divide between lifestyles doesn’t disappear, but abstaining from aspects of Greek life’s social culture has become easier as she’s discovered others who share her convictions.

“When one person stands up, it’s a lot easier to stand with them,” she said. “But you’re waiting for that first person to stand up. Because of the social atmosphere of what Greek life is, it’s so easy to get pulled into it.” §



NATALIE ALLISON | Senior Reporter

A Greek organization display box features a collage with the words “virtue,” “diligence,” and “brotherly love,” as a way to represent the fraternity’s values. The boxes are near Irazu Coffee Shop in Moseley Center.

# Proposed state tax structure reform concerns Burlington city government

Michael Bodley  
Assistant News Editor

An effort to overhaul North Carolina's tax system has caused tension between municipal governments and the state government. Several members of the Burlington City Government fear losing revenue as a result of the reform.

Certain aspects of the proposed legislation would direct more tax revenue to the states and less to the local governments, according to Harold Owen, Burlington's city manager and professor at Elon University. The elimination of franchise taxes, a new state-shared tax on beer and wine and a one cent reduction on food sales tax would trigger a net loss of \$2.75 million for Burlington's municipal government.

State legislators claim the loss of municipal government revenue will be offset by increases in state sales tax, but Owen is not convinced.

"We're talking about a complete change in tax reform," he said. "It appears that there's a conversation about going more toward sales tax and going away from a state income tax. That would be money we just wouldn't be getting."

Owen and others from Burlington met with state legislators, including local representatives Steve Ross and Dennis Ridell April 3 to discuss the proposals. The city council also

discussed the matter at its annual retreat April 8.

"We just only hope that they would recognize the impact tax reform would have on the cities and the services they provide," Owen said.

Last fiscal year, North Carolina raked in approximately \$10 billion from personal income taxes, \$5 billion in sales and use taxes and \$1 billion in corporate income taxes. The majority of the corporate income taxes go directly to the municipality in which individual corporations are chartered, a major source of revenue for local governments, according to Owen.

The proposed budget changes could force the Burlington municipal government, and other local governments, to restructure its budget midway through the fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30.

"I find it in no way possible for this to be done on the timeline that is being considered now," Owen said. "Doing something in the middle of the fiscal year would be difficult at best."

In particular, the elimination of franchise taxes would decrease municipal revenue, according to Owen.

"Franchise taxes from natural gas and electricity have always come back to the cities," he said. "One of the bills speaks to redirecting these taxes to the state."

According to Jason Husser, assistant direc-

tor of the Elon University Poll, much of the debate about the role of state versus municipal governments reflects larger ideological trends that have traditionally divided conservatives and liberals. At the core, though, the state holds the most power.

"Ultimately, the state is in charge here," he said. "It's not a fair fight. It's up to the state's digression."

Burlington and other municipalities are limited in terms of their influence on the state government. Owen said he and others have al-

ready worked to push the best possible course of action, one that in their eyes would minimally affect Burlington's revenue stream.

Hands somewhat tied by the system, Owen stressed the importance of not rushing to a decision on tax reform, whatever the legislation itself might entail.

"I would hope that everyone would just sit down and talk and try to determine an approved course of action going forward that both the state and the cities can manage in an effective manner," Owen said.



PHOTO COURTESY MCT CAMPUS

Proposed tax code reform would cause some aspects of state and municipal government to overlap.

# Burlington Clean Sweep initiative targets illegal dumping, high-risk debris

Cleo Dan  
Senior Reporter

The Burlington Clean Sweep surpasses a typical environmental cleanup event by focusing on the removal of high-risk debris left in nature. Large pieces of debris are sometimes illegally dumped throughout areas of Burlington, and the Burlington Clean Sweep looks to rid the environment of disposed equipment and other large pollutants.

Howard Tash, an environmental educator and trail specialist with Burlington Recreation and Parks Department, has partnered with the Burlington Water Resource Department to implement a unique environmental initiative focused on positively affecting the Burlington community.

Tash hosts the program two to four times a

year. The cleanup event in October 2012 pulled almost 8,000 pounds of waste from nature.

"This environmental movement started back in the 1970s," Tash said. "Lots of important legislation was passed under Nixon. The Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act and Earth Day happened around that time. April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day and the 43rd anniversary is coming up. While the legislation is good, it takes committed people to actually make something happen."

An alliance between the fraternity Lambda Chi Alpha at Elon University and Tash formed when Tash sought participants for an upcoming cleanup event through the Kernodle Center.

"This is my third or fourth year working with Lambda Chi," Tash said. "The cleanup in October was really neat — they helped serve

an underserved community."

According to the most recent data obtained by U.S. Census American Community Survey, nearly 22 percent of Burlington's population lives in poverty.

Chris Beaton, a junior at Elon, is in charge of Lambda Chi Alpha's service outreach. He has witnessed the positive impact the cleanup has provided to the Burlington community and his fellow fraternity members.

"The members of our fraternity get to work with members of the community in a capacity that they don't normally have," Beaton said. "We hope that by doing this cleanup, our members will be more willing to go out into the community and do more service work because they see how much impact one day's work had."

While the immediate effects of the cleanup

are aesthetically pleasing, the long-term results of diminishing environmental pollutants are significant.

As of 2011, the city of Burlington implemented a ban on electronic equipment in landfills. This discarded computer equipment and television management law works to reduce the toxins expelled from the disposal of electronics, thereby protecting Burlington's natural environment and water supply.

"TV sets and computer monitors — these are items that have chemicals that can leach into the ground and go into the groundwater and find their way into creeks, which affect the water sheds in the city of Burlington," Tash said. "The water sheds are tributaries. So literally if someone throws a bottle out here in Elon, it could find its way out in the Gulf of Mexico."

# Wind turbines may harness green energy off NC shore

Corinne James  
Senior Reporter

Five companies are vying to develop wind farms off North Carolina's coast, an effort that would promote and produce green energy in the state and the surrounding area.

The federal government introduced the idea in December 2012 by asking companies about their interest in offshore wind development. The five companies interested in building off North Carolina — Virginia Electric and Power Co., Fishermen's Energy LLC, EDF Renewable Energy, Green Sail Energy and Apex Wind Energy — all responded in press releases.

Gov. Pat McCrory, who continues to promote North Carolina as a potential source of renewable energy in North America, has expressed support for offshore wind farm movement. The Bureau of Ocean Management may also propose wind energy developments in several areas offshore New Jersey, Maryland and Massachusetts.

Two potential development areas lie between Myrtle Beach, S.C. and Wilmington, N.C., and beyond the Outer Banks, all at least six miles from shore. The process will not begin until the federal government finishes an environmental study and auctions offshore leases.

The proposed farms have sparked a debate among environmentalists, business owners and other stakeholders. Some argue the wind farms may disrupt bird migration patterns, military training flights and ocean ecosystems, while others insist the potential

benefits of clean energy outweigh the risks.

According to research by the Renewable Energy Laboratory, there are many advantages of building offshore windfarms. The lab's research suggests offshore wind farms could possibly source a large percentage of North Carolina's power.

Offshore wind turbines would also support North Carolinians' economic well-being by providing a tax base to keep property taxes low, as reported by WCTI News for Eastern North Carolina.

But there are also downsides to offshore wind farm development. According to Patricia Thomas-Laemont, an Elon University environmental studies instructor, companies should only be allowed to build offshore farms if environmental impact is evaluated and dealt with prior to construction.

"There will be damages that upset ocean ecosystems and destruct ocean beds during construction and aesthetics," Thomas-Laemont said. "These problems occur daily. The evaluation prior to construction will determine how much this, as well as boat traffic, will occur."

Wind farms may also affect the flight paths of migratory birds, but according to Thomas-Laemont, the benefits to wind energy outweigh the possible effects on birds.

"Studies have shown that placing the wind farms out of migration corridors corrects this issue," Thomas-Laemont said. "Birds have learned to avoid these farms in other areas."

Others have expressed concern regarding business and military affairs. The World Shipping Council, a trade organization rep-



Wind farms generate an abundance of green energy, but the turbines may pose environmental risks.

resenting container vessels, has argued that wind farms off Kitty Hawk will encroach on shipping routes, while some marines at Camp Lejeune fear wind turbine blades can disfigure radar images for pilots and ground control, making training exercises dangerous and difficult.

The debate about wind farms is likely to continue for a while. According to the North Carolina Offshore Wind Coalition, it may

take more than five years to begin wind farm and turbine construction because of delays caused by political and environmental issues.

Thomas-Laemont said she hopes the process eventually gets underway.

"I think the benefits to wind energy off of North Carolina outweigh the negatives," Thomas-Laemont said. "We can combat any environmental disadvantages as they are about to occur."

## Elon names inaugural director of Gender and LGBTQ Center

Michael Bodley  
Assistant News Editor

Elon University recently named Matthew Antonio Bosch as the first director for its Gender and LGBTQ Center. He will assume the position mid-July.

He will work with the offices of Academic Affairs and Student Life to raise awareness regarding sexual orientation and gender identity, according to an email sent by Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life.

Bosch has served as president of the Min-

nesota College Personnel Association and is a current member of the governing board of the American College Personnel Association. He also helped manage LGBTQ-related issues at Macalester College, the University of Minnesota and Minnesota's North Hennepin Community College.

Additionally, Bosch will serve as the new adviser to Spectrum, Elon's queer-straight alliance. He will replace Kirstin Ringelberg, coordinator of the LGBTQ office and art history professor.

Ringelberg said she is pleased Bosch will

soon fill her role, which has been difficult to manage while fulfilling her responsibilities as a full-time professor.

"I think it's a tremendously important step forward that we have located and hired an experienced and knowledgeable full-time person who can really move us forward in a way I would never be able to do, in terms of time but especially on the basis of expertise," she said.

Senior Lauren Clapp, an advocacy and education chair for Spectrum, said Bosch will frequently interact with the student body

by giving presentations to Elon 101 classes about LGBTQ life, organizing speakers to come to campus and serving as both an advocate and an educator concerning LGBTQ and gender issues.

Clapp expressed excitement about Bosch's appointment.

"I'm really ecstatic about the creation of this new position," she said. "It says to me that the administration takes issues of LGBTQ inclusion seriously on campus and wants to be proactive about supporting the LGBTQ community here."

