

THE PENDULUM

GOING DANCING

SEE SPECIAL SECTION B



ALEX SIMON | Sports Director
(From left to right) Shay Burnett (5), Malaya Johnson (44) and Jenifer Rhodes (11) react to winning the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) championship March 11, earning the school's first bid to the NCAA Tournament. Elon faces 6th-seed West Virginia March 17.

HB2, a year later

House Bill 2's effects still felt at Elon University

Meg Malone
Assistant News Editor
@megretjeane

At the one-year anniversary of House Bill 2, Elon University has just begun to realize the breadth of the impact of this controversial bill.

Despite the university's choice to distance itself from the legislation, the university has not been able to completely avoid the fall-out.

From SGA members, student-athletes, prospective students and students fighting to find their voices, many has been affected in one way or another.

Bit by bit, actions have replaced words. And that, said junior Monique Swirsky, president of Elon's gay-straight alliance SPECTRUM, "that's what's really important."

One year later

In addition to eliminating non-discrimination ordinances protecting members of the LGBTQIA community, HB2 — also known as the "bathroom bill" — requires individuals to use public restrooms and locker rooms coinciding with the gender on their birth certificate.

As a private institution, Elon is not required to comply with the bathroom provision, which only affects restrooms in public, government-owned facilities.

HB2 was approved by the North Carolina state government on March 23, 2016. Two days later, Elon released a statement reading, "Elon remains committed to inclusion and equal protection for all people. ... We wish to provide a safe and welcoming learning environment for every member of our community."

Elon's statement stressed that individuals were welcome to use whichever bathroom they felt most comfortable using: "Elon maintains a list of more than 90 single-occupancy universal bathrooms on campus that protect the privacy of the users," the statement said.

See **HB2**
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THE PENDULUM

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ELON NEWS
NETWORK

Established 1974

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

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Editorial policy:

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

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CRIME REPORT

March 9
SOUTH WILLIAMSON AVENUE
ELON
Possession of drug paraphernalia

At 10:39 p.m. March 9, a Town of Elon police officer stopped a vehicle with a broken tail light. When the driver opened the glovebox to retrieve their registration, the officer glimpsed a marijuana grinder. The vehicle was searched and a pack of cigarillos containing cigar guts and a plastic bag with marijuana residue were discovered. The passenger was issued a citation for possession of marijuana paraphernalia.

March 10
SOUTH WILLIAMSON AVENUE
ELON
Possession of drug paraphernalia

At 11:07 p.m. March 10, a Town of Elon police officer responded to a loud noise complaint at the West End Apartments. The officer detected the scent of marijuana at the apartment of the complainant. Two residents in the apartment admitted to having smoked marijuana and turned over for seizure one gram of marijuana, one grinder and a glass pipe. The two individuals were charged with state citations.

March 12
WEST SUMMERBALL AVENUE
ELON
Vandalism

At 2 p.m. March 12, a Town of Elon police officer responded to a report of malicious damage to a motor vehicle on West Summerball Avenue. The vehicle's owner stated that the vehicle had been parked at that location since 11 p.m. the previous night.

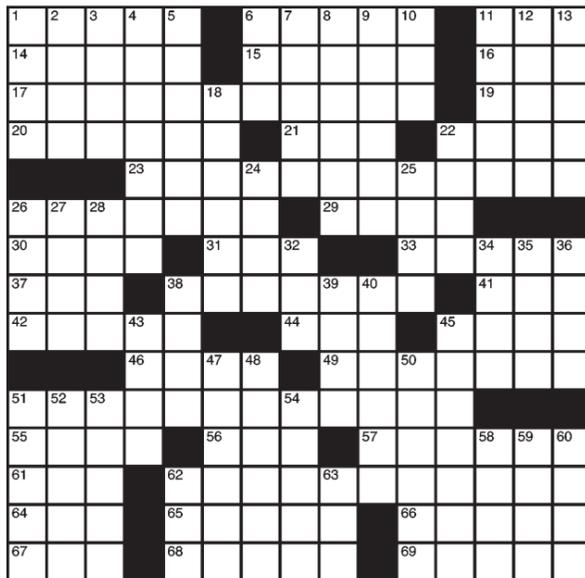
GAMES

FOR RELEASE MARCH 15, 2017

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Franklin's faith
 - 6 Civil rights org.
 - 11 Nursery offering
 - 14 More than just saber-rattling
 - 15 Not as well
 - 16 Numero ___
 - 17 1980 Clint Eastwood film about a Wild West show
 - 19 Elton's title
 - 20 Forward
 - 21 "Isn't that something"
 - 22 "Hold it right there!"
 - 23 1965 Jerry Lewis/Tony Curtis farce involving flight attendants
 - 26 Prey for cheetahs
 - 29 Little League airer
 - 30 Fishing spot
 - 31 GPS suggestion
 - 33 Milk source
 - 37 Pro
 - 38 Low-budget cinema ... and, literally, the four longest puzzle answers
 - 41 Program file ending
 - 42 Two-step, e.g.
 - 44 College URL ending
 - 45 Lyra's brightest star
 - 46 Et ___
 - 49 Really dull
 - 51 2005 Christian Bale superhero thriller
 - 55 Jackson 5 hairdo
 - 56 Item under many a top
 - 57 Requiring quarters, briefly
 - 61 ___ Mini: Nintendo console
 - 62 2003 Disney animated feature with talking grizzlies
 - 64 Hip-hop Dr.
 - 65 New York mayor before Koch
 - 66 Top-flight
 - 67 "Of course!"



By Mark McClain
68 Asp cousin
69 Robert's "Out of Africa" role

- DOWN**
- 1 Puts on gently
 - 2 Basic French verb
 - 3 Victor's cry
 - 4 Shallows hazard
 - 5 Hip dude
 - 6 Tip of a Bic
 - 7 Set straight
 - 8 Claim
 - 9 Tabloid subjects
 - 10 Snoop
 - 11 Rolls with rice
 - 12 Salad bar siver
 - 13 Bandanna cousin
 - 18 Like challenging push-ups
 - 22 Go on (one's way)
 - 24 Comparison phrase
 - 25 Composer's work
 - 26 Tablet with Mini and Pro versions
 - 27 Flaky mineral
 - 28 Hammer end
 - 32 Genesis matriarch
 - 34 Thought-provoking
 - 35 Army vet

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



©2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 3/15/17

- 36 Predict using, as tea leaves
- 38 Banjo legend Fleck
- 39 "Gotcha, man"
- 40 Special Olympics founder Shriver
- 43 Hunter's garb, for short
- 45 Easily seen
- 47 Deep-seated
- 48 Using one's passport, say
- 50 Didn't sleep quietly
- 51 Indecent
- 52 Burning
- 53 Takes a shot at
- 54 Cake words Alice abided by
- 58 Düsseldorf denial
- 59 Like granola bars
- 60 W. or LBJ
- 62 Management major's deg.
- 63 ___ Honor

ELON NEWS NETWORK

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UPCOMING EVENTS: MARCH 15 - 21

7 P.M. | Guest Lecturer Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby 15

2 P.M. | Women's Tennis vs. Barton College 16

Spring Break Begins 17

6 A.M. | Men's Golf at Inn Spectacular 18

1:30 P.M. | Baseball vs. VMI 19

7 P.M. | Alamance County Library Spring Book Sale 20

7 P.M. | Monthly gathering of the Artisan's Guild 21

TOP PHOTOS



AJ MANDELL | Staff Photographer
Sweet Signatures performs during the Astropalooza a cappella concert in Whitley Auditorium March 11.

SEE MORE ON PAGE 16

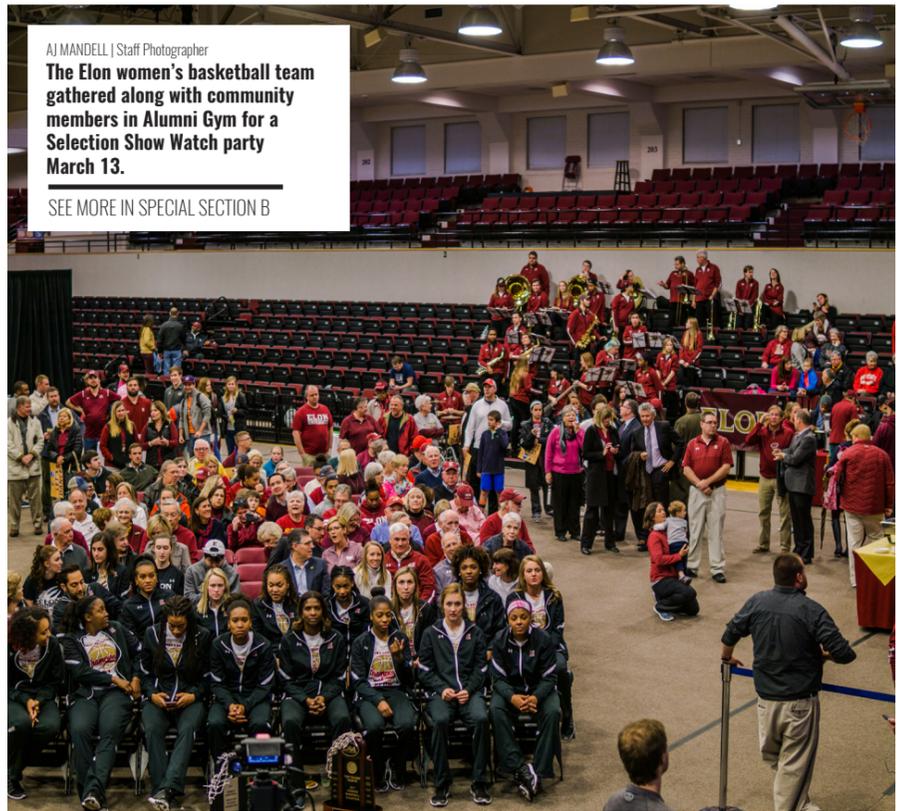


CAROLINE BREHMAN | Staff Photographer
Junior Rosie Darling and senior Eason Warren perform together at The Oak House March 9.

SEE MORE ON PAGE 16



DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor
Freshmen Julie Daigle (left) and Mary Kate Forte (right) grill chicken at the 2017 Chikin Pikin event in the Danieley Basketball Courts March 12.



AJ MANDELL | Staff Photographer
The Elon women's basketball team gathered along with community members in Alumni Gym for a Selection Show Watch party March 13.

SEE MORE IN SPECIAL SECTION B



DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor
Student athletes from the Elon women's and men's cross country teams gathered in a prayer circle during a vigil dedicated to Molly Offstein on Belk Track March 9.

SEE MORE ON PAGE 11



A BREAKDOWN OF HB186

Proposed Feb. 22, 2017

REPEALS HB2 AND . . .

1

AMENDS EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES ACT

- Renamed “Equal Employment and Equal Access to Public Accommodations Act.”
- **An employer may not discriminate nor may an individual be barred from a place of public accommodation on the basis of “race, sex, national origin, citizenship, religion, age, veteran status, genetic information, pregnancy, handicap or disability.”**
- Numerous advocacy groups and democratic politicians take issue with the absence of “gender identity” and “sexual orientation” from this list.
- The broker of a real estate transaction may not discriminate based on “race, color, religion, sex, national origin, citizenship, disability, handicapping condition, genetic information, pregnancy, veteran status or familial status.”

2

AUTHORITY TO ADOPT NONDISCRIMINATION MEASURES

- **Cities have the authority to enact nondiscrimination ordinances within the city’s territorial jurisdiction.**
- Nondiscrimination ordinances do not become effective until 90 days after the legislation is passed. During that time, a petition may override the ordinance if signed by a minimum of 10 percent of the number of registered voters who cast ballots in the most recent municipal election. If such a petition is presented, a referendum must be conducted during the next general or municipal election.
- **Nondiscrimination ordinances may not apply to charitable organizations or religious institutions.**
- Republican Representative Chuck McGrady said during a press conference that the purpose of this provision is to avoid challenging anyone’s religious beliefs.

3

COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND UNC NONDISCRIMINATION

- Neither the State Board of Community Colleges nor the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina may discriminate against students, employees or visitors on the basis of “race, sex, national origin, citizenship, religion, age, veteran status, genetic information, pregnancy, handicap or disability.” The respective boards of trustees for these institutions may create their own nondiscrimination policies.

4

INCREASED SENTENCES

- **A person found guilty of one of seven felonies — second degree rape or sexual offense, indecent exposure, peeping, taking photos of an individual in a restroom or taking indecent liberties with a child or student — will be charged with the equivalent of a felony one class higher.**
- This is one provision that both Republican and Democratic legislators have agreed on.

HB2 from cover

Elon’s SGA unanimously passed a resolution against HB2 on April 21. The resolution denounced HB2 as a “blatant disregard and denial of basic human rights.”

On March 9, 2017, Elon’s SGA passed the Title IX resolution encouraging university administration to consider “multiple-occupant gender-neutral bathrooms in all future renovations.”

“[This] is great because it shows that SGA — and therefore our student body — is willing to not just symbolically with words say, ‘We don’t agree with this.’ It’s willing to put action behind the words,” Swirsky said.

“There will be a lot of steps moving forward. There are so many areas where Elon has room to improve, and it just can’t be forgotten that House Bill 2 is still in place in North Carolina, and because of that, Elon’s environment is effected.”

Universal bathrooms

Before the creation of the Gender and LGBTQIA Center in April 2013, there were only 15 restrooms on campus for use by individuals of all genders and sexes. By 2015, that number had risen to 90.

Rather than building many additional facilities or reconstructing pre-existing restrooms, these bathrooms were the result of re-organization.

Shortly after HB2 was passed, students posted protest flyers over existing bathroom signs. These flyers separated bathrooms by arbitrary characteristics such as hair color, advertising that the facilities were for blondes or brunettes.

“Don’t you see yourself in this binary?” the signs said. “This is exactly what HB2 is doing to transgender people in our community, and 90+ single-occupancy gender neutral bathrooms are NOT enough.”

According to Swirsky, shortly after HB2 passed, SPECTRUM began a petition to change one of the single-occupancy bathrooms in the Moseley Center to a gender-neutral multiple-occupancy bathroom.

“This would be a very symbolic gesture to show how we are willing to put action behind our words, that we support LGBTQIA students,” Swirsky said. It would also be an educational experience for people to learn exactly what this issue fully entails.”

The petition was delivered to University President Leo Lambert with more than 1,000 signatures from students, faculty and staff.

Though SPECTRUM’s petition was unsuccessful, its actions prompted the creation of a trans-inclusion task force “to not only address issues with bathrooms on campus but much further-ranging issues for trans and gender-nonconforming students,” Swirsky said.

Challenges for admissions

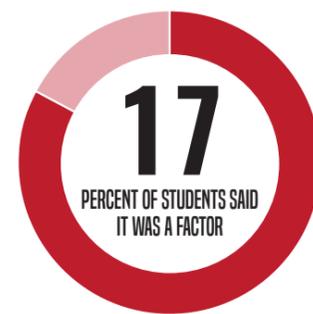
According to Greg Zaiser, vice president for Admissions and Financial Planning, Elon admissions has made an effort to continue stressing to potential students that Elon is a welcoming community.

“We have not had students tell us they are necessarily less interested in Elon because of HB2,” Zaiser said in an email. “Last summer we encountered a couple of families who visited the university and loved it. However, they followed up to tell us they could not pursue Elon as a

WE’RE A LITTLE BIT BEHIND IN THINKING ABOUT GENDER IDENTITY ON THIS CAMPUS — WHAT IT MEANS FOR SOMEONE TO HAVE A GENDER EXPRESSION OR GENDER IDENTITY THAT’S DIFFERENT FROM THEIR BIOLOGY.

JONATHAN JONES
INSTRUCTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIRECTOR OF THE NC OPEN GOVERNMENT COALITION

‘WAS HB2 A FACTOR IN YOUR DECISION NOT TO ATTEND ELON?’



Every year, the Office of Admissions sends a survey to admitted students who withdraw from Elon. Last year, they included this question. Of 640 total respondents, 109 said that HB2 was a factor in their decision not to attend Elon.

531 STUDENTS SAID IT WAS NOT A FACTOR
109 STUDENTS SAID IT WAS A FACTOR

SOURCE: ANNUAL ELON UNIVERSITY SURVEY OF ADMITTED STUDENTS WHO WITHDREW
CHRISTINA ELIAS | Assistant Design Chief

result of HB2.”

Zaiser said when a student admitted to the university turns down the invitation, they’re sent a questionnaire to find out why. Last year, the question “Was HB2 a factor in your decision not to attend Elon?” was added. According to Zaiser, 17 percent of respondents said that it was, but he pointed out that it is important to note that it was “not ‘the’ factor.”

Swirsky said she has personally heard a number of transgender students’ complaints about the environment.

“[They said] that they don’t feel safe, they don’t feel accepted, they don’t feel like they belong here,” Swirsky said. “They have had slurs yelled at them from out of trucks when they’re walking down the streets.”

Zaiser said that the overall number of applicants for the 2017 to 2018 school year was not noticeably different. Though applicants from California did decline, he said applications from Connecticut, New Jersey, Florida, Texas and other states increased.

“In addition to our messages of inclusivity in university publications, we sent specialized e-mail to our West Coast families to highlight the type of university Elon is,” Zaiser said. “North Carolina has been in the news a lot in the last year, and much of it has been unfavorable. Consequently, we’ve addressed that head on by saying things like, ‘We know you’re hearing a lot about

North Carolina these days. Let us tell you about Elon and our institutional values.”

Jonathan Jones, instructor of communications and director of the North Carolina Open Government Coalition, said the university still has a way to go in terms of accommodating transgender and gender-nonconforming students comfortably.

“As much as I admire the university, and I think it’s a great place, we’re a little bit behind in thinking about gender identity on this campus — what it means for someone to have a gender expression or gender identity that’s different from their biology,” Jones said.

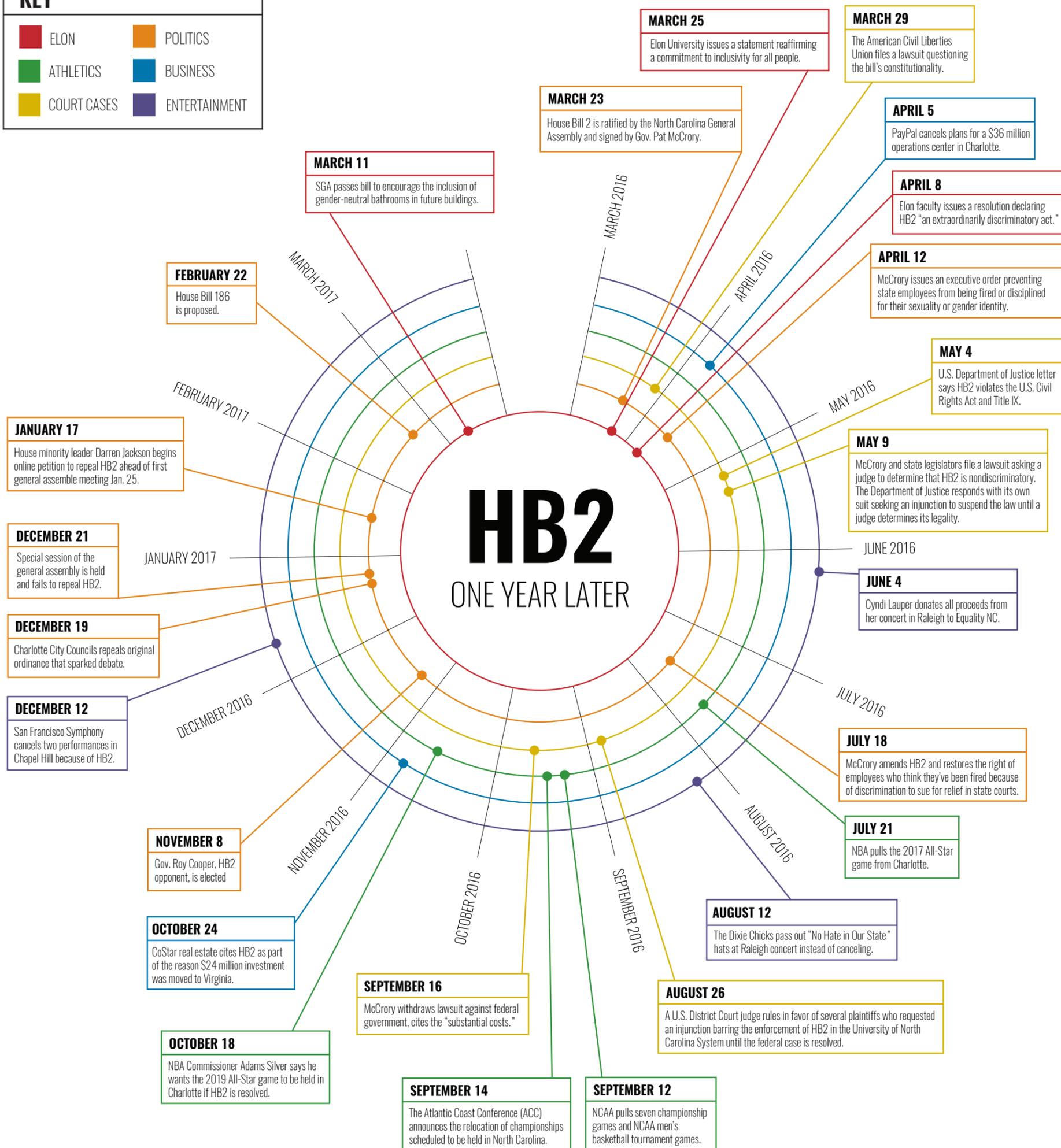
Sports in a tight spot

In September 2016, the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) — of which Elon is a part — weighed in and announced it would be sending a letter to former Gov. Pat McCrory opposing HB2 and calling for its immediate repeal.

Their announcement also said that the 2017 CAA Women’s Golf Championship, scheduled to be held April 14-16 in Southport, North Carolina, would be moved if HB2 was not repealed by January 10, 2017.

The tournament has not officially been rescheduled, nor has the tennis championship scheduled to be held at Elon and the baseball championship scheduled to be held at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington later this spring, but

KEY	
ELON	POLITICS
ATHLETICS	BUSINESS
COURT CASES	ENTERTAINMENT



STEPHANIE HAYS | Design Chief

in a January phone interview, CAA spokesman Rob Washburn said there is still time for events to be moved.

This fall, the football team is scheduled to face the University of Albany, SUNY at home, but New York has banned all non-essential travel to North Carolina in response to HB2. The game's fate remains undecided.

Based on this controversy and the CAA's response to HB2, it is unlikely that tournaments or championships will be scheduled at Elon until HB2 is repealed.

Compromise on the horizon

Recently elected North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper was an outspo-

ken critic of HB2 during his campaign. Swirsky, who campaigned for Cooper last year, said she believed that the new governor would do what he could to repeal HB2.

"But politics are slow and the facts are immediate," she added.

Appearing unfazed by the battle ahead, Cooper has continued to call for HB2's repeal since his inauguration on New Year's Eve.

HB2 might not see another anniversary if a compromise proposed in late February by two Republican and two Democratic representatives receives bipartisan support or the bill is invalidated in court.

House Bill 186, if approved, would no longer apply state laws to bathroom access and would allow local governments to pass nondis-

Shortly after HB2 passed, SPECTRUM began a petition to change one of the single-occupancy bathrooms in the Moseley Center to a gender-neutral multiple-occupancy bathroom. The petition was delivered to Lambert with more than 1,000 signatures from students, faculty and staff, but it was ultimately unsuccessful.

crimination ordinances. One provision of HB186 that has received bipartisan support is a provision to increase the severity of penalties for crimes committed in bathrooms.

Jones said it makes sense that this provision is popular.

"The reality is that most people who commit crimes in bathrooms are not using the ruse of being a transgender person to get into that place," he said. "But for the folks that are concerned about that, we could solve that problem without making a distinction as to who uses which bathroom."

But Cooper has said additional referendum provisions — regarding challenges to non-discrimination ordinances and exemptions for non-profits and churches — have made

him and his fellow Democrats less enthusiastic about HB186.

"Both parties seem more interested in using this as a political football rather than coming to some kind of compromise, so that's why we have not yet seen a repeal," Jones said. "My belief is that if not by the end of 2017, then early in 2018, we will have either seen a repeal of the law or a court invalidating it."

"My view is that the court here is likely to find the bathroom provision of HB2 to be a violation of a transgender person's civil rights, but there's room for interpretation, and there's room for argument."

Josh Schwaner, contributor, and Alex Simon, sports director, contributed reporting.

Incident brings road safety awareness to forefront

Town of Elon Police and Campus Police partner to promote awareness

Anton L. Delgado and Meg Malone
Contributor and Assistant News Editor
@JADelgadoNews and @megretjeane

Freshman Molly Offstein's incident has prompted a discussion about campus-wide road safety.

In light of this 7:30 a.m. March 4 accident, Dan Anderson, vice president of Elon University Communications, said it is important to realize that road safety "is a shared responsibility for the entire community."

"It seems as if every year there is a student that's hit, and it's not usually serious, but it has been serious on a couple of occasions," Anderson said.

According to Lt. Mark Sweat of the Town of Elon Police, the driver — who was not a student — was traveling below the speed limit at the time of the accident. She was taken to UNC Health Care with life-threatening injuries and put into a medically induced coma.

Anderson said in the time he has lived in Elon — more than 19 years — the university and Town of Elon have made "tremendous" investments in road safety.

"Some of the areas that have had the greatest improvement are the roads themselves, traffic calming devices and clearly marked crosswalks," Anderson said.

Anderson also said special attention has been paid to better lighting for vehicles and pedestrians.

"There have been tremendous investments in lighting. All of the streets are highly lit now, especially in crossing areas," Anderson said. "You've got investments to slow traffic and to make pedestrian crossing safety much improved."

Additional sidewalks, Anderson said, have been major investments by the university and town. Sidewalks have also been added along Trollinger Avenue, Oak Avenue, Williamson Avenue and Phoenix Drive.

Before Offstein was hit, Town of Elon

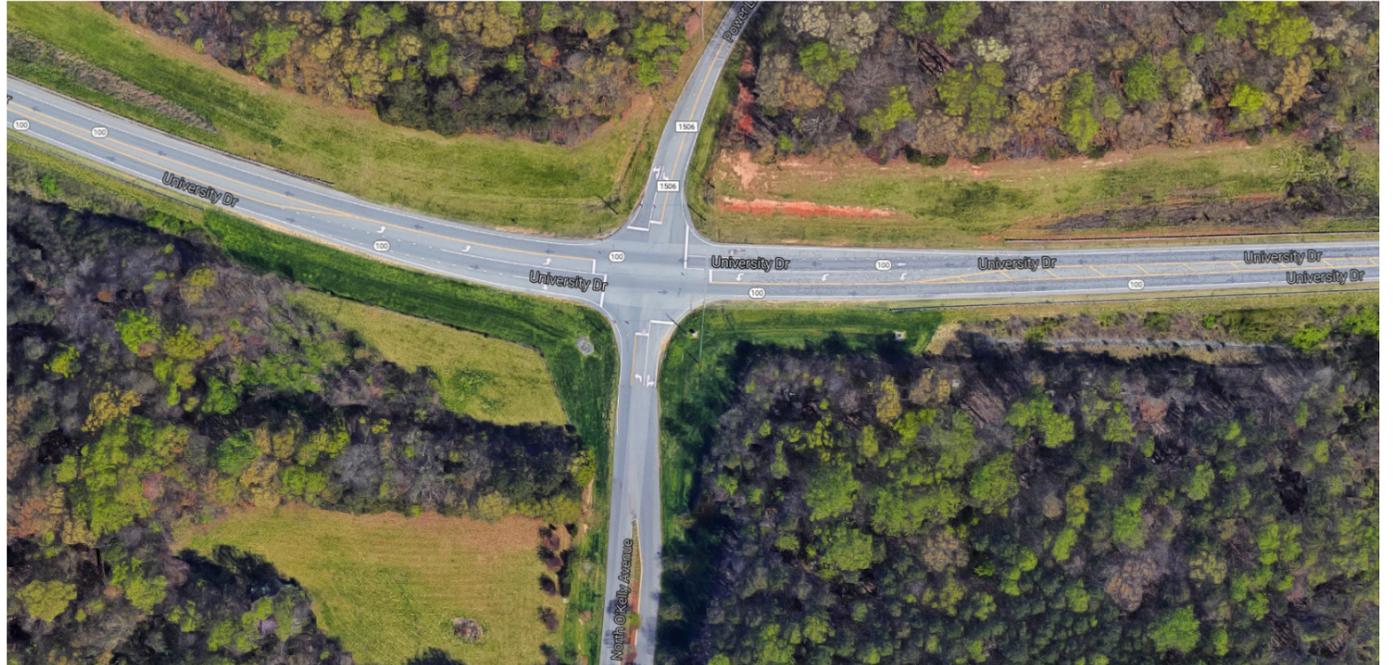


PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE MAPS

Freshman Molly Offstein was hit and critically injured on North O'Kelly Avenue two weeks ago. The incident has sparked conversation about campus safety.

Police Chief Cliff Parker said the Elon University Campus Police and Town of Elon Police partnered to apply for the Watch For Me NC Campaign. According to its website, the program features two essential elements — "safety and educational messages directed toward drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists, and enforcement efforts by area police to crack down on some of the violations of traffic safety laws." The program is still in its early phases, but Parker said it should encourage the community that the necessary steps are being taken.

"This is just another reason why people should feel safe," Parker said.

Parker agrees that while many investments have been made for road safety, pedestrians also have a responsibility for their own safety. There were no sidewalks nor was there a crosswalk at the intersection where Offstein was hit. But Parker said sidewalks or crosswalks are not an excuse to ignore your surroundings.

"Even if you're in a sidewalk and you are protected legally, when a car hits you, you aren't going to be protected physically,"

Parker said.

Shortly after Offstein was hit, Parker said he saw a woman running extremely close to the road. When he pulled up beside her and asked her to be more careful, she said, "I've been an avid runner all of my life; I know what I'm doing."

To Parker, that didn't sit well.

"You may run all of the time, but that may not save you," Parker said. "You still have to be observant of what you are doing."

Parker outlined advice that he said "everyone should already know," regarding road safety: Don't drive distracted, wear bright clothing when jogging and avoid dense pedestrian areas if possible. Parker said if people are not careful, many accidents could be avoided.

"The direct route to a particular location might be down Haggard, but if you are going down that road at a particular time, you might get stuck because students may be traveling that way after class gets out," Parker said. "Taking the time to go an alternate route may be safer in the long run."

A lack of general awareness of typical safety procedures is why Anderson said it is

important that students and other members of the community remember that road safety is everyone's duty.

"If you are driving in the campus area, it really requires your attention to the roadway to make sure that you are driving safely and not at a high speed," Anderson said. "You have to watch out for people who might be crossing, you can't be texting or on the phone or distracted in any way because there are so many people that are walking around and crossing the street."

Pedestrians have a responsibility, too.

"It is really a shared responsibility between the drivers and the pedestrians to stay safe," Anderson said.

"If you are a pedestrian, you need to remember that the campus includes roadways where people are driving. It is not a smart thing to be texting or looking at your phone or doing something where you are not watching for traffic when you are crossing the streets," Anderson said.

Paul LeBlanc, breaking news manager, contributed reporting

Bike safety takes center stage

Sonya Walker
Contributor
@Sonya_A_Walker

In the wake of the incident in which freshman Molly Offstein was hit by a car last week and the implementation of the new bike sharing program at Elon University, the role of pedestrians and bikers on Elon's campus is as pertinent as ever.

Elon boasts a 636-acre campus, making biking a fairly common practice.

"Our campus is a weird size where you can walk around quite a bit and get most places, but at the same time, a bike is helpful," said senior Spencer Wagner, incoming SGA Executive Vice President.

Though Wagner is not a frequent biker, he can see some problematic aspects of the biking culture at Elon.

"Between class changes, it's just a flood of people, and everybody is on their phones," Wagner said. "When I'm just walking and looking at my own phone, I've been less observant and come close with some bikers."

Freshman and avid biker Price Rowland said biking on campus is a nightmare.

"While Elon is easy to navigate by bike and there are sufficient bike racks, the pedestrians are often totally unaware of their surroundings," Rowland said. "They are late to respond to me yelling out that I am behind them and often don't bother to respond at all. When they do respond, they often don't do enough to make room for me or actually move directly

into my path.

"At the beginning of the fall semester, my bike had no mechanical issues. Currently, my bike has a blown-out brake from so many sudden stops, scratches from when it flipped over a curb and a damaged gear shifter from having to make rapid gear changes to avoid pedestrians. "The real problem with biking at Elon isn't the paths or bike racks — it is the pedestrians who think they are entitled to have me crash my bike to avoid a collision."

Not only are pedestrians a problem for bikers, but the lack of bike lanes throughout Elon's campus can also be dangerous for bikers, pedestrians and drivers. Freshman Hana Previte believes bike lanes are the key to a safer environment.

"Bike lanes need to happen," Previte said. "If Elon had bike lanes on Haggard Avenue and maybe throughout campus as well, it would be so much safer for everyone. Pedestrians being distracted and not paying attention to bikers wouldn't be as common and people could feel comfortable biking on the roads."

Cliff Parker, Town of Elon Police Chief, said all of these concerns are valid. While the University and the Town are working to address that problem with the Watch for Me NC Campaign, students should make every effort to remain safe while biking.

"Don't pedal too fast when the roads are populated," Parker said. "Run in the opposite direction and bike in the same direction as traffic. Don't play loud music, and always be aware of your surroundings."

ROAD SAFETY ADVICE:

- 1) Don't drive distracted
- 2) Don't drive at high speed in the campus area
- 3) Drivers should avoid heavily populated pedestrian areas if possible
- 4) Wear bright clothing when jogging
- 5) Pedestrians should try to take an alternate route during passing time
- 6) Pedestrians should be aware of roadways and pay attention when crossing

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Gabriela Rosales immediately after the accident in the hospital (left), during recovery while visiting Asheville, North Carolina (center), and Christmas 2016 (right).

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GABRIELA ROSALES

Tragedy leads to opportunity after near-death experience

2 years later, Gabriela Rosales speaks about moving forward

Diego Pineda
Photo Editor
@diego_pineda19

As Gabriela Rosales crossed the Williamson Avenue crosswalk on March 16, 2015, she was excited to attend her first meeting of the Eta Zeta chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha at Elon University. Instead, she was struck by a Toyota Camry that left her with a shattered skull and multiple fractured bones.

It was around dusk as she laid on the crosswalk. She heard the sound of sirens growing louder and her friends telling her everything was going to be OK.

"I was like *estaba con pena* [embarrassed] of what people would say about me," Gabriela said. "I was like 'What are people thinking about me?'"

Gabriela's sister, Carmencita Rosales, said she had dreamt that something bad had occurred, and when she woke up to her phone blowing up with people asking her about her sister's health.

As Gabriela was flown by helicopter to UNC Health Care in Chapel Hill, her family that lives thousands of miles away in Managua, Nicaragua, was notified of what had occurred. Her parents dashed to the airport to find two seats left on the earliest flight to North Carolina.

"It changed the life for my whole family," Carmencita said. "Gabby is my best friend. Since the accident, at first I felt my best friend was gone."

Before her parents arrived, Gabriela's aunt and cousin, who lived in Raleigh, were notified about the incident. They were at UNC Health Care that night along with Sylvia Munoz, interim director for the Center for Race, Ethnicity, and Diversity Education. Gabriela's close friends, Claudia Rodriguez and Sofia Wenzel, were also at the hospital.

During that night, doctors said they couldn't do surgery because of the injuries Gabriela's brain had sustained. There were fractures on three parts of her skull. The Wednesday following the accident was one of the most critical days in Gabriela's health, according to Munoz.

The doctors said procedure would be done where part of Gabri-

ela's skull had to be taken out to relieve the brain pressure. If they did not operate, they said she would die or remain in a vegetable-like state.

At 2 a.m. that Wednesday night, Gabriela's brain pressure went down and stabilized. The doctors told her family that the surgery would no longer be done.

"The doctors insisted that medically they cannot explain why she woke up and why she was alive because, according to her injuries, she shouldn't have been," Munoz said.

Gabriela said she fell asleep and did not wake up until three weeks after being in a medically induced coma for about two weeks. Gabriela was in the intensive care unit for a fractured skull and a broken hip and right scapula.