# Check your facts before spreading the word

After news broke of a North Carolina resolution claiming the state can make its own laws regarding the establishment of religion — one that would question the federal government’s authority to decide what is constitutional — email inboxes overflowed with complaints, comment boards became saturated with concerned citizens and watercooler conversations were abuzz.

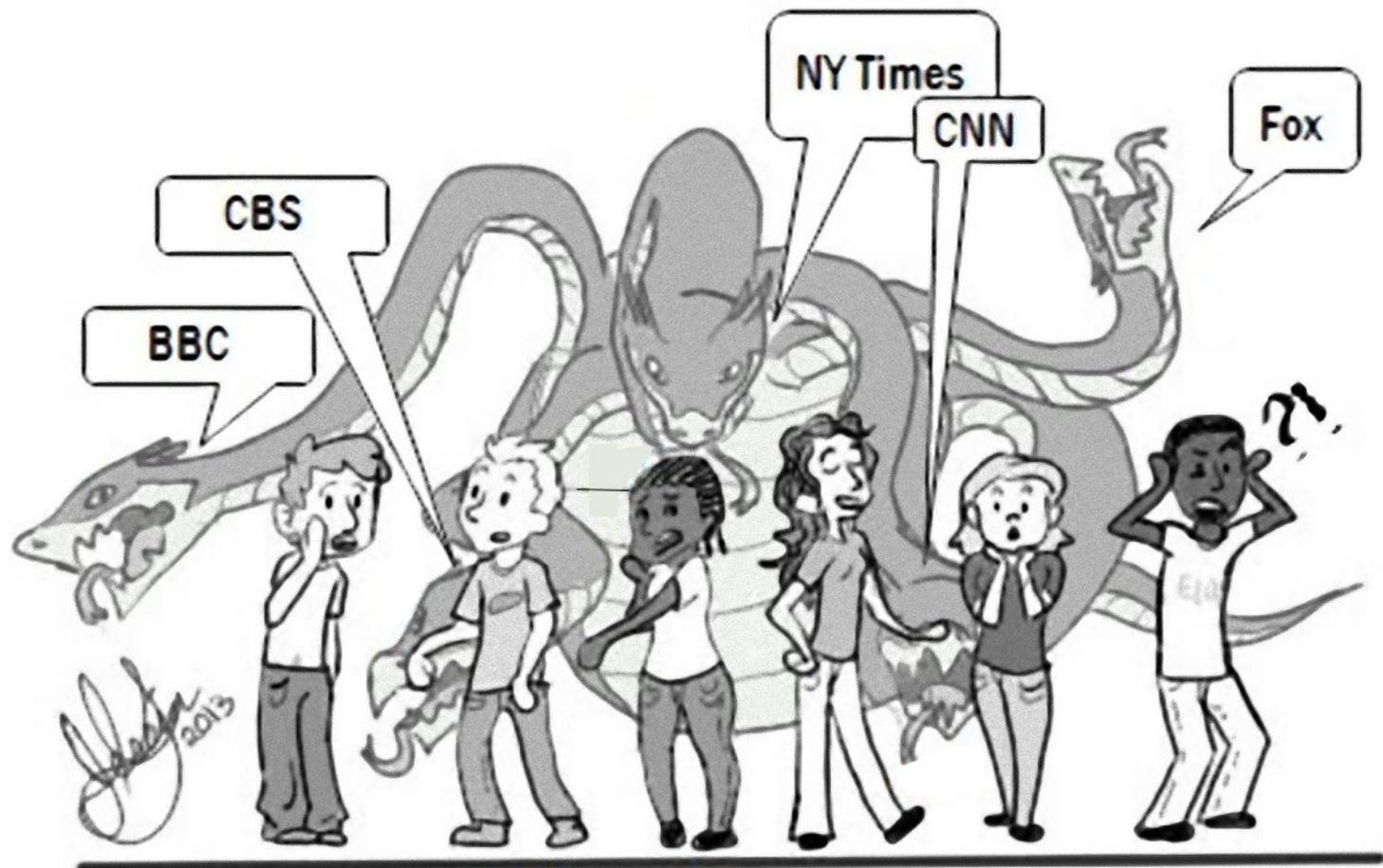
At Elon University, many students were misled by the influx of media reports from credible media outlets and social media sources. They were led to believe the state was seriously considering adopting some sort of official state religion.

Accurate and thorough research were not driving the conversation surrounding the subject. Instead, multiple misrepresentations from news sources and the propagation of these stories from blogs, Facebook, Twitter and word of mouth created a distorted interpretation of this resolution. People jumped to conclusions and spread falsities without an accurate understanding of the issue — a representation of the larger problem with the media and the way media consumers intensify issues by propagating misleading information.

The North Carolina House Joint Resolution 494 was not, as widely reported across many news outlets, intended to establish an official state religion. It was meant to deliver a symbolic counter to a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of several residents who object to Rowan County commissioners’ opening their meetings with Christian prayer.

In short, the resolution was intended to allow the county commissioners to end invocations at public meetings with the words, “In Jesus’ name, amen,” quite different from declaring Christianity the official religion of North Carolina.

Every year in legislatures across the country, scores of resolutions are introduced at the request of constituents that carry little legal weight or promise of being ratified. Reputable news sources are well aware of this, but they still chose to



CARTOON BY JESSICA GREMBOWSKI

publish the misleading, attention-grabbing story that claimed North Carolina was on the path to establishing an official state religion — and media consumers chose to believe it.

North Carolina House Joint Resolution 494 and the uproar after its proposal serve as a representation of the larger issue with the current media culture and the public’s role in spreading information quickly, whether that information has been confirmed or not. The effect is that stories are often misreported, misinterpreted and blown out of proportion.

As media consumers, we are also guilty of failing to question the validity of the facts. For many, it seems logical to reach a conclusion when multiple reputable news outlets are reporting a semi-uniform set of “facts.” It is easy to interpret the issues as

seen through the lens of mass media and through what your friends post on social media, but you may be missing the crux of the issues at hand. This is certainly what happened with regard to Resolution 494.

In order to have a true understanding of the issues, you must resist the temptation to take unfounded conclusions at face value, even if these conclusions are drawn by what you consider to be reliable news sources.

The truth is the media are not the only factor responsible for the dissemination of misleading information. Media consumers also have access to their own ways of publishing content on a variety of social media outlets, meaning we share the responsibility.

By choosing to react to an issue before fully understanding the implications, we

sensationalize the stories. A status, blog post or tweet accusing North Carolina of robbing its citizens of religious freedom adds more fuel to the misinformation cycle. Spreading grossly misleading information diminishes the significance of stories that actually have useful social connotations.

Individuals need to be careful not to reinforce the cycle of misinformation by spreading news before obtaining an accurate understanding of an issue. As media consumers, we have not only the ability, but also a responsibility to put an end to the perpetuation of misleading information.

A breaking news story simply cannot be taken for fact. It is our responsibility to sort through various news sources and check our facts to find the real story.

# Change your actions, not your pictures

For those of you who logged on to Facebook March 26, you probably noticed a sea of profile pictures changed to a red and pink equals sign.



**Alex Francis**  
Columnist

At a time when the United States Supreme Court justices were preparing to hear arguments for two pieces of landmark marriage equality legislation, the profile pictures represent support for the equal rights cause. While a photo change is nice, it is also

completely void of any real meaning and fundamentally fails to create lasting change the way traditional, boots-on-the-ground activism does.

What is even more frustrating is the small act of changing a picture has become so pervasive that it is now seen as an acceptable substitute for real, bona fide activism. This “slacktivism” lacks the fervor of engaged involvement.

It cannot take more than a minute to upload a picture of the equality sign to Facebook, crop it and put it on your profile. That is not caring, fighting or working for a cause. It is a hollow, halfhearted attempt to convey some sort of deeper concern for an issue. It is representative of the problematic “slacktivist” culture that threatens the effectiveness of traditional activist behavior.

I do not mean to be cynical. The equals signs are a gesture to show support for an important cause. But that is all this is: a gesture. It is meaningless in helping sway the Supreme Court in any particular way, unless you foolishly believe that Justices Roberts, Sotomayor or Kennedy actually care what is on your Facebook profile.

Although well intentioned, the danger behind relegating a significant issue to a symbol or image is that it distracts supporters from taking necessary steps to promote momentous change. This is complacent activism.

No one has suddenly changed his political beliefs because of a bumper sticker, the same way nobody will suddenly support same-sex marriage because of a profile picture. Change takes effort, time and per-

sistence that a group of pixels in a small box does not have.

Take an animal rights activist who supports numerous causes combating animal cruelty, chooses to volunteer at humane societies and animal protection agencies and continually pledges his money when he is unavailable to volunteer. Now imagine if all this individual did to support the cause was made his profile picture a cute dog with a caption that read, “stop dog fighting” for two days, changed it back and went about his life. This would do nothing for the cause.

There should have at least been something considerable attached to the red and pink sea of pictures on Facebook — monetary donations, organized rallies, anything. Instead, the support came not only far too late, but also far too insignificantly.

It’s great if you want to support the cause, but if that is the case, do something worthwhile that will actually help.

“Slacktivism” cannot replace real activism. Changing your profile picture will never be more effective than marching in a rally.

These social media movements are threatening to undermine the very causes they claim to support.

So next time our nation faces a significant social issue, are you going to crop a profile picture, sit back and pat yourself on the back or are you going to pick up a sign, open your wallet and insist on actual, lasting change?

# Equals sign logo a good place to start

We’ve all seen the pink equals sign with the red background hundreds of our Facebook friends or maybe even we, ourselves, have sported as our profile pictures. But should we take this red-hued symbol seriously?



**Audrey Horwitz**  
Columnist

Absolutely.

It’s true, changing your Facebook profile picture probably will not have an immediate, direct effect on the United States Supreme Court as they decide the fate of marriage equality in this country.

But marriage equality is an issue of social justice and Facebook is a social networking website that has immense influence on our beliefs, behaviors and mindsets.

To give you an idea of just how many people showed their support

with this image, 2.7 million more people changed their profile pictures on, March 26 (the day the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in two cases concerning same-sex marriage) compared to the previous Tuesday, according to The Huffington Post.

Clearly this is not an isolated occurrence. The equals sign logo belongs to the Human Rights Campaign, an advocacy group for LGBT individuals. The typical HRC logo is a yellow equal sign against a

navy background, but the group revealed the new version to Facebook the day of the Supreme Court arguments and encouraged supporters to repost the icon to their pages as well.