Gabriela said that it was "amazing" to wake up to the sight of her mom by her bed.

"I tried talking to her, but I couldn't," Gabriela said. "I forgot how to talk."

Gabriela could not speak, walk, read or feed herself. She was discharged from UNC Health Care in late April and was transferred to WakeMed and Health & Hospitals in Raleigh to receive speech, occupational and physical therapy.

Claudia Rodriguez, currently a senior at Elon and one of Gabriela's closest friends, visited her numerous times and noticed her progress in a few months.

"We saw this gradual progress, and you could tell through the hope that her parents had, that her family and friends had, that she was gonna get better even though the doctors didn't think it was a possible outcome," Rodriguez said.

Therapy still underway

Gabriela recalls that the day she began to speak again through speech therapy, the doctors told her family they had a surprise for them. They placed a poster behind her bed that said: "Gabby started talking today." Her first words were, "Mom, I love you."

The improvements happened slowly, as the support Gabriela received from her family and the Elon community helped her with her recovery.

"Every day we would motivate Gabriela to keep going," Carmencita said. "That is what kept her motivated."

Munoz and Gabriela's Elon friends visited her in both hospitals

during her recovery.

Gabriela also began physical therapy, which required her to use a wheelchair. When she was placed in the wheelchair, Gabriela remembers that she did not want to return to Nicaragua and have people feel bad for her. The moment she stood up from her wheelchair hurt. Gabriela remembers saying to herself, "I am not gonna fall. I want to make them see that I can actually do it."

Rodriguez always knew that Gabriela remained determined and hopeful throughout her recovery. She admires how Gabriela has gone through something so difficult that she said she could never imagine happening to herself. She recalls that despite the difficulties, Gabriela always kept smiling — from the moment they met to when she was in therapy.

"Seeing how they have stayed strong as a family and just as support for her and for each other really shows me that there's not anything that we can't go through that is going to be tough enough to put us down or have us stop because she showed me that you can literally do anything," Rodriguez said.

Through months of therapy, Gabriela said she even learned to cook while at WakeMed. She also said that with her mother's help and Facebook, she was able to remember names of friends and family that she might otherwise have forgotten.

Returning to the scene

Gabriela recalls asking her mother to take her to the scene of the accident to show her where it had occurred and in what part of the crosswalk.

Rodriguez, who considers Gabriela a sister because of their friendship while they were together at Elon, said that seeing her on campus was a unique experience.

"She was so happy, you could see that Elon was where she wanted to be because she was so ecstatic to be here and see her friends, the faculty, her professors that she hadn't seen in a long time," Rodriguez said.

Returning to Nicaragua

On Oct. 27, 2015, Gabriela was discharged from WakeMed and allowed to return to her home in Managua. She arrived as a surprise for her younger sister Maria Fernanda's 15th birthday.

Though no longer in the hos-

pital, Gabriela continued different types of therapy. Through therapy with classical music, she could remember a lot of what she had forgotten, even the specific details of how the accident occurred.

She also picked up a passion for drawing. Gabriela has a book of all her sketches featuring Disney characters with inspirational quotes on each page.

Gabriela's experiences at Elon encouraged Carmencita to apply to the university two years later. She was accepted and is currently a freshman.

"If it wasn't because of Gabby, I wouldn't be here at Elon," Carmencita said. "Ever since I came here, I had this feeling that my sister is always here with me."

Carmencita believes that a part of her sister is with her at Elon. Their relationship has grown stronger since the accident and Carmencita is glad to get to know the little things such as friends and memories that her sister had at Elon.

With hopes of returning to Elon as a full-time student, Gabriela is currently a student at Universidad Americana in Managua. She is studying marketing with a minor in business administration.

"I will keep going until I get back to Elon," Gabriela said. "It would be amazing to get back."

Gabriela has returned to Elon multiple times to visit friends such as Rodriguez and now her sister.

"She really wants to just be here and have the normal life of taking the classes and having her friends, living here," Rodriguez said. "She's pushing for that, that's what she's working toward."

Gabriela will have her two-year checkup at WakeMed on April 10 and 17 this spring. During these appointments, the doctors will confirm whether she will be able to return to Elon next fall.

"My hopes are for her [Rosales] to be back at Elon," Carmencita said. "She's ready to have her life back. She felt like her wings were cut, but she's building them up again."

Opening rehabilitation center

Gabriela has big plans in mind after graduation. She wants to study physical therapy and open her own rehabilitation center in Nicaragua. She wants it to be called "Miracle," and the motto, "Si, se puede," which means, "You can do it."

Gabriela said that she has grown

Gabriela Rosales's Recovery

March 16, 2015 ●

Rosales is hit by a car and taken to UNC Health Care in Chapel Hill

Early April, 2015 ●

Rosales has tracheostomy surgery, and has been able to breath without a ventilator since then

April 23, 2015 ●

Rosales is transferred to WakeMed and Health Hospitals in Raleigh

Early May, 2015 ●

Rosales begins to walk again, smiles for the first time and is improving in her balance

June 24, 2015 ●

Rosales begins talking again

Oct. 27, 2015 ●

Rosales leaves WakeMed and returns to Nicaragua

April 10 & 17, 2017 ●

Rosales will have her two-year check-up

as a person and learned to appreciate what really matters in life in the past two years. She said that she has learned the meaning of goodness and helping others.

"If you're a good person, good things happen to you, and I think good things have happened to me," Gabriela said.

Carmencita said that other patients in Nicaragua have noticed her sister's improvements and work in therapy.

"She inspired others with her work," Carmencita said. "The work she's done is showing to other kids, that, 'You can also do it.'"

Carmencita believes that her sister's purpose in life is to open the rehabilitation center because having personal experiences with therapy can help her connect with other patients. Gabriela wants her story of recovery to be an example for many others.

"I want to show people that you can do it," Gabriela said. "Yes, it was hard at first, but you can overcome it."

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SUB works to evaluate student participation

Organization looks at how to best analyze attendance numbers

Bryan Anderson

Enterprise Manager
@BryanRAnderson

Elon University's Student Union Board (SUB) is the highest-funded organization on campus. It received more than \$135,000 from SGA for the 2016-2017 academic year, or \$23 per undergraduate student.

The organization regularly tracks the number of people who attend its events so it can better understand the effectiveness of its programming. Though attendance is just one way to measure student engagement, it is an important factor for evaluating success.

Because of recent hiccups with Phoenix Card tap technology, SUB is struggling to analyze student participation. Once its members has numbers and general estimates, they are unsure how to best analyze it.

SUB's president, Taylor Stuck, adviser, Jenny Ciesiulka and performance chair, Colton Cadarette, said they are concerned attendance numbers do not accurately reflect students' interest and participation levels. The organization is also wary of sharing information it has not personally reviewed.

At the peak of Midnight Meals March 9, there were about 175 students in attendance.

"Our dataset is not complete or representative of our event attendance or experience," Cadarette said.

"We constantly reflect, evaluate and seek to understand the breadth of impact we have on this campus and hold that responsibility close in each and every thing we do," Cadarette said.

SUB's issues with evaluating student attendance reflects a larger issue student organizations are facing in determining students' levels of engagement.

SGA Executive President Kyle Porro said SGA has not specifically reviewed SUB's attendance numbers and is having ongoing conversations about evaluating organizations in general.

"There is not much of a review process once organizations are past their early stages, and many could use some follow-up evaluations to help get them back on track," Porro said.

Attendance numbers only provide part of the story, but that part is key to understanding the effectiveness of student programming.



The band Matt & Kim performs at Elon University's Student Union Board's Fall Concert.

"We do not purely base the success of our events off of attendance numbers," Cadarette said. "While this is a major factor in our evaluations, we also consider the experience we are providing for those attending."

SUB said there are ways it has shown a strong commitment to engage with students even if it is getting unreliable attendance information.

"We constantly reflect, evaluate and seek to understand the breadth of impact we have on this campus and hold that responsibility close in each and every thing we do," Cadarette said.

The organization released a fall concert survey on to the student body March 1. At last Thursday's Midnight Meals, SUB unveiled a list of 60 top artists based on the 1,261 student responses it received.

Pop and hip-hop/rap were the two most desired genres of music, and respondents overwhelmingly wanted the concert to be held outdoors.

Those who did attend this SUB event were able to give feedback, speak with some of the organization's representatives and listen to live music. Freshman Tajigi Fields was pleased with the experience.

"I love watching my boys perform, and it's just an overall good atmosphere," Fields said.

"I love it"

At the peak of Midnight Meals, around 11:10 p.m., there were about 175 students in attendance. Twenty minutes later, that number went down to 60. By 11:45 p.m., there were only about 30 attendees.

Though this one event does not reflect overall SUB attendance, it does show there is a student interest. The extent to that interest largely remains uncertain.

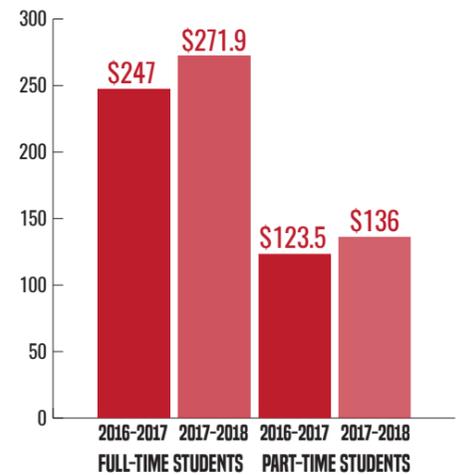
SUB denied Elon News Network's request for its attendance numbers, reiterating concerns it would not be indicative of overall student experience. SUB does have general estimates of its movie nights and events at Taphouse.

SUB recently began using Phoenix Card tap technology at its events and is still navigating through technical difficulties with that technology.

Earlier this year, SUB did provide general attendance estimates for its Turner Theatre movie nights. Results showed there was high interest among the student body.

SGA Executive Treasurer Eason Warren oversees funding of on-campus organizations, including SUB. Though SGA bylaws do not require SUB to disclose attendance information, Warren said it is "insanely critical" for

SGA FEES FOR STUDENTS



STEPHANIE HAYS | Design Chief

organizations to get feedback and suggested SUB release its numbers. He acknowledged, though, that he understands them not giving the exact numbers.

"I think that having the general number or the general idea of how many students are attending is something that's really necessary for the transparency of the news networks, for SUB to see how they're growing as an organization and for SGA to see if the money that we're providing them is being used properly," Warren said.

SUB serves an important function to the student body and has been largely successful in using its funds, according to Porro.

Porro said SUB is a valuable organization deserving of the funding it receives because it has provided students with a range of options and is consistently searching for new events to add.

"SUB has never once been an organization that has come up in these conversations about needing an additional review because they have been so consistent with the programs that they offer," Porro said. "SUB is one of the best-run organizations that uses their funding incredibly efficiently."

Each full-time Elon undergraduate student paid \$247 in SGA fees for the 2016-2017 academic year, while part-time students paid \$123.50. Next year's SGA fees will increase by 10.1 percent.

SUB's budget will increase by about 1 percent next year, and evaluating student engagement will be an increasingly important responsibility.

Elon students file taxes for low-income community members

Deirdre Kronschnabel

Contributor
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Many Elon University students will spend the Easter Holiday dusting pink Peeps' powder off their fingers or dunking hardboiled eggs into bright blue dye. But for low-income families in Alamance county, the Easter Holiday comes with an additional source of pressure. April 18 marks the end of tax season, and all returns must be filed, despite a general lack of knowledge and trust of the process.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) is an initiative offered by the Internal Revenue Service and run by certified volunteers to assist people with a yearly income of \$54,000 or less with filing their taxes, free of charge. Susan Anderson, professor of accounting, brought the program to Elon during Winter Term of last year, and required her students in her "Accounting 471" class to become VITA-certified so they could serve as volunteers.

During tax season, Elon VITA volunteers — who now extend outside of Anderson's class — spend each Saturday

at the Elon Downtown Center preparing tax returns for low-income families in the area.

The lack of good, stable jobs, combined with the decline of the textile industry and the number of people holding down multiple jobs to make ends meet, makes VITA an invaluable asset to the community. Volunteers keep the program running, and the VITA certification test is open to students of all majors. It can be found online through the IRS.

Students work in two shifts, 9 a.m.- noon and 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. with each section made up of four or five students. Clients, who have the option of making online appointments or walking in, are greeted by a student who distributes an intake survey and questionnaire.

Once the client enters the preparation room, student volunteers work two students to one computer with Tax Slayer Pro software to prepare the return. The client

passes on all relevant and pertinent documentation — WPs and 1099-Rs — and is encouraged to ask questions along the way. Anderson and VITA coordinators hover around to oversee the process, and before the return is filed, it is thoroughly reviewed by experts on hand.

Brian DiBiagio, treasurer of accounting fraternity Beta Alpha Psi, took Anderson's Winter Term class and has been an active participant of VITA ever since.

"When you have such a low-income range, paying \$500 for someone just to file your taxes is huge," DiBiagio said. "We can minimize their tax expenditure as much as possible, and that's a great experience."

Members of Beta Alpha Psi are encouraged to fulfill their service hours via VITA.

"We really want our members getting involved in the community and giving

back," said Nicholas Massey, president of Beta Alpha Psi. "We think that their education here is definitely a privilege and a way they can show their gratitude for it is showing some of their skills and actions in ways that help the community."

Elon VITA volunteers improve their communication skills, tax knowledge, standards of conduct and knowledge of basic operating procedures through their consultants.

Massey acknowledged the challenge of the student-to-adult dynamic, but believes the experience is critical to post-graduate success.

"I think one of the points of college is to come and grow into a young professional, and I think that as we progress through college we should become more and more accustomed to interacting with adults at a professional level," Massey said. "VITA has definitely offered that opportunity to us."

And as the students gain experience, the clients gain trust and understanding.

"When you do a face-to-face client engagement like that there's sort of an intimacy," DiBiagio said. "There is a change between when they sit down and give you the information to the end of the return. Everybody has been so thankful."

WE CAN MINIMIZE THEIR TAX EXPENDITURE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, AND THAT'S A GREAT EXPERIENCE.

BRIAN DIBIAGIO
TREASURER OF BETA ALPHA PSI

SGA unveils 2017-2018 budget

Several organizations see funding increase, SGA's budget doubles

Bryan Anderson
Enterprise Manager
@BryanRAnderson

SGA approved its 2017-2018 budget last week, giving modest increases to dozens of organizations. SGA also increased its funding from \$118,000 to \$253,375, according to figures provided by Jana Lynn Patterson, dean of Student Health and Wellness.

SGA Executive Treasurer Eason Warren said this increase is partly because of several increased responsibilities, including the Zagster bike-sharing program and Elon Ball. At the same time, SGA has to put money aside for affinity class accounts and Homecoming.

Compared to the 2016-2017 academic year, 44 organizations will see an increase in funding for 2017-2018, while 15 see a decrease. Twenty-three organizations will have the same amount of money as they did last year.

Warren oversees the budgetary process and serves as a liaison between SGA and other student groups. He said all organizations must first go through a 10-minute budgetary hearing. After that, SGA allocates money.

New organizations can receive up to \$500. As time goes on, SGA assigns more to an organization's budget based on how active it is on campus, how many members it has and how many students are affected by that organization. Once the budget is properly distributed, SGA monitors organizations to make sure they are using their money properly.

"We have to make sure that the organizations that are using their funds are using them properly and within the guidelines that we set out for them," Warren said.

Senior Kyle Porro, SGA Executive President, said that while SGA wants to help as much as possible, there isn't enough money to go around.

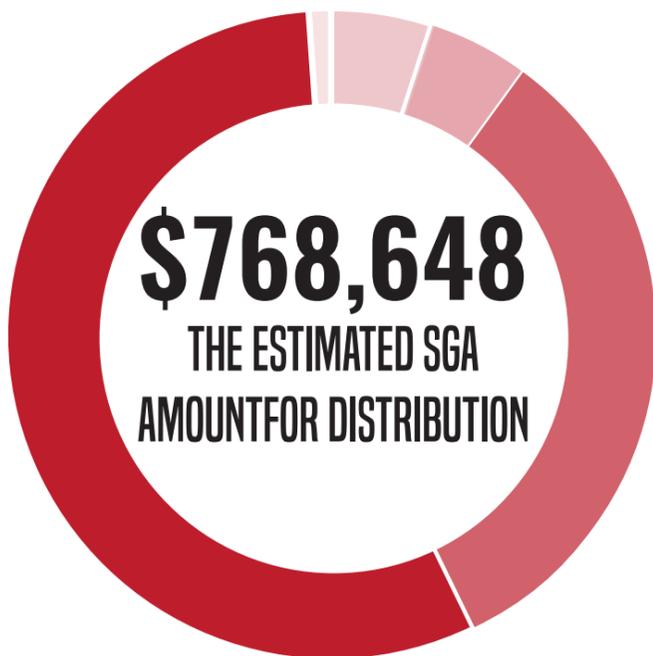
"SGA's budget increases by about 5 percent each year, and a lot of these organizations come in and ask for double the amount or anything that's more than the 5 percent we have," Porro said. "It's impossible because we don't have that kind of money to give them."

SGA, SUB and the Liberal Arts Forum remain the three highest-funded organizations on Elon's campus. SUB will receive \$136,891, and the Liberal Arts Forum will receive \$58,000.

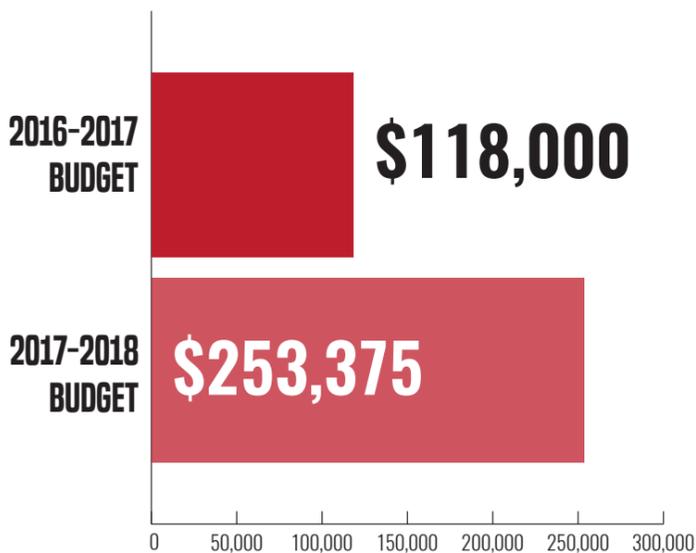
A common strategy for organizations is to request more than what is needed. Warren said he and the budget committee sort through the Treasury Manual to determine what it can and cannot fulfill. This usually accounts for a large disparity between the amount requested and amount given.

For example, only \$250 can be given for airfare. This means organizations requesting a higher amount for airfare won't be able to get it. ELON-imators, an on-campus animation club, had one of the largest funding gaps and only received 17 percent of its total request.

BUDGET DISTRIBUTION



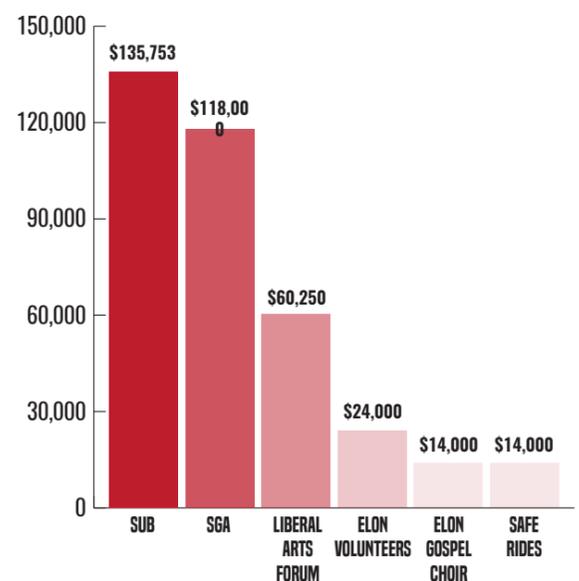
BUDGET INCREASE BY ACADEMIC YEAR



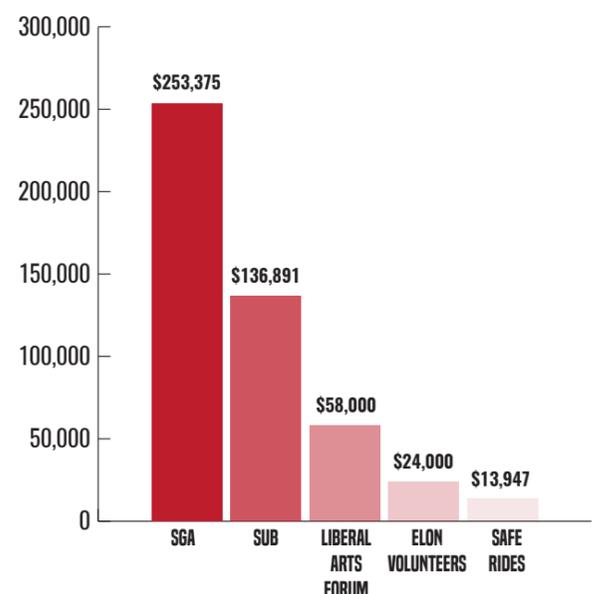
FUNDING CHANGES COMPARISON



2016-2017 HIGHEST-FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS



2017-2018 HIGHEST-FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS



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SOURCE: SGA
HANNAH SICHERMAN | Designer

ACA replacement may affect student healthcare

Junie Burke
Contributor
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Republicans in Congress have made the first steps to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), an action which will leave millions of U.S. citizens without health insurance.

The ACA, also known as Obamacare, requires Americans whose jobs do not provide healthcare to purchase healthcare from private insurers — the government provides an online marketplace to do so. Its initiative is to provide an affordable means of healthcare by including younger people in the medical system.

The ACA also includes provisions such as allowing children to stay on their parents' plans until they are 26-years-old. So far, the GOP's new bills do not detail repealing this part of the ACA, which means that Elon University students will have the ability to remain on their parents' plans through the repeal.

But college students under their parents who purchased plans through the ACA may change.

"People who buy insurance under Obamacare — their plans will certainly change," said Carrie Eaves, assistant professor of political science and policy studies at Elon.

How these plans will change remains unclear.

"It's all sort of a giant question mark," Eaves said.

Jana Lynn Patterson, dean of Student Health and Wellness said even minute, day-to-day situations may become more complicated for college students.

"Little things like flu shots — right now a student can go to CVS, show their Phoenix card and get a flu shot. Now they may have to pay for that," Patterson said.

Eaves added that the plan may change because it's still in its early stages.

"A lot of it is still unknown," Eaves said. "The bill is a starting point and can be changed."

A lot of changes could be coming. "It discourages students who may need to seek treatment for a variety of psychological and emotional issues," Patterson said. "I saw a change in parents' willingness to take a student home to seek treatment. That will have a profound effect."

The pre-existing condition clause of the ACA states that a patient cannot be charged more or turned away from healthcare based on prior or present health status.

"If the pre-existing clause is repealed, students who may have had the onset of a life altering condition, and get a job after school, — their new insurer may not cover them for that," Patterson said. "Young people move jobs a lot. If you move from one job to another, and you've had a pre-existing condition, your new insurance company wouldn't cover that."

The bills proposed by Repub-

According to a Kaiser Study, low-income Americans — ones with an income of around \$20,000 — would be most affected.

HEALTH CARE BILL DIFFERENCES

Affordable Care Act



The bill keeps the Affordable Care Act provision that lets **young adults up to age 26 stay** on their parents' insurance plan.



The Affordable Care Act **requires** that insurers cover a certain share of the cost of getting care.

American Health Care Act



The GOP bill **doesn't provide the elderly** as generous tax credits as the Affordable Care Act.



Enrollees **age 20 to 29** would save about \$700 - \$4,000 a year on average.



The Republican bill would overhaul the whole program, which covers

more than 73.4 million people.

SOURCE: CNN
ELENA HERNANDEZ | Designer

licans outline what they plan to replace the ACA with. The new plan removes the mandate that all U.S. citizens are required to have health insurance and instead focuses on the financial aspect.

"The way insurance is subsidized for low income individuals will change," Eaves said. "Poorer people will not be able to afford it anymore. 20 million americans may not be able to afford healthcare."

According to a Kaiser Study, low-income citizens — ones with an income of around \$20,000 — would be most affected. A 27-year-old will receive \$2,000 instead of \$3,225 under the ACA. A 40-year-old will get \$3,000 instead of \$4,150. A 60-year-old will receive \$4,000 instead of \$9,900.

"Tax benefits for the wealthy

will still be covered," Eaves said. "Those are the people that will benefit the most."

The new policy is wrought in controversy. For many Republicans, the goal is to eradicate the ACA completely.

"You can't just remove everything tomorrow," Patterson said.

Eaves also said that while many Republicans wanted to repeal the ACA for almost eight years, the process may be harder and more complex than they thought.

"Many conservatives believe that it does not go far enough," Eaves said. "It is not as dramatic a reversal as some Republicans wanted. But Obamacare is so entrenched now, it is hard to reverse."

In order to prepare for any possible change, Elon students should remain updated with the

case as much as possible.

"Stay aware, knowledgeable on how it will affect you and others," Eaves said. "Stay as educated as possible for what these policies mean going forward."

"As far as preparing, I recommend doing things while the ACA is in place, like scheduling annual exams with your care provider and making sure your immunizations are up to date," Patterson said.

There are also ways for students to take action against the changing policies.

"Don't panic just yet," Eaves said. "Now is the time to call the member of congress, call senators or send an email. Reach out to your member and express how you feel because if those phone calls pile up, it could really make a difference."

New SGA executive board finalized, looks to begin work



Spencer Wagner
Executive Vice President



Joseph Arthur
Executive Treasurer



Rachel Hobbs
Executive Secretary

Perla Salazar-Rangel
Contributor
@PSalazarRangel

Elon University junior Morgan Bodenarain, SGA president-elect, had the task of appointing three executive positions amid an unprecedented lack of election participation.

This SGA election no one ran for the executive positions of vice president, treasurer or secretary.

Now, Spencer Wagner, current SGA senator for the junior class, has been chosen as the new student body vice president. Joseph Arthur, current junior class treasurer, will take on the executive treasurer position and Rachel Hobbs, current junior class president, was appointed to executive secretary.

Bodenarain, with the help of outgoing president Kyle Porro and outgoing vice president Mark McGann, finally decided who would be helping her this upcoming year in serving Elon and its students.

Bodenarain was initially worried that no one would apply for the po-

sitions, but she soon saw applications rolling in.

"Following the applications, we did an interview with me, Kyle Porro and Mark McGann," Bodenarain said. "All of the applicants were very well qualified. We stayed in the office discussing and debating for at least a couple of hours, and then we came to our decision."

Wagner initially ran for a senator position and won. Other people then encouraged him to apply for the vice president position.

"I'd hope to accomplish several of the goals that Morgan has laid out," Wagner said. "I'm looking to help her a lot and essentially be her right-hand man."

"One of the responsibilities for the vice president is to plan the retreat that SGA has at the beginning of fall semester to increase the bonding of all the senators and to start thinking of what SGA wants to do."

Wagner and Bodenarain were already close friends, but Bodenarain believes they will be able to work through their friendship to ensure they come to the best decisions for Elon.

"That's one thing that we spoke to Kyle and Mark about because Kyle and Mark are also best friends," Bodenarain said. "They said there are positives to it and there are also negatives. I think

that our bond will definitely have the positive and negative, but we can work through it. We both are dedicated to SGA and want what is best for it and the campus."

Arthur applied to the executive treasurer position and was quickly appointed through a less extensive process because SGA needed to begin budget hearings with organizations as soon as possible.

"We were unable to do interviews because we had budget hearings coming up and treasurer is one of the most imperative positions on SGA," Bodenarain said. "It is by far one of the most important, so we needed to do it very quickly. Kyle and I sat down and looked through every single application and we narrowed it down to a couple. We reached out to Eason, who is the current executive treasurer, for his opinion and took that all into account, and we chose Joe."

As treasurer, Arthur hopes to be able to save money where possible and maintain the budget.

"I want to make improvements to save money where I can," Arthur said. "I want to give students the opportunity to do great things at Elon with all the great organizations that we have."

Hobbs was the first person that Bodenarain reached out to via email about the application process. Hobbs and Bodenarain both

ran for the executive presidency and had come to the decision that no matter who won, they would have a position on each other's executive board.

Bodenarain kept her promise and gave Hobbs the option of picking the position she wanted. Hobbs underwent the application process for the position of executive secretary.

"They were all prominent, important and crucial roles," Hobbs said. "I would have been honored to serve in any capacity. Specifically, I chose secretary because I wanted to bring the student body together in terms of more school spirit. I will be working directly with homecoming and continuing the Elon Ball."

Bodenarain and the other three executive members of SGA are set to be sworn in April 6. The executive board are looking forward to serving the school to increase school spirit, inclusivity and civic engagement and will be holding their first meeting on the same day.

"When students look to us, they see this is a bond and common friend, and they really are dedicated to this school and SGA," Bodenarain said. "I'm really excited for this year. We have an amazing, very well-qualified executive board that is going to do incredible things."



CHEAT SHEET: SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT REMOVED FROM OFFICE

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



NEWS BRIEFS

Community rallies behind injured freshman Offstein

More than 100 Elon community members — mostly Elon University student-athletes — gathered on the hill beside Irwin Belk Track to pray, sing and share stories about freshman Molly Offstein March 9. Offstein, a cross country runner and Honors Fellow, was struck by a car on her morning jog Monday and is now in a medically induced coma at UNC Health and Care. In a March 9 email, Smith Jackson, vice president for Student Life, said, "Anyone who wishes to send messages, cards, etc. to Molly and her family are welcome to send or bring them to Chaplain Fuller at the Numen Lumen Pavilion front desk so she can deliver them when she visits Molly and her family over the coming days." The family ask that people not attempt to visit Offstein but continue to pray for her.

Professor awarded Homeland Security grant

Scott Wolter, associate professor of engineering, received a \$10,447 subaward from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in conjunction with Northeastern University and Duke University, for a project entitled, "Characterizing, Modeling, and Mitigating Texturing in X-ray Diffraction Imaging." Wolter will contribute to research focusing on anomaly detection as it pertains to X-ray diffraction imaging for airport and mass transit security applications. His work will focus on studies involving the understanding of materials texturing on reliability of threat detection.

Elon parents donate to School of Business expansion

John and Patricia Chadwick, of Old Greenwich, Connecticut, and Bill and Frances Creekmuir of Atlanta have made gifts to support Sankey Hall and Business Fellows scholarships. The gift from John and Patricia Chadwick will endow the Chadwick Family Business Fellows Scholarship to help attract top students to the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business and support Sankey Hall, the new three-story, 30,000-square-foot facility that will provide expanded space for Elon's growing business school. To date, parents, alumni and friends have contributed \$7.5 million in commitments toward the \$8 million fundraising goal for Sankey Hall.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye was removed from office March 10 after months of turmoil and protests that spawned amid a corruption scandal.

Park's powers were suspended in December after a legislative impeachment vote, though she continued to live in the presidential Blue House, largely alone and hidden from public view, while awaiting the decision by the Constitutional Court. The house had been her childhood home: she first moved in at 9 years old and left it nearly two decades later in 1979 after her parents' deaths, according to the New York Times.

Some claimed Park was overly influenced by her lifelong friend and adviser, Choi Soon-sil, who is facing her own trial for abuse of power.

Park's departure comes at a crossroad for the Korean Peninsula, as North Korea tested four ballistic missiles last month. Park, known for her conservatism, had taken a harsh position on North Korea. Many political scientists believe the county will turn left because of her departure.

Prosecutors are expected to interrogate Park in the coming weeks. An election for her replacement must be held within 60 days, and experts at CNN predict it will take place May 9.



President Park Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea speaks at a conference in the White House, Oct. 16, 2015.

Elon pays high for surrounding property

Bryan Anderson

Enterprise Manager
@BryanRAnderson

Securing property and expanding Elon University often comes with a hefty price tag. Elon continuously finds itself paying hundreds of thousands of dollars more than a property's assessed value.

A review of Elon's property records, retrieved by Alamance County's Real Estate Tax System, found 20 cases of Elon paying more than a property's assessed value. Elon paid at least \$100,000 higher than assessed value in 11 of those 20 cases.

In 2015, the university purchased 305 and 317 W. Haggard Ave. for twice as much as their assessed value. The properties sold for \$825,000 but were worth just \$395,575.

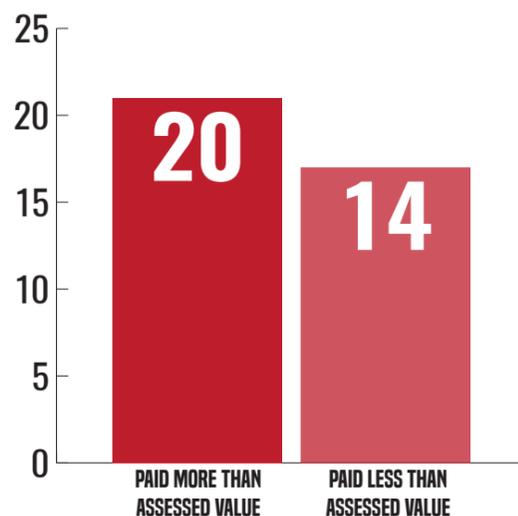
Gerald Whittington, senior vice president of the Office of Business, Finance and Technology, declined to speak on this specific acquisition but said there are three main factors

In the 20 cases in which Elon paid more than a property's assessed value, 11 of those were bought for at least \$100,000 higher than the assessed value.

Elon considers when deciding whether to buy property. If a piece of land is needed immediately, needed in the future or poses a threat to the university's strategic visions, Elon will strongly consider buying it. Sales price and deed restrictions ultimately determine whether the university buys property or passes on it.

"There are some parcels that are of obvious interest to the university," Whittington said. "What would those things look like? Things that touch the university's borders right now . . .

ELON UNIVERSITY PROPERTY RECORDS



SOURCE: ELON UNIVERSITY TAX RECORDS
CHRISTINA ELIAS | Assistant Design Chief

That is the principal driver."

Jay DeVaney, a member of major regional commercial law firm Nexsen Pruet, sold the 305 and 317 W. Haggard Ave. properties to Elon. DeVaney said he could not provide information on any specific sales, but he did explain some of the causes of a high difference between sale price and assessed value.

"A piece of property may be strategically located with respect to the buyer, and it may be integral to other plans that they have — or it may be that the county simply undervalued the property," DeVaney said.

To understand Elon's land acquisition strategy and the high costs, it is important to distinguish between fair market and assessed value.

Alamance County assigns property values every eight years. This figure is the assessed value and is determined by a range of factors, including location, historical sales and value of adjoining properties. It is particularly difficult for the county to determine assessed property values in the Elon area.

"The challenge with Elon

property, for us, is that the university will tend to pay more than most other buyers because its value to the university tends to be superior than its value to other users," said Jeremy Akins, Alamance County tax administrator.

Fair market value is essentially whatever a buyer is willing to pay a seller for a piece of property. According to Akins, one of the first lessons realtors are taught is that fair market value is always higher than assessed value.

But in practice, fair market value and assessed value should be the same at the time a property is evaluated. For example, if Alamance County valued a property at \$200,000 in 2009, that \$200,000 should also be its fair market value for 2009.

Because of the housing crash after the 2009 evaluation period, properties' fair market values were likely lower than their assessed values. But as time progresses fair market value is generally higher than assessed value.

"Under normal conditions, the property values will grow during the eight-year cycle, while our values don't grow," Akins

said. "So late in the cycle, we're pretty much invariably low."

There were 14 in which the assessed property values were higher than the amount Elon paid for it. When Elon acquires property under its assessed value, it tends to be for a large amount. In two cases, Elon made deals that netted it millions of dollars. Still, these scenarios are few and far between.

The university is fairly private about how it goes about acquiring property, but Whittington said it tries to build up property and enhance its existing land rather than expand outward past the main hub of campus.

Susan Kirkland, assistant vice president for Business, Finance and Technology, works with Whittington to research potential properties of interest to the university.

Though Elon does search for properties on its own, Whittington said one-third of sellers reach out to the university directly.

Elon President Leo Lambert or the Board of Trustees have the final stamp of approval. In general, both groups follow Whittington's recommendation.

If a property sells for less than \$500,000, Lambert will usually approve it. If it is worth more than \$500,000, the Board of Trustees will typically make the final decision.