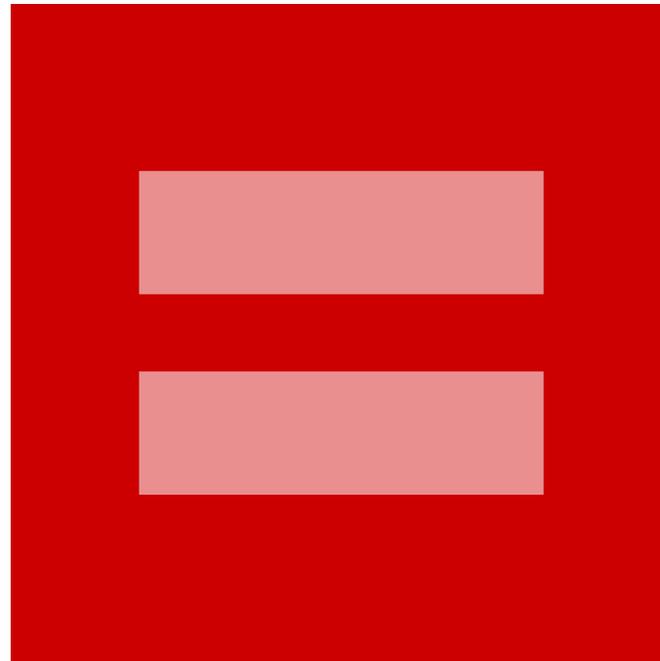
“Make sure you wear red to show your support for marriage equality. And make your Facebook profile red too!” the HRC told more than 1 million Facebook followers. By Tuesday afternoon, the post had been shared more than 45,000 times and had received more than 13,000 “likes,” according to The Huffington Post.

Some may find it difficult to take this profile picture change seriously, but if social media is good for anything, it’s the impact it has on social mores. Melanie Tannenbaum of The Scientific American argued that while changing your profile picture to show support for same-sex marriage may not directly impact legislation, it can influence Facebook friends. She explained how people are deeply affected by what they perceive to be the social norm. If a Facebook user notices many of his friends support same-sex marriage, over time he is more likely to believe this opinion is the social norm and is therefore more likely to adopt this view himself.

Tannenbaum is right. The truth is, all of us are incredibly influenced by our friends, family, peers and co-workers and for many, Facebook is a breeding ground for such influence. These people have a serious impact on our attitudes and behaviors and Facebook helps spread these notions.

For those who dismiss the Facebook movement as a fruitless effort that will have no impact on the Supreme Court, I want to make it clear the movement was not meant to sway the Supreme Court. It was meant to influence our social circles, which is exactly what it has achieved.

I am certainly not under the impression that a quick Facebook profile change is all that needs to be done when it comes to granting all Americans marriage equality rights. Much, much more must be done. But Facebook is an outlet for influencing social norms and it has done its part to exert that influence. Every little bit helps and social media is not a bad place to start spreading social justice.



The Human Rights Campaign launched a social media campaign asking Facebook users to change their photos to this logo while the United States Supreme Court argued two pieces of marriage equality legislation.

# Syrian conflict lacking serious worldwide attention

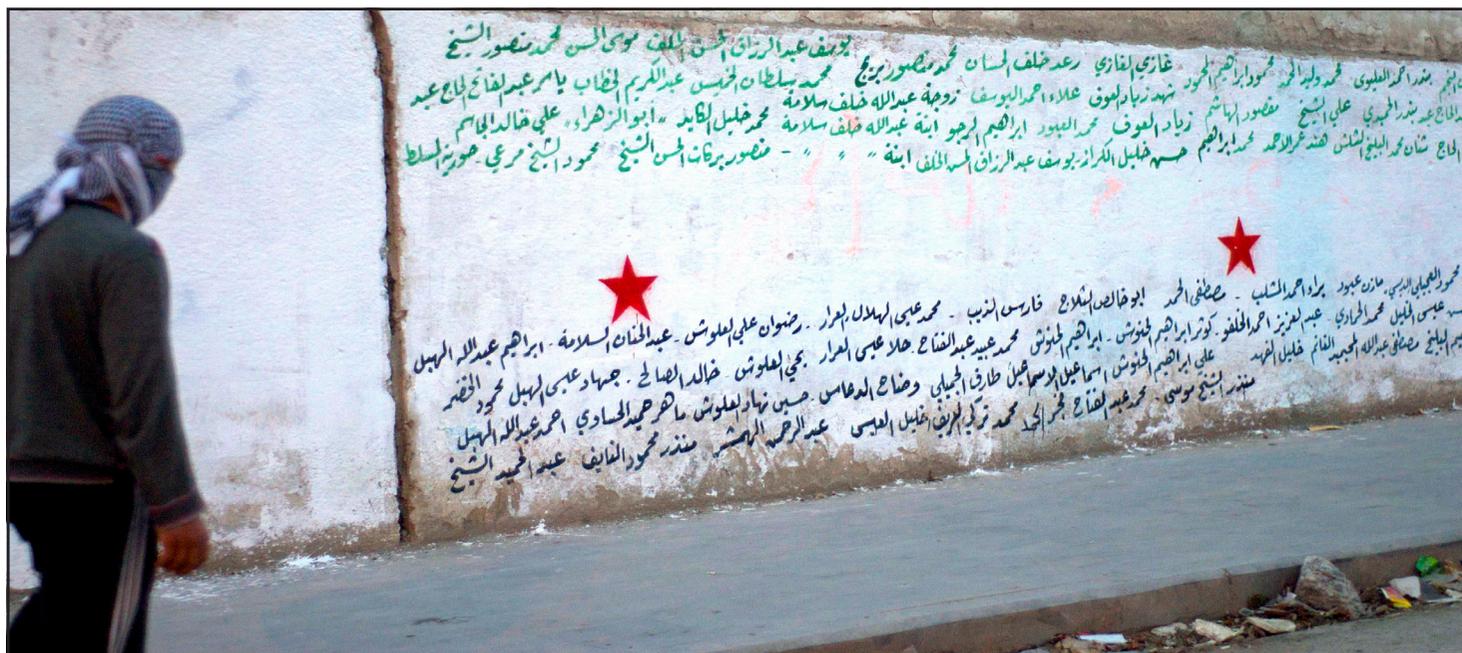
Christian Seitz  
Copy Intern

ELON, N.C. — March 15, 2013, marked the two-year anniversary of the Syrian uprising.

The Arab Spring of 2011 toppled dictators and brought newfound freedoms to oppressed peoples. “Doctor, you are next,” covered school walls in the southwestern Syrian city of Daraa March 6, a clear reference to Syria’s president, Bashar al-Assad, who is a trained eye doctor. Criticizing or threatening the government is illegal in Syria, and the children were tortured and beaten before their release weeks later.

While the ages of the children are not definitively known, nine days later the fathers of Daraa decided they would not put up with such mistreatment and held defiant protests in the streets. Haya Ajjan, assistant professor of management information systems at Elon University and a native of Syria, said she understands the Syrians’ unrest.

“This is a revolution of people that have just had it with the regime,” Ajjan said. Assad did not appreciate the demonstra-



A Syrian man walks by a list naming those killed in Ragga during the rebellion. The city was taken by rebels and has experienced more than 2,300 deaths thus far. PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

tions and sent his army to kidnap, torture and kill demonstrators.

Combating the protesters only hardened their resolve, and they soon began to arm themselves for protection against their own

government.

Nearly three-quarters of Syrians, and thus the majority of protesters, are Sunni, a branch of Islam. Assad told his fellow Alawites, another branch of Islam, and the other minorities that the Sunnis aimed to establish a purely Sunni state. Using propaganda, Assad tried to persuade Syrian minorities to turn the conflict into a religious war, which would galvanize his supporters.

An anonymous Elon junior, who declined to give their real name for fear their parents in Syria would be kidnapped, strongly disagrees with Assad’s maneuvers. While there have been some recent religion-fueled conflicts, the student believes the rebellion is not about religion.

“This is not a jihad. This is not a religious battle. We are here fighting for what we think is right and our freedom,” they said.

With both sides armed, the situation soon escalated into a full-blown civil war. Rebels currently hold large sections of territory in Syria’s north and far west, while the government controls central and south-eastern Syria. Activists have since coalesced into the Syrian National Coalition, while the regime continues to use jets, helicopters, tanks and, according to recent reports, chemical weapons against the very people

they are supposed to protect.

According to the United Nations, scores of Syrians on both sides are killed every day. There have been nearly 70,000 deaths so far, but since the international media are not allowed in Syria, the full extent of the conflict is largely unknown.

TJ Spensieri, assistant professor of performing arts at Elon, said he is surprised at the lack of reaction the majority of the world has expressed during the Syrian crisis.

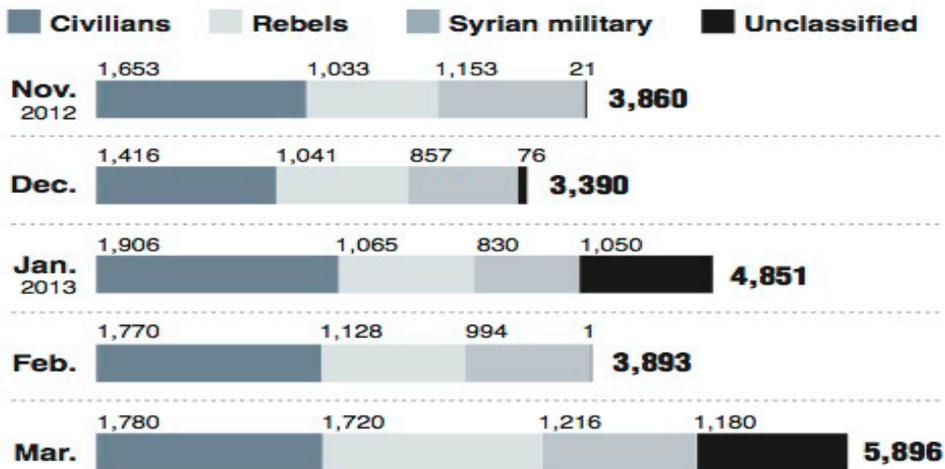
“We shouldn’t be able to turn a blind eye on someone who needs help. It’s lives we’re talking about. It’s women and children and brothers and sisters,” Spensieri said.

Freshman Julia David said she also finds this stance unacceptable. She said she is dismayed the world continues to turn a deaf ear to Syrians’ cries for help. Although approximately 8,000 Syrians flee the country every day and the fighting has produced more than 1.1 million refugees to date, the world seems very reluctant to intervene despite the rebels’ pleas.

“How can we not do something? There’s so many lives being lost, there’s so much unfairness, just tragedy,” David said. “How can we not step in and help when there’s such a need?”

## Syria: Deaths reach new high

March was the deadliest month so far in Syria's 2-year-old civil war, according to statistics compiled by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Deaths by type for the past five months:



Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau  
Graphic: Judy Treible

© 2013 MCT

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Syrian death tolls are reaching record highs. The death toll has increased by more than 2,000 persons in the past four months.

# Le Gay Paris: French Senate debates future for same-sex couples

Madeline Monaco  
International Reporter

PARIS — It is a heated debate world-wide. With all eyes on the United States Supreme Court concerning its decision of the Defense of Marriage Act, focus has begun moving east to Europe, where the French Senate has yet to come to a conclusion about its own laws on gay marriage.

On Feb. 12, the French National Assembly voted in favor of a bill, which states same-sex partners will be equal in status to those in heterosexual unions, including in matters of adoption. The bill then continued onto the Senate April

2, where members are still debating its legality.

The odds are in the bill's favor. The majority of both houses of Parliament is socialist, as is President Francois Hollande, elected last May after campaigning with a pledge to legalize same-sex marriage. French citizen Thomas Chenuet said because the same party dominates most branches of France's government, once a bill is proposed, it will likely pass.

"If a law does not pass in the Senate, it is sent back to the National Assembly to make changes," Chenuet said. "Even if it has to go back and forth many times between the two, it will usually become a law."

Though the bill is still on its journey between the National Assembly and the Senate for edits and compromises, political leaders feel certain the bill will be passed. The Minister for Family, Dominique Bertinotte, is one of the believers.

"Beginning this summer, homosexual couples will be able to marry," Bertinotte said.

Amid the current debates are seas of protestors trying to get in a last word before a decision is made. Protests are a common form of expression in France, especially in Paris. Recently Parisians have been vocal about their opinions on gay marriage, including a confrontation between an estimated 300,000 gay marriage opponents and the police on the Champs-Elysees March 24. Signs and shirts show slogans such as "Don't touch marriage, take care of unemployment," "No to mirage marriage" and "One mommy and one daddy — nothing is better for a child."

Powell Mansfield, an Elon University sophomore currently studying in Paris, is experiencing this firsthand.

"As someone who is in a study abroad program where every student stays with a host family, it's baffling to see that almost everyone's French family has attended at least one anti-gay marriage protest so far this semester," Mansfield said.

Protests are emerging from more than just French citizens, as religious leaders of Muslim and Jewish faiths also oppose the bill. But perhaps the most public religious



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MADELINE MONACO

A French poster advertising against same-sex marriage is covered in marker that reads, "It's not too late."



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MADELINE MONACO

Signs on a metro entrance read, "Marriage, adoption, homo, no way!"

opponent is the Roman Catholic Church, specifically Cardinal Andre Armand Vingt-Trois, archbishop of Paris.

"A vision of the human being without recognizing sexual difference would be a fraud that would undermine one of the foundations of our society and introduce a discrimination among children," the archbishop said.

Though biblical texts are a leading factor, the archbishop introduces the idea of children's well-being as a major concern. According to polls, this is something many French protestors agree with. The majority of French people are in favor of legalizing same-sex marriage, though

only half of those polled believe same-sex couples should be able to adopt. The proposed bill combines the two issues.

Civil unions have existed in France since 1999 and are open to same-sex couples, though they restrict adoption. The hesitation for same-sex couples to adopt has also shed light on the fact that surrogate pregnancies are illegal in France.

Debates throughout the next week will be crucial in France's decision whether to join the ranks of eight other European countries where same-sex marriage is legal: Belgium, Denmark, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

# Semester at Sea student stamps

*Elon sophomore honored by Clinton Global Initiative University for service work abroad*

**Jonathan Black**  
Managing Editor

Ask any class of first graders across the country what they want to be when they grow up and they are likely to respond with answers like doctor, fireman and maybe even bus driver.

Many Elon University students have since digressed from their first-grade career paths, but not Emily Tomich.

If you asked Tomich, a sophomore at Elon, what she wants to do now and what she wanted to do when she was 7, the answer would be the same: a world traveler.

As a first grader in California, Tomich's class participated in a pen pal program called Vicarious Voyage, in which students in her class would write to students on a Semester at Sea program.

"My teacher made it an amazing experience," Tomich said. "We would dress up, do crafts, the parents would come in and cook us food, we followed the voyage on a map and we had fake passports that would get stamped."

And just like that, Tomich's journey to becoming a global citizen would begin 10 years prior to her arrival at Elon, a journey that would eventually lead her to national honors.

## A passion for community service

Along with developing a desire for travel at an early age, Tomich also became heavily involved in community service.

"I have always had a passion for service," Tomich said. "My church was very involved in mission and service trips to Africa, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Mexico."

Her passion for travel and her desire to help others were combined in 2010 when she went to Swaziland and South Africa on a mission trip. While there, Tomich said it was the first time an experience had opened her eyes to global poverty and the world outside of the bubble in which she lived.

"It definitely was a point in my life that I

can look back on and see that it shaped me into who I am today," she said. "It has influenced my career goals, what I want to do with my life and how I want to live my life."

Visiting Africa ignited a love affair between Tomich and the continent, leading her to become an Elon Periclean Scholar.

"I was invited to be a part of a small team that is working to keep the Ghana Periclean Scholar's project sustainable," Tomich said. "I have such a passion for Africa that I was taken on as a lateral entry, because the Ghana scholar graduated in 2010."

Dr. Thomas Arcaro, a professor of sociology and the director of Project Pericles, noticed Tomich's investment in helping the global community.

"I think she is a good model for a lot of us," he said. "I continue to have the honor to work with the most globally aware students on campus and she fits into that mold perfectly."

Tomich's desire to help others is also noted by friends at Elon, leaving many feeling inspired by her desire to volunteer.

"Her passion for volunteering influences others to look in the mirror and see how they are using their talents to positively give back to the communities around them," said sophomore Stephanie Kilmer, a friend of Tomich.

## Cultural experiences on Semester at Sea

Tomich fulfilled her childhood dream of taking part in a Semester at Sea program last fall when she participated in the Atlantic Exploration program through Elon.

"We went to 14 different countries around the globe and I saw a breadth of different places rather than seeing the deepness of one culture," Tomich said. "I'm so thankful I got to see so many cultures to compare the differences and similarities between them."

During her time in Elon's Semester at Sea, she volunteered for four nonprofits in four countries: Ghana, South Africa, Argentina and Brazil.

In Ghana, Tomich worked with A Ban



SUBMITTED BY EMILY TOMICH

Sophomore Emily Tomich (far right) worked with President Bill Clinton at the Clinton Global Initiative University.

Against Neglect (ABAN), an organization that works with young single mothers to teach them financial and life skills.

"Through Ghana Pericleans we have raised awareness of ABAN on Elon's campus," Tomich said. "I independently sought them out and asked them if I could come visit."

There, members of ABAN gave Tomich a tour of their facility and the sense of community that has formed between the organization and the mothers. In South Africa, Tomich worked with Happy Feet, an organization that began in a township, which teaches children a local dance and provides an alternative after-school activity.

In Argentina, Tomich found the Helping Hands Feeding Program, which was started by one woman who helps feed her impoverished community.

"It's expanded into almost a social business where they have their own garden and pasta

business," Tomich said. "They have clothing that they make out of scraps of fabric donated to them. They're creating money for themselves, increasing the community and increasing the welfare."

The final program Tomich volunteered for, House of the Little Indian Boy, was located in a favela in Rio de Janeiro. Favelas are illegally built shanty towns that lay on the outskirts of Brazilian cities. The organization helps educate children after school in order to keep them out of gangs, get out of the favela and find a job.

House of the Little Indian Boy provides job preparation for people ages 15-25, produces goods out of recycled materials, holds Alcoholics Anonymous meetings every Saturday and provides reading and writing classes to adults.

Tomich's time spent on Semester at Sea left a mark on her that can be seen by friends and faculty.

# passport into global citizenship

“That experience opened her eyes to so many new things and she is constantly looking for the bigger things than what is provided for her here at Elon,” Kilmer said. “Nearly every day she is researching different opportunities for the summer that will put her in situations where she can be out in the world making some sort of difference.”

But little did Tomich know her impact would extend beyond Elon. That is, until she received an email from the head of Semester at Sea.

## A nomination for Clinton Global Initiative University

While on Semester at Sea, Tomich noticed a common trend between the four nonprofits with which she volunteered.

“The nonprofits were all started by one person,” she said. “That really proved to me one person can make a difference and that is really encouraging to me because I want to make a difference.”