Elon's plans for expansion are not stopping anytime soon.

With the Residential Campus Initiative setting a goal for the university to house three-fourths of its students, there is a need for Elon to grow.

"We need to build more residence halls so that more than 60 percent can live on the campus because right now it's 62 percent," Whittington said. "In order to build more space today, we can't build a student a tiny 8-by-10 cell and call it good like they could when I went to college."

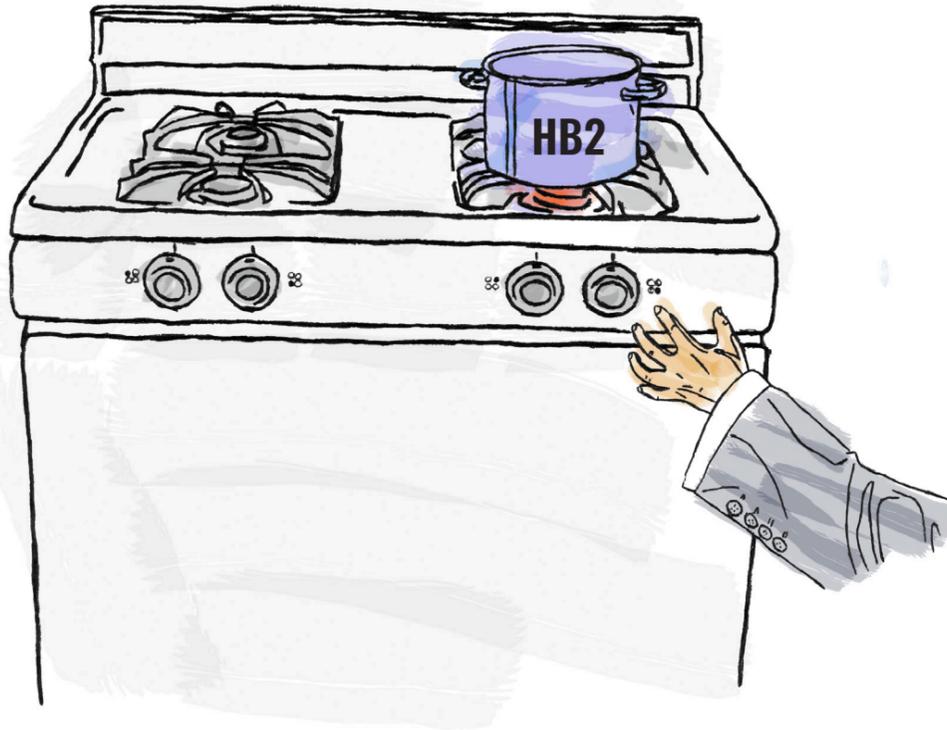
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OPINIONS



STAFF EDITORIAL

BJORN BATES | Designer

Elon community cannot forget the impact of House Bill 2

HOW WE SEE IT

A year after it was passed, the Elon community should continue to protest House Bill 2 and recognize its lasting effects.

About one year ago, former North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory signed into law House Bill 2, a law that eliminated anti-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation, gender identity and veteran status and required that individuals only use public bathrooms or changing facilities that align with the biological sex on their birth certificate.

Soon after the bill was passed, Elon University issued a statement denouncing the bill. This reaffirmed Elon's commitment to inclusivity, diversity and ensuring students feel safe on campus. This stance attracted mixed reactions from the Elon community, some finding the decision misguided and others seeing it as an admirable stance for the university to take.

Some believed that because the law was so outwardly discriminatory it would be repealed within

a matter of months. But here we are, a year later, and it is still the law in our state. Many have made attempts to repeal the law, but they have all failed. The news media has seemed to forget about HB2 — as have the people.

Just because HB2 was passed a year ago and isn't written about as much in the news doesn't mean it isn't still affecting people in North Carolina. Shortly after HB2 was passed, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo issued a non-essential travel ban to North Carolina. Elon is scheduled to play the State University of New York at Albany in a home game this fall, but since SUNY Albany is a public school, the ban prohibits the travel to North Carolina. The game is on Elon's schedule, but there could be a chance it isn't played.

A survey is distributed every year to students who were admitted to Elon and chose not to attend.

In 2016, the Office of Admissions added a question that asked if HB2 was a factor in their decision to not attend Elon. Of the respondents, 17 percent stated that HB2 was a factor.

Laws such as HB2 aren't going away any time soon. Just a few weeks ago, President Donald Trump rescinded federal protections for transgender students to use the bathrooms of their choosing in public schools.

This law, while ultimately unenforceable, is still affecting both the LGBTQIA community and the Elon community as a whole. Because of this bill, our state is missing out on the economic boost of hosting major sporting events.

Our school is losing students who may feel unsafe in the state of North Carolina. This law is causing our campus to lose valuable, diverse voices, ultimately hurting our campus.

Just last week, SGA passed a bill urging the university to consider creating multi-occupancy gender-neutral restrooms in all new construction and renovations. This

legislation is a great step in the direction of fighting HB2 and the Elon community should support this initiative, but it's important to also consider the impact of this law on a larger scale.

We can advertise in every single publication that Elon is an inclusive campus, say that we denounce the law and pass bills such as the one SGA did last week. But, that still may not be enough to get prospective students or people visiting campus to overlook the law.

The Elon community should continue to protest HB2 and discriminatory laws like it on a state or national level. Students should call their senators, write letters, attend protests or even simply facilitate conversations on the matter. By ignoring HB2, students are doing a disservice to the LGBTQIA community and our campus as a whole.

We cannot forget about the effects of HB2. We, as an institution dedicated to inclusivity, must continue to fight against the discriminatory bill with the same fervor as we did in the past.

Use spring break to relax, however you need to



Cassidy Levy
Columnist
@cas1117

It's that time of year again: The time when every adult you know is asking "what are you doing this summer?" "What are your plans for after graduation?" And for many of us, it's the time of year we die a little inside, put on a smile and try to hide the fear of uncertainty.

At this point, I'm envious of my friends in the business school, many of whom have had jobs lined up since the fall. It would be so nice to have had one less thing to worry about during midterms. But search-

ing for jobs now also means that I have just a little more experience and knowledge to help guide me.

I now know what I'm better qualified for. I have more skills I can add to my resume, more research projects and community partners I can draw from for cover letters and interview questions. And you probably have more experience, too.

So if you're like me, and you're stressed about what you're doing after May, for just the summer, for a year or two until grad school or for the foreseeable future: it's okay.

Stress is a normal part of life. You've survived the stress of college applications because you got here. You survived the stress of finals and

midterms, maybe with a few grade casualties along the way, but you did it.

MAKE LIFE A LITTLE EASIER ON YOURSELF BY BEING PRODUCTIVE OVER BREAK, WHATEVER THAT MEANS FOR YOU.

You also have a great opportunity to deal with that stress: Spring Break. While you may already have plans, you'll probably have some free time to make the most of your situation.

If you handle stress like me, it might be helpful to take some of that time and work on applications. Come back to Elon University in a week with the comforting knowledge that you took advantage of the extra free time to help create the life you want after Elon.

But it's okay if you want to use spring break as an actual break, too. You've been sending out applications on top of turning in midterms and being that special brand of Elon overcommitted.

It's okay to take one week to not think about the future. Dwelling on the uncertainty to a point of debilitation won't help you send out applications. You should try to come back to Elon refreshed and ready to get back to work.

Use your spring break for you. Whatever that means, there will be help for you when you come back to Elon. We have access to some pretty amazing resources like the Student Professional Development Center. Our professors are also a great source of wisdom and advice, even if it's not always exactly what we want to hear.

Getting a job is difficult. Getting one you think you won't completely hate can be even harder. Spring break is upon us. Use it wisely, whether that means getting your resume ready to be looked over at the SPDC or letting yourself enjoy spring break without job worries. Make life a little easier on yourself by being productive over break, whatever that means for you.

Leadership exists outside of elected positions



Olivia Ryan
Columnist
@oliviazryan

I remember one of the first times someone called me a leader. I was the only freshman in the Alto II section of my choir class in high school. The other girls in my voice part were upperclassmen, and we worked together every day to learn the new songs for our choir concert.

There were several times over the course of the semester when we ran into problems learning our songs, and though I was intimidated by the older girls in my section, I tried to help teach the music so we would pass our part checks and sound amazing in the concert. Because I didn't have the credibility of age or experience supporting me, I worried that no one would

listen to me and my suggestions. But at the end of the semester, after we passed our voice checks and had a successful concert, one of the seniors in my voice part recognized my dedication to our sound and thanked me for helping her.

"Olivia, you've been a great leader for our section," she said.

I had never really seen myself as a leader before, and I didn't quite understand how she could see me as a leader if I was in the same position as her. But that was exactly the point: I may not have been in a "high-up" position of authority, but I used my knowledge to help guide my group — an important aspect of leadership.

After this situation, I started to see leadership everywhere. But

somewhere down the line, I forgot moments of leadership such as this one. After having the opportunity to serve in several positional leadership roles, I had convinced myself that having a position or title is required to be a leader.

— and we need to celebrate and respect that form of leadership in the same way we do positional leaders.

Equating being a leader with having a positional leadership role is dangerous because it implies

that the only way you can be a leader is by being elected or hired for a position. This problem is especially present here at Elon University.

Leadership is one of Elon's five Experiential Learning Requirements, and the pressure to be a leader is high. If you're not on executive board of an organization, then your position in the organization seems to not matter.

This logic is flawed and does not reflect the many different theories and styles of leadership. Emergent leaders within organiza-

tions play a valuable role in their groups. These are the people working directly with other active participants to reach a common goal.

Nonpositional leaders are often motivated by their love for or dedication to the cause. They lead others in their group by example, inspiring others to work effectively through their infectious passion.

If you're not the president or treasurer of an organization, it does not mean you are not of value. It is more than OK to just be a part of a group. There is so much value in simply participating — that is the foundation of what makes an organization successful.

I was just as much of a leader in my freshman choir class as I am in leadership positions on campus. Leadership exists everywhere, not just in the titles on your resume, and we must remember this if we want to facilitate leadership development on campus.

THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO BE A LEADER, EVEN WITHOUT BEING IN A LEADERSHIP POSITION, AND WE NEED TO CELEBRATE AND RESPECT THAT FORM OF LEADERSHIP THE SAME WAY WE DO POSITIONAL LEADERS.

This idea of what it means to be a leader is common among many people. But there are so many ways to be a leader — even without being in a leadership position

Listen to and learn from the Elon University staff members



Bryan Anderson
Columnist
@BryanRAnderson

It was a rough day for me highlighted by a trio of consecutive classes. I had been going through a difficult week where anything that could go wrong did.

Walking onto the BioBus on the West Line loop, I come across a driver I haven't seen before. His name is Eddie.

Eddie is quirky, polite, generous and talkative. He is a former member of the Navy and is as friendly a person as you will find on Elon University's campus.

After getting to know him more, I

learn that we both share a passion for watching classic movies. He tells me his favorite film is "Come Together," a 1971 drama about a European stuntman's interactions with two American tourists.

Eddie later loans me his copy of the movie, hoping the joy it brought him might transfer over to me. In many ways, Eddie represents a group that often goes unnoticed or unappreciated — staff members.

The Elon staff is the very backbone of this campus. Staff members are the first to arrive each morning and the last to leave. They clean up our messes, keep us safe during times of inclement weather and pick us up when we need to get somewhere. In many ways, they are the ones who shape our time at Elon.

Until we reach a point when students recognize and appreciate the contributions staff members make in our daily college experience, tremendous people such as Eddie will not receive the gratitude they deserve.

It is far too often that these people go unnoticed, and it is far too easy for students to go about their days ignoring staff members. We rush to get to classes, hastily order food and don't take enough

time out of our days to reflect on the positive impact these people have on us.

Eddie is just one of several staff members who have been so kind to me.

During midterms and periods of intense studying, I can often be seen studying in classrooms and working in offices well past midnight. Around this time, custodians come into classes and spark up conversations with me. They are incredibly friendly, and I wish others would be able to get to know them better.

As a journalist who often reports on news and actively conducts long-term investigative projects, one of the common complaints I hear is that I do not highlight the positive aspects of Elon's campus.

Though Elon has its imperfections, it is still a wonderful place. The enthusiasm and kindness staff members such as Eddie display are some of the many reasons I enjoy calling myself a Phoenix.

The next time you are riding on a BioBus, ordering a meal, watching someone clean or observing any number of other responsibilities staff members have, please remember that they are people, too.

Students only have about four years to make the most of their Elon experience, and some of the key framers of that experience are the staff members. They deserve to be treated with the same level of respect with which they treat us.

The university itself is making positive strides in recognizing staff members. Some of its efforts include hosting a Staff Appreciation Day and providing members with study abroad experiences. It is my hope students will take more time to recognize staff members who have had a positive influence on their college experience.

Elon has constantly encouraged students to think globally. While this is important, we should also train ourselves to think locally and appreciate those who help us every day.

THE ELON STAFF IS THE VERY BACKBONE OF THIS CAMPUS. STAFF MEMBERS ARE THE FIRST TO ARRIVE EACH DAY AND THE LAST TO LEAVE.

Spring semester offers many reasons for students to smile



Stephanie Ntim
Columnist
@StephanieNTim

Rays of sunshine. Blooming flowers. Birds chirping. Spring Break.

The bitter winter cold is slowly disappearing, as we prepare for the season of new beginnings. It's time to turn over a new leaf this spring.

While you are preparing for break, look forward to what is coming your way. I hope that my spring preview helps you navigate through this time of the year.

First, what's not to love about the spring season? We find pleasure in leisurely outdoor activities, lightweight clothing and, of course, the best of entertainment. Make sure to set your calendars because The Final Four, the final four teams in the annual NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship and the NBA playoffs are on the horizon. As college basketball season comes to a close, there's much in store for spring sports, such as baseball and softball.

If you're into film, the "Beauty and the Beast" live-action remake will soon twirl into movie theaters. For you action sequence fans, our very own Turner Theatre in Schar Hall will show "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" on Sunday, April 2. In the meantime, for movies that are equally beautiful as they are thoughtful, watch "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," "Eat, Pray, Love" and "Jerry Maguire."

Just Imagine: Dev Patel, Judi Dench, a young Tom Cruise and the effervescent Julia Roberts all in your living room. That sounds like an exciting party filled with romance, optimism and spontaneity. All these films weave into the narrative of spring as a moment where old and new blend in harmony.

As for music, make time for Pharrell William's infectious tune, "Happy." Though it is an older song, this Grammy-winning single will get you in the mood for the here and now. In the present, consider watching the music video "Happy Street," a fun record collaboration between actor Bill Murray and musician Paul Shaffer that will surely brighten up your day and prepare

UPCOMING EVENTS

ELON SPRING CONVOCATION WITH DANIEL GILBERT

When: March 30, 3:30 p.m.

STUDENT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FORUM (SURF)

When: April 25, all day event

DEPT. OF PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS "LITTLE WOMEN"

When: April 27 - May 1, 7:30 p.m.

you for the spring sunshine.

You should check out the Elon University cultural events calendar for exciting programs on campus. I know the Performing Arts Department is sure to put on a show-stopping array of performances, which will include the musical "Little Women."

On the academic side, attend the Student Undergraduate Research Forum, a fascinating program that provides students the opportunity to present their research to a faculty and student audience. The forum will be held this year on Tuesday, April 25.

Spring, in a figurative way, also signals a rebirth in ideas to reach out to our local and global communities. Use your academic skills to invest in volunteer opportunities.

As for the Class of 2017, enjoy your last hurrah. You made it through four years of college — an accomplishment that calls for celebration.

Take my suggestions with a grain of salt, but find something you enjoy doing. Engage in projects that inspire you in your everyday pursuits. For those of us in need of a do-over, let's start afresh. It will not be easy, but I hope this season will motivate all of us throughout the second half of the semester.

Poet Gerard Manley Hopkins captures the essence of this season, saying, "Nothing is so beautiful as spring." As we wait for spring to begin, have fun, rest well and enjoy your break.

Don't let 'professionalism' dull your spirit



Hannah Silvers
Columnist
@hannah_silvers

Femininity and Professionalism Venn Diagram

Femininity



Professionalism



HANNAH SICHERMAN | Designer

A Google image search for “professional woman” returns hundreds of millions of results of the same thing: dark, tailored suit. Not too frowny and not too smiley, not too much makeup, not-too-high heels. Even-tempered, post-post-grad. Uses semicolons, and maybe wire-rimmed glasses.

That’s not a picture of me. Nor of each and every woman who, like me, identifies as a professional of some kind. Maybe some of us do see parts of ourselves in a standard image of professionalism, but all of us certainly do not.

This idea of what a professional woman is allowed to look like can really mess us up — “us,” as in, college students heading into the last quarter of the academic year.

Whether we do it consciously or not, we tend to write job and internship applications as if we are this professional woman instead of ourselves. We’re counseled to keep exclamation marks out of our emails and bright colors off our resumes. We feel pressured to strip away parts of our personalities, leaving in only what we see fitting into the mold of what we imagine employers want. And if it will get us a job, then it’s worth it.

But why do we have to? Why are there billions of women in the world, all unique, and just one mold of professionalism we all have to squeeze into?

There’s a reason the Google images are of older women in neutral-colored blazers and “natural” makeup. Traits associated with young women aren’t seen as professional, and therefore neither valuable nor desirable. According to this database search, no one with a pink dress or an actual smile has ever stepped into an office. Apparently, a Venn diagram of professionalism and femininity — particularly youthful femininity — is just two circles, no overlap.

Professionalism is masculinity: the broad, strong shoulders of blazers, the even tempers that women just can’t achieve until after menopause when their hormones settle

down, right? Look at Hillary Clinton’s pantsuits — damned if she does, damned if she doesn’t.

This kind of sexism directed particularly at young women isn’t isolated in the workplace.

WHY ARE THERE BILLIONS OF WOMEN IN THE WORLD, ALL UNIQUE, AND JUST ONE MOLD OF PROFESSIONALISM WE ALL HAVE TO SQUEEZE INTO?

Just look at the grief young women get from verbalized pauses (“like” and “you know”) and using “literally” to indicate hyperbole instead of reality. There’s no rule that says a young woman who likes pink can’t also be smart, but we had to make an entire feature-length film about a sorority girl kicking ass at Harvard.