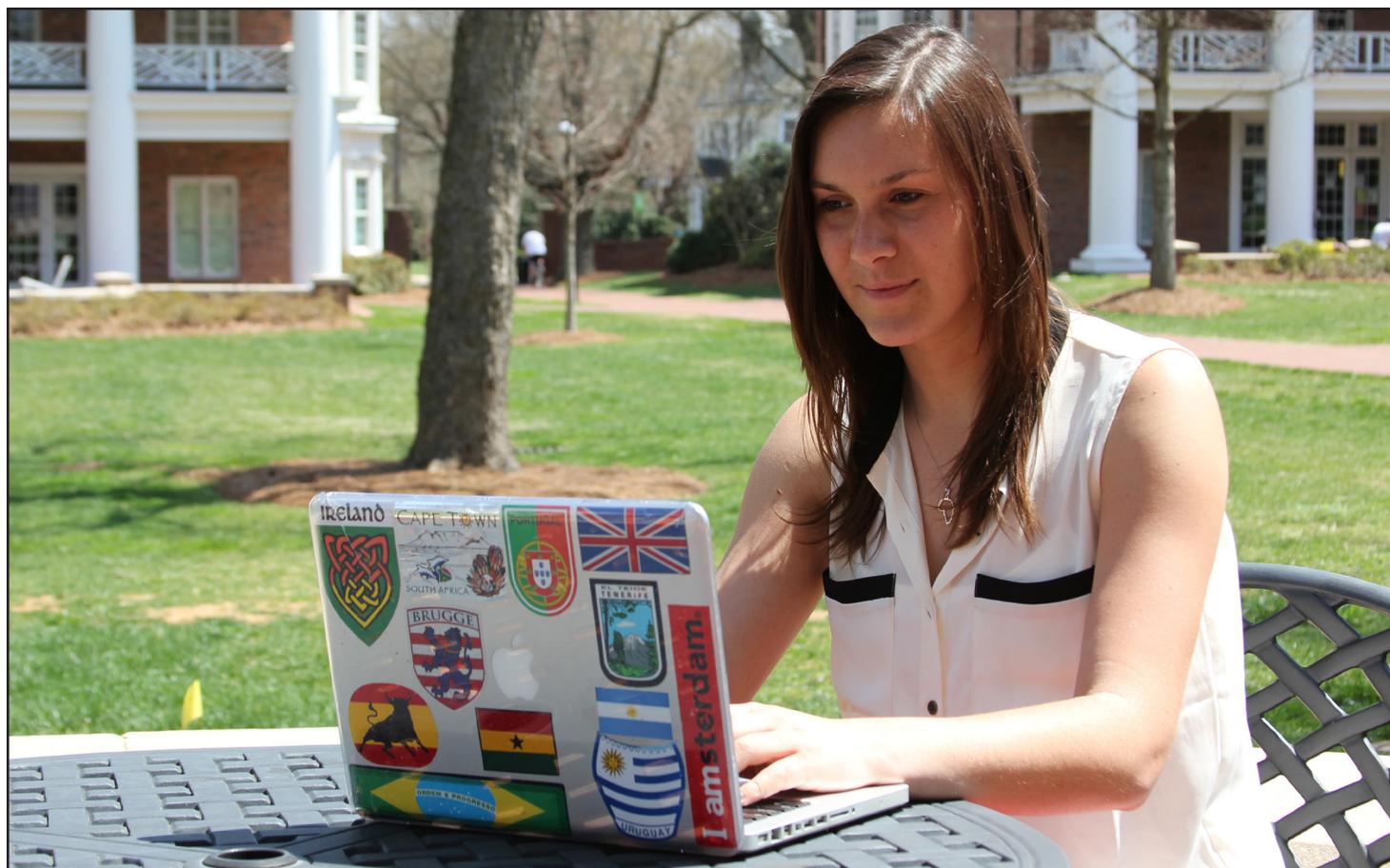
After completing the program, Tomich received an email from the dean of Semester at Sea that informed her she had been nominated to represent the program at the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGIU).

Originally, she thought the email was spam. “I thought they sent it to everybody,” she said. “I saw that I was nominated by Semester at Sea, then I had to apply through the CGIU representative. And that was only the first round of applications. Finally I had to apply again through the CGIU website for final approval.”

Tomich had to create an action plan for her application and used her time volunteering as inspiration for it.

“I saw on Semester at Sea that all of the nonprofits needed volunteers,” she said. “I had proof from my fellow voyagers that there are people who have a passion for service. It’s just a problem of how to connect that passion to a cause, especially when the biggest obstacle stopping people is money.”

From this observation, she began to produce a plan to create a social media website in which volunteers are financially supported by a



Tomich displays her experiences studying abroad and her love of traveling by showcasing a collection of international banners and logos on the cover of her laptop. TIMOTHY DEWITT | Staff Photographer

business and can then find a nonprofit organization abroad to work at with no cost to them.

“The nonprofits would get the volunteers that they need and the socially minded business would receive PR and any sort of recognition that would increase their profit sales through helping people financially afford to serve abroad,” Tomich said.

The tentative name for the website is “Sponsor to Service.”

“I think it is a good initiative and I’m anxious to see how it plays out in the future,” Arca-ro said. “Emily is the type of person who truly understands what commitment is and what it means to follow through.”

With this plan of action, Tomich was accepted to apply for CGIU. Out of the 500 students on last semester’s voyage, Tomich was one of four asked to apply. She was accepted

into CGIU last month.

Tomich attended workshops at a CGIU conference from April 5-7 at Washington University in St. Louis. At the conference, she received critiques on her action plan and heard Bill Clinton, Muhammad Yunus and Stephen Colbert speak.

Tomich is on the path to becoming not just a global citizen, but a global leader. It all connects back to Tomich’s experience in first grade.

“It was my first introduction to the world, and it was more than just a geography lesson,” she said. “It was a lesson on the culture, on the lifestyle and what we could look forward to as college students.” **§**



Tomich did service work during Elon’s Semester at Sea program, such as participating in A Ban Against Neglect in Ghana. SUBMITTED BY EMILY TOMICH

## Student organization helps Skid's go green, gain customers

**Katy Canada**  
Senior Reporter

Elon University students walk past Skid's Restaurant every day on the way to the gym or en route to class. Until recently, it was rare they stopped in for a bite.

Enactus, a student organization that calls upon Elon student entrepreneurs to help local, national and international businesses in need, has begun the process of marketing Skid's Restaurant to the larger student clientele.

"The goal of our project is to improve the restaurant and market it so it can maintain its local presence, but at the same time, attract the student body and make improvements to the restaurant overall," said sophomore Andrew Lynch, Enactus member and Skid's project manager.

At the beginning of the Fall 2012 semester, Enactus members surveyed Elon students about their knowledge of Skid's. The results indicated many knew about the restaurant but had never set foot in the building. That's when Enactus decided to add social media to Skid's marketing strategy and began hosting profit shares to bring more customers into the restaurant.

Lynch said the most successful marketing project Enactus has implemented so far is an event called Late Night Skid's, where the restaurant is open from 10:30 p.m. until 2:30 a.m. By closing time at the first Late Night Skid's, every seat had been filled, according to Lynch.

"We thought maybe since they came for Late Night, they'll come at other times of the day," Lynch said.

Glenda Robertson, the manager of Skid's, said the restaurant has seen an overall increase in student traffic during all times of the day after the success of Late Night Skid's and other strategies from Enactus.

Another important factor of the project has been making the restaurant more environmentally friendly. Enactus received a grant from Sam's Club Step Up for Small Business worth \$1,500. Members spent part of the grant money on installing LED lighting. The change has not only been a step toward a more green facility, but also makes



MARIJO SAULON | Staff Photographer  
Skid's Restaurant is located on 134 W. Haggard Ave.

the overall atmosphere more inviting and comfortable, according to Lynch.

"We're all about making businesses more sustainable and making products more environmentally friendly," Lynch said.

Enactus' ultimate goal with this project is to make Skid's sustainable without the help of the organization.

Enactus is also currently involved in three additional projects, including "Let's Can Hunger." For this project, Enactus made a pledge with Campbell's Soup to accumulate 5,000 pounds of canned goods this year while educating the local community about hunger.

"Our mission is to make the world better and more sustainable, so there are many people affected by Enactus in a positive way," said senior Andrew Ganim, president of Enactus. "We don't want to just give people fish — we want to teach them how to fish in order to better sustain themselves."

The mission of Enactus is also to provide participating students with valuable experience and leadership opportunities. Ganim said 99 percent of Enactus participants have a job when they graduate because of their drive and dedication. Getting involved with the organization is an optimal way to employ business skills learned in the classroom in a professional environment, he said.



MARIJO SAULON | Staff Photographer  
Enactus has installed new blinds, LED ceiling lighting and LED hanging lighting to better illuminate Skid's Restaurant. They are currently planning on updating and improving the restaurant's menu and logo.



SUBMITTED BY ANDREW LYNCH  
Enactus members worked with the owner and employees of Skid's to serve Elon students for Late Night Skid's.

# Upcoming play's family ties may be familiar offstage

**Meghan Mahoney**  
Senior Reporter

Secrets will creep around the stage April 11 in Elon University's McCrary Theatre.

In the play, "August: Osage County," the Weston sisters' father disappears so they return to their childhood home to support their mother, who is addicted to pills.

The performance is meant to entice many of its viewers to think about what they can expect from their own family members and what dysfunction in a family might do to its dynamic.

Kirby Wahl, assistant professor of performing arts and director of the play said Tracy Letts, the writer of "August," uses a difficult family dynamic to question the nature of people's social structure.

"Everybody has their own story," he said. "They have their own version of the family history that suits them. We have a national story. Letts makes that a little uncomfortable and awkward."

One of the explored themes in "August" revolves around mother-daughter relationships.

"No matter how you try to be different, you are in some way like, or in rebellion against your parent," Wahl said.

Sophomore and stage manager Cody Schmidt said "August" is a unique play and even though the family is crazy, viewers usually find themselves rooting for the characters.

"It's great to learn from each of them," Schmidt said. "They all have something to offer."

Wahl usually directs a play during Winter Term, so this semester he has valued the extended time. Rehearsals began in mid-February.

"The cast had time to think about it," Wahl said.

Besides the performers, Fred Rubeck, chair of the Department of Performing Arts, and Sue Ott Rowlands, dean of liberal arts and human sciences at Virginia Tech University, will also be in the play.

Senior Tyler Alverson, who is playing a 60-year-old man, learned how to adjust his speech and movement to be more at the speed of a 60-year-old. He said he was intimidated because he had never played an older character

before.

"I feel like I'm playing the old funny uncle who picks on everybody," Alverson said.

Wahl said the students have done a great job playing the parts of older people, despite the

fact that they haven't acquired the life experience that a 45 or 50-year-old has.

"August: Osage County" opens April 11 in McCrary Theatre. Tickets can be purchased at the box office in the Center for the Arts.



RUTH GRAY | Staff Photographer

Sue Ott Rowlands, a dean at Virginia Tech, visited Elon to play the role of Violet Weston, the sharp-tongued mother who is addicted to several drugs in "August: Osage County." The play will open April 11.

# Grand Night XXI: Diverse talent exhibited, program's successes celebrated

**Casey Brown**  
Senior Reporter

Grand Night started with just one faculty member and five students. Twenty-one years later, it has become one of the biggest weekends for music theater students.