Luckily, it seems like there are some chinks in the armor of this sexist false dichotomy. Take Malala Yousafzai. She speaks and writes about education with one of the most powerful voices in the world on the topic, and she’s not only a woman, but also 19-year-old Pakistani — one who wears bright colors and refuses to let the world instill her with cynicism. On the cover of her book — her bestselling book — she wears a bright magenta hijab in front of a turquoise background.

Malala is youthful, feminine and powerful and believes in the goodness of people all at the same time, and the world knows her for all of the above. And she’s a professional.

Slowly, we’re realizing that professional women come in all shapes, sizes, colors and levels of affinity for exclamation marks. It’s almost like anyone can be a professional if they practice a profession.

It’s easy and totally understandable to get stuck in a cycle of submitting application materials that sound like they were written by the person you think you should be instead of the person you are. The job and internship search is super scary, so presenting an image

that falls a little out of the box feels like a pretty bold move.

But there are employers out there who are sick of reading safe cover letters. On the eve of its internship application deadline, NPR published a blog post titled, “Hey, Students: 5 Things That Are Wrong With Your Cover Letter.” Their five tips could be boiled down into, “Hey, you! We don’t care how well you can write a form letter. Show us how you’re special and different, and don’t you dare make it boring.”

So maybe just being your enthusiastic, young, female self isn’t as scary or improper as you think it is. Throw in that exclamation mark, if that’s the person you are. Add some style to your resume, whether that’s a bold color or something more subtle, whatever can speak best to the image you have of yourself. Ditch the blazer if it doesn’t make you feel like you can take on the world, but rock it if it does.

It’s possible to be feminine and excited and professional at the same time, and there are more than 3.5 billion ways to do it — the right way is your way.

Dress codes encourage judgment of women’s bodies



Hannah Benson
Columnist
@hannahbenson695

I’ve grown up in a world that is over-sensitized to bodies.

As a young girl, I was exposed to billboards over which sprawled airbrushed women in lingerie, commercials featuring flawless goddesses in sensual attire and magazines rife with models sporting the newest trend — each somehow more revealing than the last.

I was taught by television, movies and the lyrics on the radio that in order to get the boys I wanted and the friends I needed, I had to dress like everyone else and flaunt my body. I was taught that physical beauty was just as important — and sometimes even more important — than the things in my head or in my heart. I, along with a million other girls, was a slave to a world

that told us we had to undress to be respected, despite what irony might have to say on the matter.

You can imagine the conflict I felt when our institutions — schools, dance studios, extracurricular activities — began to crack down and tell us the things the media had taught us to put on our bodies as clothing were too provocative, too distracting and too inappropriate. “Sure,” I thought to myself. “But wasn’t that the point?”

There is already a list of problems rooted in the way we are told to clothe and present our bodies, such as eating disorders, depression and low self-worth. Schools telling us that the way we present ourselves is distracting to our male peers, as if we are a band of inherent sexual threats that needed to be tamed, only adds to it.

While we were being yanked out of class and sent home because of the length of our shorts in the sweltering late summer months, boys were being given the OK to

wear pants with waistbands that hung below their butts and muscle tees which exposed much of their midsections.

Something rang incredibly true in those elementary school days, and it still does now: There is an extreme double standard when it comes to what students are permitted to wear in schools. Dress codes attack and scrutinize young women, but they do not do the same to young men.

Middle and high school girls all over the nation are being oppressed by ridiculous dress codes, and many of them are going public with their stories. One features a girl in Indiana, who was suspended for two days for the “crime” of having tight pants. A girl in Texas was sent home because she wore yoga pants and a shirt that covered her entire backside. A Kentucky girl was sent home because the shirt she was wearing exposed her collarbone — a ridiculous fact on its own that is only worsened by

the fact that when the girl’s mother brought her a scarf, the outfit was still deemed inappropriate.

Shouldn’t teachers and administrators have better things to do than tear down the courage of our young women?

They should and they do.

Education in this modern age, one filled with hate, judgment, crime and despair, should instruct our children to use their intelligence, compassion and kindness to bring positive solutions to a broken world — not add them to the list of things standing in our way to success.

By telling girls to change their clothes or else others will objectify their bodies, teachers and administrators have already done the crime — the inspection of a girl’s outfit in itself is a method of objectifying them, and this judgment does nothing to help their self-esteem. In fact, it’s likely that their self-worth is already crippled because of this judgment on their wardrobes and

choices in a world which puts physical beauty on such a high pedestal.

Female students should be just as free as their male counterparts to dress as they please and to do so without scrutiny from peers and higher-ups. Instead of telling our girls that they are a distraction to men, we need to tell our boys not to objectify the bodies of women.

Instead of telling girls to go home and change their clothes, we need to applaud their individuality and encourage them to express themselves the way they see fit.

Dress codes were put in place to protect students from judgment, but instead they have become a powerful method of judgment themselves. It’s time to allow our children to blossom in the ways they want to and to get rid of rules that restrict one of the only freedoms they have at their age. It’s time to crack dress codes and encourage our young women to reflect their inner beauty in whatever way they see fit. They deserve it.

Want to share your opinion? Let us know. Submit a Letter to the Editor by emailing enn@elon.edu

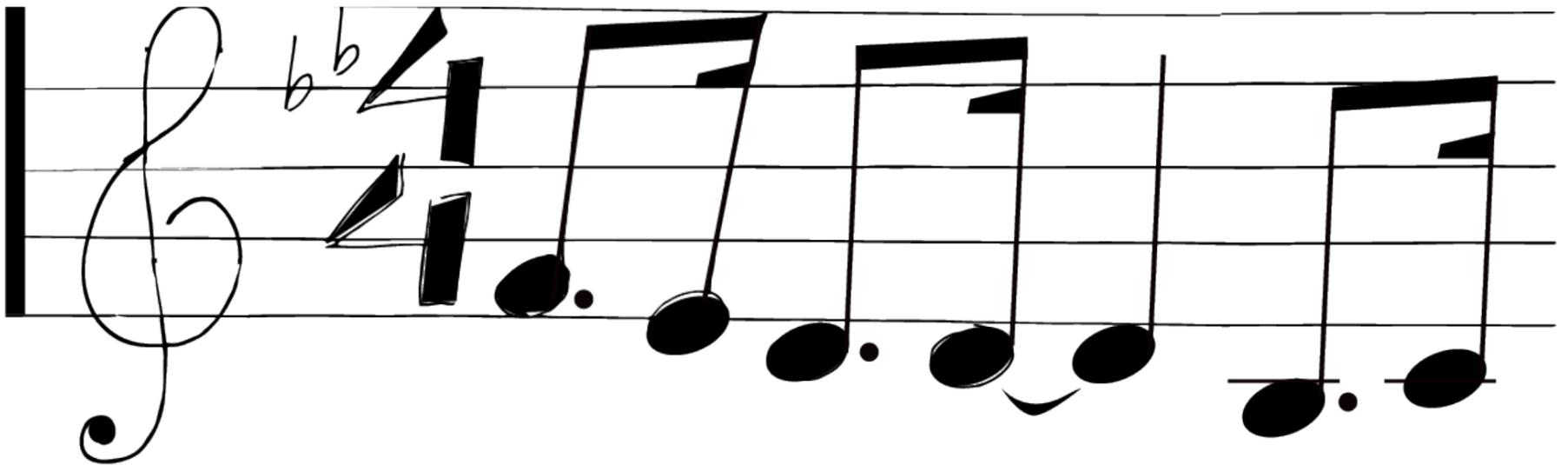
THE PENDULUM

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ONLINE:

Mebane train show returns for fifth year

LIFESTYLE



AR - RANG - ING A CAP- PEL -LA

Music directors prepare for upcoming concerts and guide the group

Courtney Campbell

Lifestyle Editor
@courtcamps

Sophomore Anna Corsiglia almost didn't go to her a cappella auditions freshman year because of her nerves. But today, she is arranging a version of "Greedy" by Ariana Grande as music director for the Shirley Tempos, an all-female a cappella group.

"Over the summer, I arranged a song by Panic! At The Disco to dip my toes in the water and see how it goes," Corsiglia said. "But this is my first one for real — for actual voices to sing into microphones on a stage."

Leading up to the weeks before a cappella concert season, music directors for each group are busy scheduling rehearsals, helping members learn songs and arranging last-minute music for the group.

Most of the job involves leading rehearsals and guiding the group in a musical direction.

"I have a lot of non-a cappella music experience, which is really important for the job — to know what you're talking about from a music standpoint," said senior Adria Gunter, music director for Twisted Measure, a co-ed a cappella group. "I wanted to kind of push the group in a different direction and kind of try it out, and I've loved it ever since."

For Corsiglia, watching her co-music director junior Katie Shannon and having her own ideas about the direction in which Shirley Tempos was going prompted her to apply for the role.

"Having my own thoughts as a group member like, 'What if we focused on this?' or, 'I feel like we need to work on this dynamic,' or, 'This moment could be way more intense if we focus on it' led me to want to get my input in exec," she said.

Though any member can arrange a song, music directors



LEFT TO RIGHT:
Anna Corsiglia and Katie Shannon | Shirley Tempos
Kevin Wehrhahn | Smooth Progressions
Holly Brueggman | Sweet Signatures



LEFT TO RIGHT:
Taeghan Hagood | Vital Signs
Adria Gunter | Twisted Measure
Matthew Clanton | Rip_Chord

often take the lead.

Senior Holly Brueggman, music director for Sweet Signatures, an all-female a cappella group, has arranged around 10 songs since her freshman year. Her first arrangement of "I Can't Help Falling in Love" took her much longer than expected, but now she can arrange a song in about a week.

Each arranger has a different process, but most begin the same way: listen, listen and listen.

"I just listen to the song over and over again to get it in my ear, and then I'll start doing it piece by piece," said sophomore Taeghan Hagood, music director for Vital Signs, a co-ed a cappella group. "So I'll start with the intro, and then I'll try to notate each voice part for the intro, and then I'll slowly move on."

According to junior Kevin Wehrhahn, music director for Smooth Progressions, an all-male a cappella group, after listening to the original, he will make sure the

basics are covered before playing with effects or "big moments." For example, with "So High" by John Legend, Wehrhahn is adding in mash-ups from other songs to give it a unique sound.

Brueggman also said it's easier to alter a more popular song because the audience will recognize they're doing something interesting to it.

"If it's a song people don't really know, you don't want to mess with it too much because less people will recognize it off the bat anyway, much less recognize you're doing something cool with it," she said.

In addition to having "plunky stuff" added to the song, Corsiglia also makes sure to add sustained notes for each part, so the arrangement doesn't have an empty feeling.

The amount of freedom depends on the song as well.

Hagood has arranged "Sandcastles" by Beyonce and "Hard Love" by NeedtoBreathe. But because "Sandcastles" was

more basic, she had more creative ability to add in parts to make it more compelling.

"It was interesting to go from that artistic, do-what-I-want 'Sandcastles,' to being very structured and having a clear repetitiveness to 'Hard Love,'" Hagood said.

To arrange each song, the a cappella members rely on software such as Noteflight and MuseScore, which allow them to break up the song into different sections as well as set up the score.

But it's still a work in progress.

"I kind of arrange in chunks of time," Gunter said. "I never arrange anything in one sitting. It's more of when I'm feeling inspired in a way. I can dedicate from 30 minutes to three hours in those chunks."

Brueggman's favorite arrangement that she's done was "Lipstick" by Runaway June, which arranged last minute.

"It's one of the songs I arranged super quick before our fall concert, and I wasn't expecting it to turn

into the fun jam it is now," she said. "Each section has so much fun singing it."

Though it can be difficult to arrange music as well as run two to three rehearsals each week, seeing the end result is rewarding to each music director.

In addition to getting ready for the concert, Wehrhahn wants every member to improve in some way as a singer and musician.

"Everyone says I'm kind of like a dad, which is completely true," Wehrhahn said. "I kind of enjoy that aspect of being able to take care of everybody and make sure everyone has what they need. Be that person that makes sure everyone gets from point 'A' to point 'B' and grows in the process."

This is especially true for when a song finally clicks for the group.

"It's been super interesting seeing them from day one when the sounds are all over the place, and we don't mesh as a group, and it's your job to try and mold that," Brueggman said.

Acappalooza takes a trip to outer space

Annual concert featured groups dressed like the cosmos

Marjorie Anne Foster

Contributor
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Whitley Auditorium was transformed into outer space complete with aliens and galaxies for Sweet Signatures' annual Acappalooza event March 11. This year's theme: Astropalooza.

All six of Elon University's a cappella groups performed, with three visiting groups from North Carolina State University, New York University and University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

Despite the smaller than usual crowd, all of the a cappella groups cheered each other on and spent the night singing their hearts out.

Senior Hailey Harn, president of Sweet Signatures, started off the show.

"I am really just excited for the energy in Whitley during Acappalooza," she said. "I think a lot of people would agree that it is different than just a normal a cappella concert because people are really supportive of each other."

Whether it was supportive shouts for space cat costumes worn by the Shirley Tempos, one of Elon's all-female a cappella

group, or the voices of those singing along, the balcony of Whitley was crowded with other a cappella members cheering each other on.

Harn said the energy and involvement of the audience has always been her favorite part of the event. For example, at Acappalooza two years ago, those in the front row painted their chests to spell "SIGS" as a way to support Sweet Signatures.

Sophomore Jess Pusch, a Sweet Signatures member, said she felt really good about the event, regardless of the audience size.

"The performances by all of the groups were incredible, and I think that everyone that took part really enjoyed it," Pusch said. "Sweet Signatures hosts Acappalooza with the intent of it being an exciting concert that lets all of the groups show off all the hard work and effort that is put into their pieces."

There was a visible energy around Whitley after the visiting groups had the crowd cheering with their performances.

To help out the visiting a cappella groups, Harn said she collected six air mattresses for some people to stay in her apartment.

Taylor Pulliam, NCSU's Grains of Time member, said he always enjoys coming to Elon for this event.

"It's a great crowd, and the



AJ MANDELL | Staff Photographer

Members of Shirley Tempos take part in the Astropalooza theme, dressed as space cats while singing "Sit Still, Look Pretty" by Daya.

other groups are always really supportive of each other, so it's always a good time," he said.

For Harn and senior Brooke Greenberg, vice president of Sweet Signatures, it was a bittersweet night.

Harn said music has been a big part of her life, and Saturday night was a sad reminder that her musical career at Elon is coming to an end.

"I get to spend six-plus hours a week with people I call my best friends doing what we are passionate about," Harn said. "I

will definitely miss that when I am working nine-to-five next year."

Greenberg said that for her last Acapalooza, she looked forward to the theme, the visiting groups and the glitter.

"A lot of other groups have other concerts like this now where a lot of groups perform, but we were the original ones to start it," Greenberg said. "It is really cool to have people know about this event and come every year."

Despite the stress of putting the event together, Greenberg was

glad to be a part of it for her last semester.

"We had a great time and heard great feedback from the audience after the show," she said. "I'm really happy with how everything went."

Audience member sophomore Sara Smith said she has been coming to this show every year, and this was the best show she had seen so far.

"You could tell that the groups were having fun," she said. "I can't wait for the event next year."

Senior shares musical talent at coffee shops

Lilly Blomquist

Contributor
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With a keen passion for music, especially for acoustic guitar, senior Eason Warren made his musical dreams a reality 9 p.m. March 10 at The Oak House. He and junior Rosie Darling performed in front of a crowd of more than 50 people.

Warren was first introduced to the guitar at 10 years old and said he immediately fell in love with the instrument and its beautiful sound.

"The acoustic guitar is where my heart lies," Warren said.

JUST FINDING RANDOM TALENT HERE IN RANDOM PLACES HAS BEEN A REALLY AWESOME EXPERIENCE

EASON WARREN
SENIOR

Further pursuing this musical passion 11 years later, Warren has performed in public only six times: once in high school, once at a coffee shop in Chapel Hill and four times at The Oak House.

Since Phil Smith, owner of The Oak House, told Warren his last performance was the most profitable flight night the coffee house has had, he asked Warren to share his musical talent with his customers again.

Warren said he happily agreed and asked Darling to accompany him.

The performance comprised 18 songs



CAROLINE BREHMAN | Staff Photographer

Senior Eason Warren sang and played guitar with junior Rosie Darling at The Oak House March 10.

with four original pieces that Warren and Darling composed together. Among these musical numbers, they covered songs by Justin Bieber, The Chainsmokers and other well-known bands and artists.

At the venue, Warren mainly played the guitar while Darling sang, but both musicians shared their singing and guitar-playing abilities with the crowd throughout the performance.

To augment the listening experience, The Oak House welcomed guest performances from freshman James Van Korff, senior Carey Bina and senior Rosemary Joaquin.

While working during Warren and Darling's performance, Jacob Schmiederer, shift manager at The Oak House, said listening to the songs was an enjoyable experience.

"I thought they performed fantastically," Schmiederer said. "Every time we have them perform, they always pull in huge crowds and crowds that seem to really enjoy their performance. People come just to see them."

Junior Jenaye Alston, another member of the audience, said the performance was engaging and entertaining.

"Eason is awesome on the guitar," Alston said. "You can tell he puts his heart and soul into playing and that he has a real passion for it."

Before Warren presented his songs to the coffee shop in Elon, he practiced every day for two weeks with Darling.

"It's pretty much eat, sleep and rehearse," Warren said.

Without a mentor guiding him, Warren

said he and Darling initiated, scheduled and organized these practices on their own.

But Warren acknowledged that these practices and performances would not be possible without Elon, its community and its opportunities.

With connections in the School of Communications, Warren said performances, such as the one at The Oak House, become more well known with the assistance of public relations students sharing his videos and helping him get publicity.

Other communications students helped Warren with the filming aspect by shooting and editing videos of him performing.

Elon has also provided Warren with support and talented musicians, which he said enhances his love for music and his commitment to continue performing.

"The culture and people here have been so awesome," Warren said. "Just finding random talent here in random places has been a really awesome experience."

As a senior pursuing a major in international business and finance, Warren said he will continue pursuing his passion for music while at Elon. In the next couple of months, he is playing in a sound show in Raleigh, shooting videos for his original songs and applying for the MTV Cover of the Month.

With a future that includes additional performances and music, Warren said he wants to continue sharing his love of music with others.