Grand Night XXI gave students the opportunity to display their talents and celebrate their program. This year, it flourished with more than 80 students and an hour-and-a-half-long spectacle to show it all off.

The event was a celebration for the department, a recognition of the old and an acceptance of the new. This was particularly prominent in the Friday night show, where old and new collided.

According to tradition, the cast closed out the show with the song "I Will Turn to You," written by 2009 alum Daniel Gibson and 2010 alum Christopher Staskel. Meanwhile, a young student committed to the Class of 2017 music theater program watched from the audience.

The gala took on other meanings for the performers. For some, it epitomized the op-

portunity to try something new. In the case of junior Chris McNiff, he was able to arrange a medley of "Journey to the Past" and "Out There" from the films "Anastasia" and "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," respectively, for his class' performance.

Senior Sean Ronayne performed with his classmates for one of his last times on Elon's stage. He sang "Happy Days/Get Happy" with his friend, junior Lucy Werner. Ronayne said, from a senior's perspective, he thinks Grand Night celebrates how his class has come into its own during its time at Elon.

"It is just fun to be a senior doing this and see how far everyone I know has come and just see how the seniors' roles in the department have shifted over time," Ronayne said.

Members of the Class of 2016, like Lizzie Markson, had the chance to perform on stage for the Freshman Showcase, but Grand Night XXI provided the opportunity to work with upperclass peers and see what lies ahead.

"It shows us what we are working toward and affirms in us why we came to this school and this program," Markson said. "It also gives us another opportunity to be an active

part of this program and perform alongside all of our peers."

The collective student effort that went into Grand Night was extensive. They auditioned in front of faculty, who had the final say on which numbers made the show, and then students organized when and where they would practice.

Ronayne said the senior class had to rehearse its number during College Coffee, the only available time for all of them to meet.

Grand Night has turned into a reflection of the extensive program Catherine McNeela, professor of performing arts, built from the ground up. Ronayne said it gives the department as a whole a chance to show others what they're passionate about.

"I think Grand Night is one of the best opportunities [music theater students] at Elon get to really play around on stage and figure out who we are as performers," Ronayne said. "One of the best things about this program is that they embrace how different we all are, and Grand Night is one of the best places where you can see people's unique personalities and stage energies show."



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

Grand Night exposes talents in Elon's music theater class.

# Student's powerful documentary chosen

Jessica Petrocchi  
Senior Reporter

involved in the gay community, especially in Winston-Salem.

“A lot of stereotypes and perceptions of gay people I think they kind of nix,” Carlin said. “They were great faces to be up on the screen and representing the cause.”

In the state of North Carolina, gay couples still await their right to be married.

Elon University junior Madeline Carlin follows a Winston-Salem couple, Frank Benedetti and Gary Trowbridge, through the story of their almost 50-year relationship in her short documentary, “We Will Prevail.”

“I chose the topic of gay marriage because Amendment One passed last spring and there was just a lot going on about it and I thought it would make a really great topic,” Carlin said.

Amendment One, also known as the North Carolina Same-Sex Marriage Amendment, was a legislatively referred constitutional amendment that was passed in May 2012. The measure defines marriage as a union of one man and one woman.

Out of 832 applicants, “We Will Prevail” was one of the 143 films chosen to be played at the RiverRun International Film Festival. The festival chooses independent films that have not yet been distributed.

The RiverRun International Film Festival is a nonprofit cultural organization dedicated to the role of cinema as a channel for powerful ideas and diverse viewpoints. Their mission is to foster a greater appreciation of cinema and a deeper understanding of people, cultures and perspectives of the world through regular interaction with great films and filmmakers.

When the documentary was filmed, Benedetti and Trowbridge had been together for 48 years. Trowbridge said their big goal now is to make it to 50 years and beyond.

The couple was hoping to get married in North Carolina, but Trowbridge said it doesn't look like that will happen in their lifetime.

Carlin picked Benedetti and Trowbridge because of their long-lasting relationship. They were also greatly involved in the activism efforts against the passing of Amendment One in North Carolina. Benedetti and Trowbridge continue to be



Staff and volunteers at the RiverRun International Film Festival sit in the sun outside the RiverRun headquarters. Several of these students are part of the student ambassador program.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MARIEDITH APPANATIS

# for RiverRun International Film Festival

Benedetti and Trowbridge have lived in Winston-Salem since 1993 and are seen as leaders in the gay community.

"They've headed up several campaigns over the years to get the word out about gay rights in North Carolina," Carlin said. "They also were part of a human rights campaign a few years back. They went to Congress to testify when gay marriage first came on the slate way back in the early 2000s."

The film not only focuses on local people, but also a very timely and highly debated topic right now. The short was filmed

both before and after the 2012 passing of Amendment One in North Carolina.

"Marriage has a universal understanding," Trowbridge said in the film.

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual RiverRun International Film Festival starts April 12 and ends April 21 in Winston-Salem. The 10-day festival is the largest in North Carolina and one of the largest in the entire southeast, according to Mariedith Appanaitis, RiverRun's publicity coordinator. Last year 60,000 people came to the event.

A large variety of films from all genres and lengths are screened. In 2012, the festi-

val had more than 140 films from 25 countries and brought almost 100 filmmakers together from around the world, according to the festival's official website. Carlin's film, completed the spring of her sophomore year in 2012, focuses on the couple's struggles of being gay in the South.

Carlin's mentor, Nicole Triche, encouraged Carlin and a few other students to apply to the festival. While "We Will Prevail" has been accepted to screen at a few other festivals, RiverRun is the biggest so far.

The selection process is highly competitive, as many different studios and directors submit films to the festival.

"We select the ones that we think will be the best fit for our audience and would get the best variety for our festival," Appanaitis said.

Carlin said her biggest challenge was the timing. As a short documentary, the total running time of "We Will Prevail" is under five minutes.

"Frank and Gary have such an amazing story and have so many great tales to be told over the course of their life together," Carlin said. "So it was really hard narrowing in on one topic. They're just great people and they've done so many things to promote equality."

Benedetti and Trowbridge are no strangers to the RiverRun community.

"They are actually two of our very favorite RiverRun volunteers and they are actually very involved in every art organization in Winston," Appanaitis said. "They're just well-known as being wonderful volunteers."

The couple is currently active in North Carolina to get people talking about the importance of same-sex marriage rights.

"We're trying to involve people in conversations," Benedetti said in the film.

Benedetti speaks frequently at churches and other organizations in the area to spread the word about gay rights. He allows anyone to ask questions about himself as a person, his sexuality and his life.

"We will prevail because history tells us that love eventually trumps hatred," Benedetti said in a speech at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Highlands in

Virginia. "We will prevail because justice, no matter how late in coming, will overcome inequality. We will prevail because our struggle, like others in the past, is rooted in basic American principles. They cannot ever stop us from loving each other."

In fewer than five minutes, Carlin is able to capture powerful emotions in the documentary. She said she wants her audience to reconsider their thoughts on equality when they see the documentary.

"Frank says in the documentary that the most conservative thing in the world is to promote marriage," Carlin said. "And I think people often think of gay marriage as a destruction of our society and it's not that, and Frank and Gary prove that. They deserve the same rights."

Carlin's film will be shown at 12:30 p.m. April 14 and again at 4:15 p.m. April 19. Tickets are available for \$8 for students at 2013.riverrunfilm.com. §



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MARIEDITH APPANAITIS

Madeline Carlin submitted her short documentary, "We Will Prevail," to the RiverRun International Film Festival.



301 W. Haggard Avenue  
Elon, North Carolina 27244  
336-585-0167

**Enter our  
AUCTION  
to win a room during  
GRADUATION!**



*For more information,  
please see our Special Events at  
[www.acorninnelon.com](http://www.acorninnelon.com)*

# Football looks to fill holes

Andrew Wilson  
Sports Editor

The makeup of the 2013 Southern Conference football slate doesn't change, but the landscape and the possibilities turned drastically March 26.

With SoCon powerhouses Appalachian State University and Georgia Southern University making the jump to the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) level at the start of the 2014 season in the Sun Belt Conference, the two are not eligible to officially defend the conference title. The two teams have won at least a share of 15 of the last 16 SoCon titles.

Wofford College no longer has fullback Eric Breitenstein, who beat out Elon University receiver Aaron Mellette after the 2012 campaign for his second straight SoCon Player of the Year award after running for more than 100 yards in all but one game in 2012, and rushing for a SoCon record 321 yards against Elon Sept. 29. Now, the Southern Conference has seemingly become anybody's to win.

"We knew this was coming," said Conference Commissioner John Iamarino. "It stings, there's no question about that. To their credit, both Appalachian State and Georgia Southern have been very upfront with us. I do feel pretty good about the nine we have."

With that in mind, Elon head football coach Jason Swepson and his staff started spring practices last week looking to solve some question marks and fill some major holes all over the field, starting with the signal caller.

For the second time in three years, Swepson and offensive coordinator Chris Pincince will have to replace a star quarterback with the departure of Thomas Wilson. Wilson took the reins from Scott Riddle in Swepson's first season at Elon in 2011.

"It's going to be a huge competition for us," Swepson said. "We have to replace a guy who really stood out for us for two seasons."

Junior Mike Quinn leads the inexperienced trio of quarterbacks into spring practice with the most regular season game time for the Phoenix. He hasn't started a game, but he's made seven appearances in two seasons at Elon, completing 24 of 36 pass attempts for 147 yards.

Redshirt freshman John Loughery starts



The Elon football team held its first spring practice April 3 on the Hunt and Tucker Practice Fields. The Phoenix will hold its first spring scrimmage at 2 p.m. April 20.

his second season in the Elon system, but having redshirted last year, he has not played in a game since 2011.

Sophomore transfer quarterback Trevor Vasey stands 6 feet 6 inches tall, making him the tallest of the three, but he just arrived on campus this season, seemingly pitting him behind the other two quarterbacks.

"Of all three, 'Quinny' probably knows the most," Swepson said. "But we had some good meetings in the winter time and it seems like all three of those kids have a good understanding of the playbook. Obviously Vasey just has to catch up a little bit with the playbook and the speed of practice, but overall it's going to be a great competition and I don't think the competition is going to be settled until 10 days before the opener."

Graduating seniors Mellette and Jeremy Peterson were the No. 1 and 3 receivers last

season. Behind them isn't a clear-cut playmaker like Mellette has been at the wideout spot for the last three seasons. Before Mellette, it was Terrell Hudgins starring at receiver.

"Here at Elon we've been spoiled for a while having a big-time wideout," Swepson said.

Rasaun Rorie is the only senior practicing this spring. He figures to play a key role in the passing game this season as well as rising junior Kierre Brown.

"Rorie is trying to be a leader out here and trying to be the next playmaker here, but we have to find the best four or five wideouts," Swepson said. "We can't worry about the standard outside receiver and inside receiver like we've done in the past. We just have to find the best guys and go forward."

In the backfield with whoever ends up winning the quarterback battle will be a trio of

backs with limited experience, but they'll get a boost from the third running back in the mix in redshirt freshman B.J. Bennett.

Bennett returns from a shoulder injury that kept him out all of last season. He, junior Karl Bostick and sophomore Tracey Coppedge will battle one another for the role of lead back.

"We really missed B.J. last year because of the shoulder injury," Swepson said. "But he's a big back that can do a lot of things and I'm anxious to see what he can do this spring. With him in the mix, he's going to give us a lot more depth at the position, but we're going to be older than we were last year, and a little bit more experienced. B.J. will be a big upgrade being added to the mix."

Facing four option offenses this season — Georgia Tech in week one, Appalachian State the first SoCon game of the season, Wofford and Georgia Southern — the Phoenix needs

# as spring practice starts

to work on stopping the ground game, something that gashed them last season.

Former defensive coordinator Ed Pinkham took the same position at Western Michigan University in December.

“The emphasis is to stop the run,” Swepson said. “Especially in this league facing all the triple options and that’s something when we were hiring a new defensive coordinator was stopping the run.”

Selected to replace Pinkham is Brad Sherrod.

“When it comes down to it, football is still football,” Swepson said. “We’re starting a 4-3 front and we’re going to focus on that the entire spring. We’re going to try to let these guys be aggressive and take the thinking out of it a little bit.”

While Swepson called the defensive line the “best position on the football field right now,” he recognized their need to have to step up and stop the running game if the Phoenix is to have success in 2013.

One way he feels the team can improve before the season even starts has already happened.

“Last year we didn’t have a strength coach until late March, so we missed an entire winter,” Swepson said. “This year, he’s been with us the whole time so I felt like we got bigger and faster and stronger and all that we need to do in the offseason so I really feel like we had a true offseason this year.”

For what could be the final chance at beating Appalachian State, the Phoenix will open SoCon play Sept. 21 against the Mountaineers in Rhodes Stadium. The Phoenix will welcome Georgia Southern to Rhodes Stadium Nov. 16, looking for another chance to finish the upset the Phoenix almost pulled last season in Statesboro, Ga., when it lost on a late field goal 26-23.

The competition all around this season for the Phoenix could be a blessing in disguise, Swepson said. Without a clear starter at many positions, he said it adds to the player’s sense of urgency to produce and could give the Phoenix a chance to come away with a good season come November.

“Anytime you have competition on the football field you can only get better,” Swepson said. “Obviously we’re going to miss Wilson

and Mellette’s leadership skills, but it’ll make us develop the run game and make us develop three or four other wideouts. Everyone’s excited about the challenge, but we have our work cut out for us.”

The Phoenix has two scrimmages leading up to the Spring Game May 3 at Rhodes Stadium. §

## — SPRING SCHEDULE —

**2 p.m. – Sat., April 20:** Scrimmage in Rhodes Stadium

**1 p.m. – Sat., April 27:** Scrimmage in Rhodes Stadium

**7 p.m. – Fri., May 3:** Spring Game in Rhodes Stadium



Defensive players including junior Jonathan Spain (middle) work out at Elon’s first spring practice of 2013. AL DRAGO | Photo Editor



Redshirt freshman John Loughery (11) is one of three quarterbacks in the hunt for the starting quarterback spot when Elon opens the regular season Aug. 31 at Atlantic Coast Conference opponent Georgia Tech. AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

The Acorn  
Residence  
Inn

**DONE WITH  
ROOMMATES?**

Four single  
apartments left for  
2013-2014.  
One of them could be  
yours!

Fully-furnished apartments include:

Utilities	Trash
Water	Internet
Gas	Laundry
Electric	Cable

[www.acornhousingelon.com](http://www.acornhousingelon.com)



FILE PHOTO BY CAROLINE OLNEY

The duo of junior Cameron Silverman (right) and sophomore Stefan Fortmann are undefeated together in conference play and have led the Elon University men's tennis team to the top spot in the Southern Conference.

# A man, his moped and a tennis racquet

Jordan Spritzer  
Senior Reporter

If you're walking around Elon University on a sunny afternoon, you may see a loud moped cruising around at 20 miles per hour with the rider's blond mullet flapping in the wind.

The rider is none other than men's tennis sophomore Stefan Fortmann.

The moped has a name, too: Monique. Monique is Fortmann's pride and joy and he loves riding around on the 1980 Honda Express.

He was first introduced to bikes in his native South Africa when a man would ride to his youth group on an old black bike. Despite constant pressure from

Fortmann, the man would not sell the bike. Yet when it came time for the man to move, he was forced to sell the bike after all.

"He played some tennis and I knew he was looking for a new tennis racquet," Fortmann said. "I had an unused tennis racquet laying around so I said, 'Let's make a straight swap. I'll take the moped and you'll take the tennis racquet.'"

He had traded one passion for another, and that was Fortmann's first bike as a boy.

When Fortmann came to the United States, he needed some form of transportation. After looking on Craigslist, he found a man who shared Fortmann's passion for mopeds and had

one for sale.

"He was putting a down payment on a house and he didn't really want to sell it," Fortmann said. "He actually shed a tear because he was so attached to it. Right before he left he said, 'By the way, her name is Monique.'"

Fortmann is one of the many international students at Elon and one of five on the men's tennis team. His hometown of Wartburg, South Africa is a small farming town in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Though fond of his roots, the sophomore always had ambitions of leaving his home country.

"From a young age, I always knew I wanted to come to the United States to play tennis," he said.

The sophomore was able to achieve his goal of playing tennis in the United States through College Scholarships USA, a London-based group that matches international student-athletes with colleges in America. He explained College Scholarships USA helped create a profile full of videos, statistics and academics. Coaches and schools in the United States would then receive the profile and contact him.

There was a catch, though. Fortmann had never visited any of the schools he considered, and he'd never met with the coaches face-to-face before deciding where to go.

He is the first to admit that coming to Elon was by chance and not initially

something that he thought would really come to fruition until he talked to the coaches.

"There were a lot of other schools I was looking at, and there were other coaches looking at me," Fortmann said. "But I got along with the coach at Elon really well. It just felt right, so I just packed my bags, took a chance and came. It was the first time I had come to the States."

Fortmann said he has no regrets displacing his life, but he also said the environment at Elon made the adjustment easier.

"It was more exciting than tough because it was something I had been looking forward to for a long time," Fortmann said. "Everything was new. Everything was exciting."

The hard part, he said, was listening to a new coach, one he had never met prior to agreeing to play tennis at Elon.

"I had the same coach for 11 years," he said. "It was a big adjustment to have a new coach."

In just his second season with the Phoenix, Fortmann has become an integral part of the young team that is facing a difficult schedule. Fortmann said the schedule is pulling the best out of the team and preparing them for the stretch at the end of the season and the Southern Conference tournament.

"We are a young team, and yes, we have done well," Fortmann said. "Three of our first four matches were against [Atlantic Coast Conference] schools. It was a tough start, but we were only a point

away from beating North Carolina State, who's nationally ranked. That alone tells you the potential this team has."

But the rigorous schedule the Phoenix consistently plays year in and year out against teams like N.C. State, Duke University and the rest of the conference schedule was a reason Fortmann was interested in Elon.

"I knew when I came to college I wanted to play against the best players in the nation," he said. "As a sportsman, that's exactly what I wanted. I want to be in matches where it is tough and even if I do lose, it's a good battle."

In Fortmann's three matches against ACC competition, he has a 1-2 record. His only win came against Austin Powell of N.C. State in straight sets 7-6 (7-6), 7-5. But in his two losses, Fortmann played all three sets. He was the only Elon player to win a set against Duke in the season opener. Overall, Fortmann has prevailed in most of his battles compiling a 14-5 record through April 7.

"He's a good competitor," said Elon head coach Michael Leonard. "You know what you're going to get with him. He's a tough out."

With a young team, slip-ups and inconsistent performances can happen. Fortmann and the rest of the Phoenix slipped against Georgia Southern University April 7 in a match that saw junior No. 1 Cameron Silverman miss the singles portion of the match because of illness. The match against the Eagles was the first conference match of the season in which the Phoenix found itself on the losing end.

"We do need to mature a bit, but we are moving

in the right direction," Fortmann said. "Losing to a team you shouldn't have lost to should motivate you to do better."

He thinks the Phoenix will bounce back even though the team dropped its first conference match with two matches remaining before the SoCon tournament.

Fortmann has certainly proven himself as Elon's No. 2 singles player, but his doubles play has been as equally as impressive. He provides a one-two punch at the top as the No. 1 doubles team with

Silverman.

"Cameron has to be the most interesting tennis player I've ever met," he said. "He understands his game extremely well and plays to his strengths. He hits some shots that sometimes you just stand back and think, 'How does he do that?'"

The two have great chemistry on the court and it shows in their record. Fortmann and Silverman are 13-3 when they play together and a perfect 8-0 in



FILE PHOTO BY CAROLINE OLNEY

Fortmann (right) and Silverman are the No. 34 ranked doubles pair in the country as of March 26.



conference play, good for a national ranking of No. 34 as of the March 26 Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings. They are the highest ranked duo in the Southern Conference, as the only other pair to rank in the conference is senior Zac Dunkle and junior Garrison Laduca of Samford University.

“It’s great when you get to play with someone on a consistent basis to get to know them better,” Silverman said. “It helps you on the court. We’ve done very well this season. We have won a lot of matches.”

According to Leonard, putting the two together at the end of the 2012 season was enough to make up his mind well before the 2013 season started.

“They played great together at the end of last year,” he said. “It was pretty obvious they were our No. 1 team.”

As talented as Fortmann is at tennis, he is equally as talented with another passion of his: photography.