"Music is a really beautiful thing that brings people together," Warren said. "I write songs to be enjoyed by others, and a lot of the time, that doesn't happen unless they're sitting there listening, so putting on these performances is a chance for everyone to share in the music."

PROFESSOR CREATES SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Environmental science professor hopes to change view of housing options

Sienna Standfield

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Robert Charest, associate professor of environmental studies, has known since he was young that he wanted to be an architect — and was especially interested in the aspect of sustainable design.



Robert Charest

“I was always interested in small tiny houses and reclaiming materials,” Charest said.

This interest led him to study design at the Université de Montréal,

where he pursued a Bachelor of Architecture. He also earned a post-professional Master of Architecture in History and Theory from McGill University in Montreal.

He brings these aspects to the classes he teaches, such as “Sustainable Architecture” and “Humans and Nature.”

Charest has been involved in sustainable agriculture for the majority of his life, continually looking to use reusable and the most durable resources when building. Before coming to Elon, he lived in Canada, where he built a tiny house that he lived in for six years.

“I built my first tiny house when I was in my late teens,” Charest said. “I still own a tiny log cabin in the mountains of Quebec. My father was a builder, as were my grandfather and great-grandfather.”

He picked up on this passion of building and designing by watching his grandfather, who Charest said was always interested in improving the quality of buildings, and who was a consultant for Hydro-Quebec, an energy company in Canada.

While teaching at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2005, Charest founded and directed the Urban Studio, a community-oriented design-build effort where projects are created to combat housing issues. He was a part of the organization



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT CHAREST
Robert Charest designed this home at 909 Dillard St. as part of a housing replacement project.

until 2011.

He has since brought the program to Elon University, renaming it the New Urban Studio at Elon’s Environmental Center at Loy Farm, its home base built by him and his students. The idea is for students to have a deeper connection with architecture, design and the environment.

During his time at Elon, Charest was one of the various faculty members who helped found the Environmental Center at Loy Farm. He co-wrote many of the grants that went toward the funding of Loy Farm, and penned the initial “EcoHub Manifesto,” which is a living-learning model for responsible design.

Jessica Bilecki, assistant director for education and outreach in the Office of Sustainability, leads tours at the Loy Farm. Charest’s designs are one of the major stops on the tour.

“From my perspective, the most powerful contributions of Professor Charest’s design contributions to the campus community are not the structures themselves, but the experiential learning that results,” Bilecki said. “His work pushes students from any major to think about designing things smarter so that they are affordable, have a low environmental impact and have a positive impact on the people involved in and with the structures.”

The skills that Charest’s students learn can



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT CHAREST
Charest designed The Eco Art Studio and Gallery, built around a repurposed greenhouse that once stood outside Arts West.

be applied to all aspects and fields of life.

“We practice responsible, innovative and affordable design,” Charest said.

To create the designs, the materials used are a combination of local materials such as steel, concrete and wood, with reclaimed materials used when available.

Outside of Elon, Charest is the principal of

Atelier Charest and Associates LLC, an architecture company with a focus in sustainable design and affordable housing projects.

“Architecture, as I have come to understand it, should always be responsibly designed,” Charest said. “I believe that responsibly designed buildings and products must last a long time.”

Lumen Scholar pens stories about shame, resilience

Rachel Wingrat

Contributor
@RachelWingrat

Elon University junior Emily DeMaioNewton has been reading books since she was little. And today, she has become the author.



Emily DeMaioNewton

DeMaioNewton, a Lumen Scholar, has been researching the influence that storytelling has on resilience to shame. Initially, she proposed traditional research, she decided to speak with various individuals about their lives in order to understand experiences other than her own.

From there she plans to write her own work of fiction.

“If you can come up with a theory that works, that’s really good to know, but I’m interested in how that plays out into other people’s lives,” DeMaioNewton said.

Her research was inspired by her own relationship with reading.

DeMaioNewton grew up around stories

and writing. When she was younger, she was raised by a reading specialist mother and storytelling father. She said always being surrounded by books drew her to writing.

“Reading books is what kept me a hopeful person,” DeMaioNewton said. “When I think about how literature has influenced my own life, it really is what has kept me hopeful and has helped me understand the world in a realistic way.”

Now that she’s older, she wants to contribute to the literary community by writing fiction.

The goal of her project is to help people start a conversation about the difficult parts of their lives.

“When people shared their stories about what they felt ashamed of about themselves, it opens up the opportunity for other people to say, ‘I feel that, too,’” DeMaioNewton said.

She believes that stories are easy for people to connect with and hopes that people will read her work and feel less alone.

The subject matter of her stories is not al-

ways easy — commonly delving into issues of loss and family dynamics. But she said looking at the heavy material through writing helps her see it in a different light.

“I think I need it to be in the context of beauty, so I can stay sane and happy,” she said.

DeMaioNewton often focuses on the most difficult moments in people’s lives, but her passion for the project helps her continue.

“Emily is the sort of student everyone should aspire to be — endlessly curious and with a fierce, formidable work ethic,” said Drew Perry, associate professor of English and DeMaioNewton’s project adviser.

Her project is not limited to just writing. DeMaioNewton is also recording the interviews, which she will turn into a podcast.

The idea behind the podcast is to ask others how they get out of bed on the days that are the toughest. She believes these feelings are universal and relatable and wants to learn about other people’s experiences besides her own.

READING BOOKS IS
WHAT KEPT ME A
HOPEFUL PERSON.

EMILY DEMAIONEWTON
LUMEN SCHOLAR

Weekly exercise class aims for empowerment, fitness

Alexandra Schonfeld

Assistant Style Editor
@aschonfeld096

At 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday, students file into a dance studio in the Koury Athletic Center for an hour of dance, sweat and empowerment.

Junior Victoria Parrish has been teaching “Cardio Hip Hop” for more than a year and has generated a dedicated group of regulars who attend her group exercise class.

After taking a class similar “Cardio Hip Hop” at Fit Expo last year in Asheville, she knew she wanted Elon University students to experience the same thing.

Junior Victoria Parrish teaches a “Cardio Hip Hop” class that was inspired by a class that she took last year at Fit Expo in Asheville.

“After taking the class, I noticed at the end that I felt good — not because I got all the moves, but because the instructors made me feel so comfortable and made it so fun,” Parrish said. “I knew then that I wanted to bring it to Elon and that I wanted to focus more on making the class fun and making people feel good about themselves and that they can do the class no matter what level they’re on.”

To prepare for each class, Parrish said she will often hear a catchy song and from there begin to think of a dance to go along with it.

“My participants laugh at me a lot because I’ll say, ‘Give me the good booty,’” Parrish said. “It’s hip hop — you gotta pop it, lock it, drop it — all that good stuff. I try to channel my inner Beyonce, espe-

CARDIO HIP HOP CLASS

What: An hour of dance that focuses on empowerment

When: Every Tuesday

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Where: The Koury Athletic Center

cially for ‘Cardio Hip Hop.’”

For the more workout-centered classes she teaches, such as “Total Body” or the occasional “Yoga” and “Rope Burn” class, the process is a little different with more focus on a specific muscle group and researching exercises that cater to that.

Parrish has been teaching group exercise classes since the spring of her freshman year but looks forward to “Cardio Hip Hop” the most. She prefaces each class with a spiel to a room of up to 25 students to create a comfortable environment that encourages students to let loose.

“I really just say, ‘This is a fun way to exercise, and while it’s an exercise, it’s also a comfortable space where we are all doing something that we love and dancing while also trying to stay fit,’” Parrish said. “No one is here to judge you. Do your own thing and push yourself to your own limits, but don’t forget to enjoy it along the way.”

Junior Lydia Willig also teaches group exercise classes but has found herself showing up regularly to Parrish’s weekly class.

“[Victoria] is energetic and encouraging,” Willig said. “I also enjoy her choreography. I was a dancer for 14 years, and it’s fun to do something similar as a workout. The class is challenging as well,



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY VICTORIA PARRISH

Junior Victoria Parrish takes over Zumbathon this year for a few “Cardio Hip Hop” routines in Jordan Gym.

which gives me the sense that I got a good workout while enjoying myself.”

Parrish said it is rare to not have a student stop her on the way out of class to tell her how much they enjoyed their hour with her.

“Having people like the class enough that they have the courage to come up to me afterwards and acknowledge it and say thank you is an amazing feeling — to really know that you helped that person in that way,” Parrish said.

Willig says the class is what you make of it, but she leaves each time having gotten a lot out of her experience.

“You are free to give all the attitude you want and really get into your workout,” Willig said. “You’re definitely ‘working it,’ in all senses of that phrase. It makes me feel empowered and sassy.”



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY VICTORIA PARRISH

Parrish teaches many group exercise classes but considers “Cardio Hip Hop” her favorite.

REVIEW Elon Eats: Hursey’s Bar-B-Q keeps it simple with stellar food

Rustic charm, enticing smells draw barbecue lovers from across the country

Bryan Anderson

Enterprise Manager
@BryanRAnderson

It started out as a small family operation run out of a homemade pit in the backyard. A lot has changed since the 1940s, but Hursey’s Bar-B-Q has remained a constant source of stupendous, affordable North Carolina barbecue.

From its signature chopped barbecue plate to its tasty chicken to its finger-licking ribs, the menu keeps Pavlov’s dog salivating.

The Hursey family has done right by the Alamance County community for several decades. Hursey’s has branched out from its modest upbringings to four locations across the county. Elon University students should look no further than 1834 S. Church St. in Burlington for a location.

The smell of burning hickory wood from the chimneys entices you into the restaurant. Walking through the front doors, patrons are struck with a rustic charm. The wooden seats, old newspaper clippings and family photos return customers to a time of simplicity and comfort.

When you sit down, what you see is what you get: good food done right. Hursey’s uses a wood fire pit and spends

HURSEY’S BAR-B-Q

Where: 1834 S. Church St.
Burlington, NC 27215

When: Mon.-Sat.: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sun.: Closed

Kind of food: Barbecue

Cost: \$5-\$12

about 10-12 hours preparing its meat.

“We do it here the old-fashioned way,” said Chris Hursey, one of the owners. “We start with the wood fire every morning, not a gas-powered fire pit or anything like that. The taste of the meat, the taste of the product, is what keeps the customers coming back. We take the time to do it the way it’s supposed to be done.”

Chris Hursey is the proud grandson of the restaurant’s founders, Sylvester and Daisy Hursey. Chris Hursey’s father, Charles Hursey, learned to manage the business side of the restaurant and helped elevate Hursey’s to where it is today.

The family business has even served four U.S. presidents, including Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan.

First-timers have to try the chopped pork barbecue and chicken combination plate. Each combo comes with french fries, hushpuppies and coleslaw, though it’s recommended to substitute the coleslaw with baked beans. This plate could run up to about \$9. Add some sweet tea to the order,



BRYAN ANDERSON | Enterprise Manager

A typical plate from Hursey’s Bar-B-Q, featuring fried chicken, mashed potatoes and fried okra.

and you are good to go.

Hursey’s also offers its customers a small dessert menu. Homemade peach cobbler with ice cream is a terrific buy that will leave you satisfied. That is, of course, if you arrive with a large enough appetite to make it past dinner.

The best practice is to arrive hungry, loosen your belt and leave happy.

For the college student on a tighter budget, Hursey’s offers weekday specials Mondays through Thursdays. A favorite is the \$2.19 chopped barbecue sandwiches on Wednesdays. Whatever your price point, Hursey’s has something for everybody.

“There’s no other place to go for bar-

becue than Hursey’s,” said Mary Rogers, a loyal Hursey’s customer and Burlington resident.

The love and passion that goes into cooking is evident in what makes it onto the final plate. Sitting inside the dining area, Chris Hursey often hears customers talk about his father. With two sons of his own, he looks to pass along the family torch and develop a legacy of his own.

“The future’s bright,” Chris Hursey said. “I’ve got two sons that are in the business. My brother has two sons that are in the business. My sister works here as well, and she’s got one son that works with us. We’re still growing.”

ONLINE:

Elon tops JMU for CAA championship, earns first NCAA Tournament bid

SPORTS

Tennis teams eagerly await Hawaii Spring Break trip

Bryan Anderson

Enterprise Manager
@BryanRAnderson

When Elon University's men's and women's tennis teams found out they would spend their Spring Break in Hawaii, several players screamed and cried of happiness.

"We found out last year, and it was a lot of high-pitched screaming and a little bit of tears," said Natalia Janowicz, a senior women's tennis player. "You know, tears of joy. You're really pumped. It's such a good opportunity for us to be going."

The eight-day trip will be evenly split between fun travel and preparation for a match against the University of Hawaii.

The eight-day trip will be evenly split between fun travel and preparation for a match against the University of Hawaii.

Many Elon student-athletes miss out on experiences others get to have during their time in college. There is virtually no window of opportunity for them to study abroad because of the scheduling of sports seasons and training.

As part of the university's commitment to get every student to go abroad, Elon funds brief travel experiences for athletes.

Michael Leonard, the men's tennis coach, said Hawaii serves a practical purpose as it makes for ideal tennis weather.

"It gives us a chance to compete because if we had Spring Break at a different venue overseas, we wouldn't be able to play a match," Leonard said.

Leading up to the trip, the players are taking a class on Hawaiian culture. Women's tennis coach Elizabeth Anderson said the course will enhance the travel experience and allow the players to have a greater appreciation during the trip.

"I went to one of the classes, and it's great," Anderson said. "It talks a lot about the different cultures. The day I was there, they watched an informa-



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
The Elon University women's tennis team huddles together before its March 7 match against the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The Phoenix defeated the Spartans 6-1.

tive video that gave a lot of information."

Though work will be a key component of the trip, it is not the one the players are necessarily looking forward to the most.

While in Oahu, Hawaii, players will visit Pearl Harbor and the hiking trails of Diamond Head. The two teams will also go snorkeling in Kealakekua Bay and visit Punalu'u Black Sand Beach.

"I'm from Florida, so I'm looking forward to being on the beach again," Janowicz said.

Several players are so excited, they have started a blog, which can be found at euhele.com. Janowicz is managing the site to share the two teams' experiences. Though the blog only has a few posts thus far, it is clear there is much enthusiasm for the trip.

On the blog, Janowicz plans to feature travel tips, places to see, local foods and favorite stories.

"Honestly, we've talked about it almost every day, especially this semester," Janowicz said. "[Junior Olivia Lucas] is packed already. We are beyond excited to be going."

Junior women's tennis player Erica Braschi hopes the experience will allow her and her teammates to decompress. She said it will also give them a chance to mentally prepare before a challenging schedule when they return to Elon.

"It's going to help us take a breather and then go back into the toughest matches of the season, which are near the end when we play more conference matches," Braschi said.

The women's tennis team will return from Spring Break to host East Carolina University on April 1. After a trip to Gardner-Webb University on April 5, the Phoenix will close out the season with a trio of home games against the College of Charleston, Appalachian State University and James Madison University.

Men's tennis will close out its regular season after spring break with three home matches against Coastal Carolina University, Winthrop University and Shaw University and two road matches at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and ECU.

Baseball seeking balance between strong pitching, struggling offense

Miles Garrett

Contributor
@MilesMGarrett

As the Elon University baseball team concludes its first month of play, a happy medium between offense and pitching has yet to be reached.

In a role reversal from previous Elon teams, it's the pitching that has emerged as the strength of this year's club, with a team ERA of 4.11 checking in at nearly two-and-a-half runs lower than last year. But it's the offense that's lagged behind, with the Phoenix scoring just seven runs in a five-game losing streak last month, getting shut out three times.

Just when it looked like the Phoenix finally found a rhythm in its sweep of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Elon dropped its series against Georgia Southern University, mustering just one run in losing the final two games.

The once-dormant offense saw a change when head coach Mike Kennedy called for his team to focus more on getting runners on base and in scoring position. Players had previously been emphasizing individual hits and padded stats for batting average, according to Kennedy.

"Offensively, just making sure we garnish a good approach," Kennedy said. "What we're trying to get



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
Junior pitcher Sean Byrnes (30) throws a pitch against Liberty University Feb. 28.

across is that we're trying to play team offense. We're not good at individual offense, which is what we're doing right now. Until we figure out how to start swinging, we have to figure out how we're going to get runs."

Redshirt freshman third baseman Cam Devanney, who had three RBI off three hits and two runs in game one against Georgia Southern, reiterated his skipper's point of team offense.

Devanney said he has seen a

change in how players have been coming to the plate trying to help runners in scoring position rather than just getting on base themselves. It's what he, along with Kennedy, thinks is the key to having a consistent presence on the offensive side as pitching remains a strength for the team.

"We talk a lot about quality at-bats," Devanney said. "Doing things that will help the team win — getting the ball in play, helping a guy get over, sacrificing fly, just stuff

like that. Instead of trying to hit for yourself or for your average, more about helping the team win. I think guys are starting to buy into that, especially this past week."

Though on the scoreboard the Phoenix seems to have struggled recently on the mound, starting pitching has been a strength. The issue of finding consistency at the plate has been the team's crisis of identity 16 games into the season.

"Fortunately, we're pitching the ball really well, and that's kept us

WE'RE TRYING TO GET THE POINT ACROSS THAT WE DON'T NEED TO RELY ON ONE SWING OF THE BAT TO SCORE RUNS.

MIKE KENNEDY
HEAD COACH

in a lot ball games. And it's actually won a few for us," Kennedy said. "We really believe we're better than what we're showing offensively."

Elon has a weekend home stand against the Virginia Military Institute March 17-19 in what will be a chance for the Phoenix to show that its offense is on the right course for the remainder of the season.

The team will look to find a consistent identity with the bats before conference play begins March 24 against Northeastern University.

"We're trying to get the point across that we don't need to rely on one swing of the bat to score runs," Kennedy said. "Just trying to have more guys take part in the big picture of the offense, and we'll be more successful."



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ELON CLINCHES 1ST TRIP
TO NCAA TOURNAMENT



ALEX SIMON | Sports Director
Senior guard Lauren Brown (3) holds up her piece of the basketball net after Elon won the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) championship March 11.

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ALEX SIMON | Sports Director
Elon senior guard Lauren Brown (3) defends James Madison redshirt senior guard Precious Hall (12, with ball) in the Colonial Athletic Association championship game March 11.