He can be seen taking pictures at almost any Elon sporting event and his pictures of the Elon Luminaries became famous on Facebook and Twitter last December.

Though still unsure of his future as an undecided major, Fortmann knows he wants to pursue opportunities in photography or “an array of other possibilities.”

“I would like to do something with

photography someday,” he said. “That and tennis are my two passions.”

He forgot his third passion, though: Monique.

From his early days of youth tennis in Wartburg, South Africa to his time at Elon, Fortmann said he is thankful for all tennis has done for his life, but he knows there’s a lot of life ahead for he and Monique. He doesn’t like to predict, though.

“Tennis has gotten me places,” he said. “I came here with an open mind and to try and reach my full potential. Now, I try to just focus on what I can control, which is going to class, getting better on the tennis courts and keep taking pictures. We’re having fun, though.” §

## Stefan Fortmann Stats

### Singles

(as of April 7)

**Matches:** 19

**Overall:** 14-5

**Conference:** 6-2

### Doubles with Cameron Silverman

**Matches:** 16

**Overall:** 13-3

**Conference:** 8-0



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Fortmann can frequently be seen on the tennis courts at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center, riding around campus on Monique the moped, or at Elon sporting events taking pictures for the Elon athletics department.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

BASEBALL	SOFTBALL	MEN'S TENNIS	WOMEN'S TENNIS	WOMEN'S TRACK&FIELD	GOLF
<p>UNCW 6:30 p.m. – Wed., April 10 Wilmington, N.C.</p> <p>Louisville April 12-14 Louisville, Ky.</p>	<p>UNC-CH 6 p.m. – Wed., April 10 Chapel Hill, N.C.</p> <p>Western Carolina April 13-14 Elon, N.C.</p>	<p>Appalachian State 2 p.m. – Wed., April 10 Boone, N.C.</p> <p>SoCon Tournament April 18-21 Elon, N.C.</p>	<p>Appalachian State 3 p.m. – Thurs., April 10 Elon, N.C.</p> <p>East Carolina 12 p.m. – Sat., April 13 Elon, N.C.</p> <p>SoCon Tournament April 18-21 Elon, N.C.</p>	<p>Joe Hilton Invitational Sat., April 13 Chapel Hill, N.C.</p> <p>SoCon Outdoor Championships April 20-21 Statesboro, Ga.</p>	<p><b>Men's:</b> Coca-Cola Invitational April 15-16 Spartanburg, S.C.</p> <p>SoCon Championship April 21-23 Daniel Island, S.C.</p> <p><b>Women's:</b> SoCon Championship April 14-16 Hilton Head, S.C.</p>

# THE LAST WORD

## ‘Skim-milk marriage’ hasn’t won... yet

It’s a gay time for America.

Last week, Time magazine released an issue featuring either two men or two

women kissing on the cover, with a headline declaring, “Gay marriage already won.”

The statement — not unusual for a magazine that has received flak for presenting a darkened photo of O.J. Simpson and, more recently, a breastfeeding mom on the cover — is an overstatement.

Thirty-one states still have some level of ban on same-sex marriage. Not exactly a victory.

The good news is that whatever strides same-sex marriage hasn’t made politically,

it has socially. November exit polls show 83 percent of voters believe same-sex marriage will be legal within the next 10 years, and one in seven adults’ opposition to it has turned to support, according to a Pew Research Center survey.

While Time was declaring the victory of gay marriage, the Supreme Court had begun session debating the constitutionality of Proposition 8 and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). No harsh feelings toward Time, but its statement was a bit too soon. The justices are obviously divided on the issue of same-sex marriage, or, as the eternally youthful Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg calls it, “skim-milk marriage.”

Opinions on skim milk aside, I have faith the Supreme Court will come to the right decision and declare both Prop 8 and DOMA unconstitutional — in a few months, that is.

What this case has done is open my eyes to just how aged and muddled in government bureaucracy the justices are. They seem to think “homosexual” is much more widely used than “gay,” and the majority of them seem to be concerned with the political benefits to same-sex marriage, rather than the emotional. Justice Antonin Scalia didn’t even know how many states allowed gay marriage.

For the record, Justice Scalia, it’s nine plus Washington, D.C., the city over which you so proudly rule in your starched black robe.

For faculty, Elon University has taken steps in the right direction. Domestic partners, both same-sex and opposite sex, can “participate in special benefits in the same manner as full-time faculty and staff spouses,” according to Elon’s 2012 Benefits Summary.

Where Elon seems to be dropping the ball is on the student governmental level. We elected a president who vetoed a bill to remove Chick-fil-A, which many students see as a harmful and discriminatory business. Then, we almost elected another who organized a Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day at Elon because a nationally organized, Tea Party-sanctioned one wasn’t enough already.

Gay marriage hasn’t won yet, but it is certainly making strides. When President Obama came out in support of it in May, he paved the way for other Democratic, and even some Republican leaders, to announce their support as well.

It’s time for the Supreme Court and many Elon students to do the same: Come out of the closet and support the cause. Adam and Steve need all the support they can get.



Jonathan Black  
Managing Editor

Sudoku

9				5	8			
8					4	6		7
6						1		
	6		2			5		8
							4	2
		3					1	6
		8	4	9				1
5				8	1			3
7	1				2			9

Complete the grid so that every row, column and every three-by-three box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Difficulty Level: Medium

### Top Tweets

**@jessieb007**

Today I went into Acorn and they brought me my usual order before I even asked for it. Best. Day. Ever.

**@elonuniversity**

#elon football star Aaron Mellette is being called a “draft day steal.” Future Raven? #elonphoenix

**@stebertstebert**

This morning, I’ve substituted paying attention/ taking notes in Media Law for eating a banana. #firstworldanarchy

**@xoGossipSquirrel**

Lilly Pulitzer died this morning, so if you see girls sobbing while simultaneously wearing something resembling a placemat, you know why.



# T O Photos

AL DRAGO | Photo Editor  
Junior Lauren Oldham (3) goes for a ball against Longwood University in a double header April 2. The Phoenix dropped both games against the Lancers, 6-4 and 8-1.

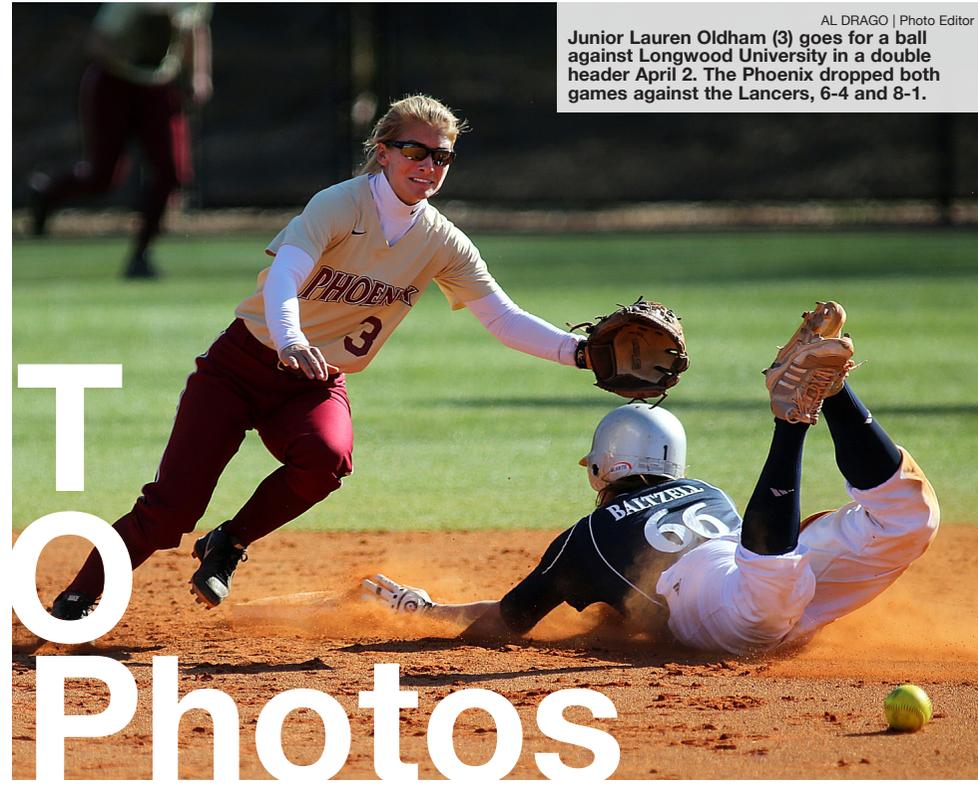


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ANDREW KRECH  
Students participate in the Elon Color Run April 6 at South Campus. The run was co-hosted by Campus Recreation and Elonthon, with participants competing through two miles of clouds of biodegradable, washable paint.

RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

Senior Christine Mavraganis performs Colbie Caillat's "Brighter Than the Sun" at a cappella benefit concert April 6 in Whitley Auditorium. Hosted by co-ed a cappella group Twisted Measure, the concert raised money for students affected by the Newtown, Conn. shootings last December.



MARIJO SAULON | Staff Photographer  
Music theater majors in Elon's Department of Performing Arts pose during a number in Grand Night XXI April 5 in Yeager Recital Hall. Grand Night is an evening of song and dance that celebrates current Broadway musicals and old-fashioned theater alike.



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor  
The Elon baseball team defeated High Point University 16-7 April 2 at Latham Park.



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor  
Junior Alpha Chi Omega Marie Brainard performs during the first annual "Set It Off" Stroll-Off April 6 in McKinnon Hall. The event was co-hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha and Delta Upsilon and featured various stroll-off teams from around the state.

ADVERTISEMENT

# PROVENCE AND EVELLIEN

**TRULY DESIGNED & APPROVED  
FOR UP TO 4 STUDENTS!**

**LARGE CLOSETS  
LAUNDRY ROOMS  
HIGH CEILINGS  
SPACIOUS ROOMS**



**Three - Four  
bedroom units left!  
Hey, did you get your  
exemption to live off  
campus?**

**Call for a visit, 336 266-6666 and  
see where you could be living!**

Provence at 807 East Haggard and Evellien at 223 Lawrence Street

**THE ONLY FOUR BEDROOM** townhouses & apartments locally owned and managed in Elon

Tours provided every weekend and during the week as needed, call 336 266-6666

**WWW.EVELLIEN.COM**