LOCKING IT DOWN

Defense, rebounding propelling Elon to 1st NCAA Tournament

Alex Simon
Sports Director
@alexsimon99

Head coach Charlotte Smith has been telling the Elon University women's basketball team the keys to success so often, she knew the team would get sick of it. But in Smith's eyes, defending well and cleaning up as many rebounds as possible are too important to ever let the team forget.

Elon's defense has held its opponents to 35.3 percent from the field this season, which ranks Elon 15th-best in the country.

"You have to set goals, and it has to be something that's on the forefront of their minds," Smith said. "The only way you can do that is by repeating it and repeating it, over and over, until it becomes something that they buy into."

Now, as the 27-6 Phoenix prepares for the school's first-ever appearance in the NCAA Tournament, it's become clear that Elon is doing both things better than it ever has before in Smith's time.

"We were kind of tired of hearing her drill it in our head, but at the end of the day, we got it and we locked in," said senior guard Lenaira Ruffin. "Once everybody became part of the process, locked in and knew what we had to do to win, it felt great. Words cannot describe how it feels to be able to do all those things and be consistent."

In winning the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) title, the Phoenix had its two best defensive performances of the season in the CAA Tournament, including holding conference stalwart James Madison University to 22.8 percent from the field in the championship game Saturday, March 11.

"I truly believe that our defense against JMU was the key factor in



ALEX SIMON | Sports Director
Redshirt senior guard Essence Baucom (2) gets ready to defend as head coach Charlotte Smith gives instructions from the bench.

winning that game," said junior guard Shay Burnett. "Coach was really proud of us for our defensive intensity that game."

Even Smith — who called herself "the coach who's never satisfied" after Elon held Hofstra University to 28.8 percent two days earlier — couldn't help but express her pride in what was the best single-game defensive performance against a Division I school in five years. The last time Elon forced an opponent into a worse shooting night was Feb. 20, 2012, as the College of Charleston shot 22.7 percent. The pursuit of those numbers is a key for Smith.

"It's gratifying, especially when they're looking for the stat sheet," Smith said. "When they're looking for, 'Did we hold them under 40 percent?' That's when you have the buy-in, when they're looking for the stat sheet not to see how many points they scored, but to see if we held them under 40 percent."

Overall, Elon's defense sits near the top of the NCAA leaderboard is a

variety of categories. The 58.5 points per game allowed ranks 54th in the country. Meanwhile, opponents make just 35.3 percent of shots taken against Elon, which ranks Elon as the 15th-best defense in the country by that measure.

Elon also has been able to rebound at an elite level in the national scheme. Elon's 1,388 rebounds ranks 10th nationally, with the 42.06 rebounds

WHEN THEY'RE LOOKING FOR, 'DID WE HOLD THEM UNDER 40 PERCENT?' THAT'S WHEN YOU HAVE THE BUY-IN.

CHARLOTTE SMITH
HEAD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

per game checking the Phoenix in at 26th. Elon also out-rebounds its opponents by an average of 6.8 rebounds per game, which is 25th-best margin in the country.

What has surprised Smith most about the defensive approach has been how simple Elon has been able to keep things.

"What's interesting is that we only play one style of defense: man-to-man. We don't do a whole lot of fancy stuff. We've committed to playing man-to-man defense, and that's what we've stuck with all year," Smith said. "I would have never thought in a million years that we would just play man-to-man and that's our sole defense."

"We don't press. We don't play zone. It's just half-court man-to-man. And it works. I think sometimes, you can try to do too much and be the jack-of-all-trades and the master of none. I feel like we've done a pretty good job of mastering half-court man-to-man defense."

Smith says Elon only makes subtle adjustments based on who the Phoenix faces, liking to plug the gaps on driving teams or deciding to be more aggressive in passing lanes. The Phoenix sent a bunch of help at James Madison redshirt senior guard Precious Hall in the final, harassing the CAA Player of the Year and forcing her to take 33 shots and nine

free throws to score 32 points.

"Honestly, we didn't want her to take that many shots, but she just took tough shots," Smith said. "It was like, 'OK, if she's going to take any shots, at least they're tough ones and challenged ones.' It worked out in our favor that she decided to take a lot of tough shots."

It was the second-straight game that redshirt senior guard Essence Baucom took the task of guarding Hall and shut her down and delivered, with the only difference in Smith's eyes being that Baucom was able to avoid foul trouble.

"Precious is a great offensive player, and we knew that pretty much everything was going to run through her," Baucom said after the game. "I just tried to stay level-headed and grounded. I knew she was going to hit a couple of tough shots, but we just were determined to not let one person beat us. I just forced her into tough situations, and just live with the result."

While Elon was able to hold the number so low, Burnett remembered that Smith said she could never be satisfied. Sure enough, in the time leading up to the selection show, Smith watched the title game film and came away with a lot to learn.

"I just finished watching the JMU film, and I swear, I have about 45 defensive teach clips," Smith said. "I texted the team and said, 'See? I told you I could find some. Now I'm going to have to spend the next hour going through all of them and try to figure out which ones to eliminate.' It's funny."

Even if she believes Elon can do better than it did, Smith still sees the team's drive to defend and rebound as something that makes them a dangerous team to face in the NCAA Tournament.

"Defense, that's the thing you can control, and rebounding is a thing you can control," Smith said. "When you get them buying into those things, and you already have an offensively talented team, you have a triple-threat."



FULFILLING A VISION

ALEX SIMON | Sports Director
Head women's basketball coach Charlotte Smith waits for the beginning of the Colonial Athletic Association championship game March 11.

Smith's experience helps evolve Elon program

Tommy Hamzik
Executive Director
@T_Hamzik

It's the last day of summer workouts for the Elon University women's basketball team, and the coaching staff wants to do something fun.

They play some competitive three-on-three games before assistant coaches Tasha Taylor and Josh Wick and head coach Charlotte Smith team up and hit the court.

Smith, the former All-American at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, turns her already high level of competitiveness up a notch, and that team dominates.

They'd lose all but two games, maybe, that day. Total.

"She made sure of that," Wick said.

Thus is the norm for Smith, in her sixth year leading the Phoenix. It's not uncommon for her to grab her shorts and basketball shoes and start playing with the team, going through rebounding drills or forcing them to guard her.

She arrived at Elon in 2011 with a clear vision of where she wanted to take the program, and she's now fulfilled that vision. The Phoenix won the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament on Saturday with a commanding 78-60 victory over three-time reigning champ James Madison University, a performance rife with the foundation of Smith's philosophy — defense and rebounding.

Her competitive drive has brought her here, as she prepares for her first NCAA Tournament game as a head coach.

But she's been at this stage before. To see the coach Smith has become, it's necessary to look back at a career that began with a high schooler who could jump, then catapulted into the spotlight with the greatest shot in women's college basketball history and now, finally, has led to long nights in the film room at a place where she found peace.

This is her path.

Learning from the best

Sylvia Hatchell's father had heard of this player from Shelby, North Carolina, not far from her hometown of Gastonia, that was as impressive as anyone.

Hatchell was a few years into her tenure as the coach at UNC, and she couldn't resist

the intrigue of someone that good from a place so close to her home. She went to Shelby High School to see her.

Smith went up for the jump ball to start the game, and Hatchell was sold.

"The referee tossed the ball up, and Charlotte jumped center. I was like, is this kid ever going to come down?" Hatchell said. "She was only about 5-11, but she could dunk the ball, jump out of the gym."

Soon enough, Smith was in Chapel Hill playing for the eventual Hall of Fame coach, who this year completed her 31st season coaching the Tar Heels. And as a junior, Smith would make the shot that'd change her life and thrust her into stardom.

Smith led the Tar Heels to the national championship game. With UNC down two to Louisiana Tech University and just seven-tenths of a second remaining, Hatchell did something uncharacteristic — she called a play where Smith, a forward, was going to shoot a 3-pointer.

She knew it'd work.

"I knew, as competitive as she was, if anybody would make it, it'd be Charlotte," Hatchell said. "She made a shot that changed my life."

Smith also grabbed 23 rebounds that game. She's since watched the film of that game, and she's not satisfied — she thinks she could've pulled down five more.

It's that drive and hunger that she'd carry over to her coaching days, which began as an assistant under Hatchell in 2002. Smith wants her players to strive for excellence, and be thinking about championships. That's why she mentioned winning one when she was introduced as Elon's head coach in 2011.

"That's the mentality that you have to have in order to be a champion," Smith said. "You always have to want more and try to look for ways to be the best you can be."

Relating to her players

Junior guard Shay Burnett has heard it once or twice.

Burnett knows Smith won the national championship. She knows she played in the WNBA. And she knows she coached under Hatchell and with USA Basketball.

"She reminds us of it all the time," Burnett said. "She's like, 'I'm the champion.' Now, we're the champions. Now we know the feeling."

But that didn't come easy.

Smith has always connected with her players in a special way, particularly because she can directly relate to what they're going through. She played collegiately, so she knows the struggles. That's something she's used to her advantage since she started at UNC.

"Her coaching style has evolved over the last six years or so," said Wick, who was a video coordinator for three years at UNC while Smith was an assistant there.

Smith credits the strides Elon has taken to successful recruiting. In her six years, she's won more than 100 games and taken the Phoenix to the WNIT twice — and now the NCAA Tournament.

The program is at heights it's never seen before. This season, the Phoenix shattered program records for overall wins and conference wins, won a regular-season championship for the first time in 35 years and then went on to earn the school's first NCAA

Tournament bid.

Smith said it was an adjustment from playing to coaching, navigating the different schedules and learning from Hatchell how to manage a program.

Then, after nine years at UNC, she was looking for head coaching positions. She interviewed at a number of schools, but the people she met while at Elon sold her.

"After I left from my campus interview, I felt a sense of peace," Smith said. "I knew leaving here that this would be the job for me."

The Phoenix has been successful this year largely because it's executed Smith's two pillars of basketball, defense and rebounding, exceptionally well.

It's rubbed off on the players, who shared bear hugs, selfies and dance moves with Smith in celebrating the CAA Championship victory at James Madison.

"Her energy, just being around her just gave me this glow," said senior forward Lenaira Ruffin. "Coach Smith has been very

encouraging, very inspiring. She's tough, but tough in a good way. She helped me grow into a better athlete, but most importantly, a better woman."

Championship mentality

Smith's coaching progress faces its latest test at 2:30 p.m. Friday in College Park, Maryland, when the 11th-seeded Phoenix squares off with 6th-seeded West Virginia University in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Smith said her time with USA Basketball last summer was perhaps when she grew the most as a coach. That experience opened her eyes to different systems to run and how others coach the game.

She's grown, too, from her time as a film rat. She couldn't wait to get her hands on the tape of Elon's rout of the Dukes on Saturday.

"Her vision is so great," said Cristy McKinney, an assistant under Smith who remembers her as a player and coached against her when she was at Clemson University and Smith was at UNC. "That's the key thing for me. The vision she had coming in, the way she was just so determined to make that vision become reality."

"She just approached every task, every day with the vision of being a champion."

Smith has made sure after winning the regular-season and tournament titles this year, alumna of the program had a chance to cut down the nets. She thought Elon had the capability to win the championship last year.

But this group has the confidence, she said. They saw Towson University and College of William & Mary beat James Madison and wondered, "why isn't that us?"

That's just what Smith has been teaching, coaching and preaching since she arrived at Elon.

So what will she tell her team before it plays in the biggest game of their careers?

"Don't get in over your head," Smith said. "Take it all in. Enjoy it. Take a lot of pictures. Create a lot of memories. But at the same time, remember it's a business trip and not a field trip."

"You don't have to do anything extra special to be competitive, to win. ... Go in and be your authentic selves. Continue to do what we did in the CAA Tournament, and let everything else fall into place."

Elon will take the advice to heart.

Smith's been here before. And she'll likely be back.

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WBB

1 Senior forward Jenifer Rhodes (11) wins the opening jump ball in Elon's Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) semifinal against the College of William & Mary Friday, March 10. The Phoenix defeated the Tribe 88-60 in the second of three games it played at the CAA Tournament.

2 Senior guard Lenaira Ruffin (left) and junior guard Shay Burnett (right) jump and bump hips as Burnett is introduced as a starter March 10. Ruffin and Burnett were teammates at River Mill Academy six years ago before playing together for three years at Elon.

3 The Elon University women's basketball team celebrates after junior guard Shay Burnett (5) made a basket and drew a foul. Burnett's basket was a caper to Elon's 78-60 win over James Madison University March 11, clinching the CAA championship.

ELON WINS

TITLE-WINNING WEEK



CAA TITLE

WEEKEND IN PICTURES

Head coach Charlotte Smith snips the last of the basketball net after the Elon University women's basketball team players each took a turn cutting a piece. The team earned Elon's first trip to the NCAA Tournament by a basketball program.

After fouling out with less than two minutes left, junior guard Shay Burnett (5) puts her hands on her hips at head coach Charlotte Smith (left), during the sixth-year head coach to be mad after Burnett helped seal Elon's win in the CAA championship March 11.

Head coach Charlotte Smith walks back to the bench March 11 after finishing her routine of talking to her team just before the start of the game. Elon would go on to earn its first trip to the NCAA Tournament in program history.

AJ MANDELL | Staff Photographer
The Elon University women's basketball team reacts to finding out it will face West Virginia University in the NCAA Tournament



PHOENIX TO FACE WEST VIRGINIA

Alex Simon
Sports Director
@alexsimon99

The Elon University women's basketball team knew its name would be called on ESPN's Selection Show, but didn't know when. But the Phoenix didn't need to wait long.

Six minutes into the show, Elon found out it would open its first-ever trip to the NCAA Tournament as an 11-seed taking on 6-seed West Virginia University in College Park, Maryland.

Head coach Charlotte Smith was relieved to finally know who the opponent was.

"The girls have been super excit-

ed all day," Smith said. "When I came down, they were in the locker room rocking and rolling in there. We've been anxious all day to figure out who we're playing and get to business."

The Phoenix clinched the school's first trip to the Big Dance by winning the Colonial Athletic Association Saturday night, defeating James Madison University 78-60 on the Dukes' home court.

Meanwhile, West Virginia pulled off three-straight upsets to win the Big 12 Conference championship, defeating No. 2 Baylor University 77-66 March 6. The Mountaineers went 23-10 on the season, winning every nonconfer-

ence game they played.

The game is set for approximately 2:30 p.m. Friday afternoon, though it could be later depending on how long the game between 3-seed University of Maryland and 14-seed Bucknell University goes. Elon would play the winner of that game if the Phoenix defeats the Mountaineers, a team Elon is familiar with.

"We're excited to play them," Smith said. "We've played them twice since I've been here as a head coach. We played them [Dec. 28, 2015] and it was a competitive game on their home turf, so it'll be interesting to see how it all plays out on a neutral court."

Elon's 0-2 in the two games in Smith's era, but the Phoenix was within single digits late in the fourth quarter of last season's 67-57 loss in Morgantown, West Virginia. The core of each team's lineup still remains the same, something that gives senior guard Lenaira Ruffin confidence that it has some idea of what to expect.

"They play a very fast-paced game, which we play, too," Ruffin said. "I think if we slow them down and play to the best of our ability and stick to the game plan — defense, rebounding — then I think we'll be okay and highly competitive."

While the spotlight will certainly be on the Phoenix, First Team All-

CAA junior guard Shay Burnett believes Elon will approach this game similarly to the 33 it has already played this season.

"We're going to prepare for this game just like any other game that we prepare for," Burnett said. "It's just that we're in the dancing shoes now."

But don't dare question Burnett's confidence in her team. She thinks Elon can make some noise against the favored and familiar Mountaineers.

"We kind of know their system and how they play," Burnett said. "[Last year's game] was a good preparation game for us to beat them in the upcoming game."



2017 NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



ALEX SIMON | Sports Director
The Elon women's basketball team celebrates its March 10 win against the College of William & Mary.



COMPLETING A JOURNEY

Elon clinches 1st bid to NCAA Tournament

Tommy Hamzik
Executive Director
@T_Hamzik

HARRISONBURG, Va. — Each morning Jenifer Rhodes wakes up, the reality sinks in even more, with the Elon University women's basketball team progressing through what's already been a historic year.

The senior forward needs her roommate, senior guard Essence Baucom, to calm her nerves a bit.

Rhodes woke up Saturday morning ahead of the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) championship that comes with an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. It's territory unfamiliar to this team, and to the program — the Phoenix hadn't played for a conference championship since 2001, and has never been to the NCAA Tournament.

The journey of how Elon arrived here begins with the hiring of coach Charlotte Smith, continues with the recruiting of championship-minded, well-rounded players and culminated in the CAA Championship victory, earning a trip to the NCAA Tournament.

It's a tale of camaraderie, buying into the system and a group of veteran players who have been in similar situations, but never accomplished this end goal.

Now is their shot.

"It's just exciting," Rhodes said. "We have five seniors on the team, three juniors. We know what it's like to want it so bad. It's been so long. We're fighting for the so many people that want it."

A competitive coach

Smith was hired in June 2011 away from her alma mater, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she served as an assistant for nine seasons under Hall of Fame coach Sylvia Hatchell.

She was groomed with a winning mentality. Not only did the Tar Heels win four Atlantic Coast Conference titles and make the NCAA Tourna-

ment all nine years she coached in Chapel Hill, but Smith is also the most decorated player in North Carolina history.

She's best known for hitting the buzzer-beating 3-pointer to give the Tar Heels the 1994 national championship over Louisiana Tech University.

So when she came to Elon, she knew the formula. And she professed a hunger for championships from the get-go, mentioning it at her introductory press conference.

"We want to bring a championship-level of basketball to Elon University," Smith said then. "Winning isn't everything, but I can tell you from experience, it sure does feel good to win."

Smith referenced that moment after the Phoenix clinched the CAA regular-season title with a victory over the University of North Carolina at Wilmington two weeks ago.

This year's been special. The Phoenix has already surpassed the mark for most wins in a season, both overall and in conference play, in its Division I era. Smith was named CAA Coach of the Year for leading Elon to the top seed in the CAA Tournament.

"We really just reiterate over and over the importance of being a team," she said. "We're better together. They've bought into that. That's stemmed into a lot of success for us."

Building a championship team

Rhodes fit the bill of the player Smith wanted to recruit to Elon.

She helped lead Pinewood Prep (North Charleston, South Carolina) to three South Carolina Independent School state championships while setting school records for blocked shots and rebounds. In addition, she was on the Headmaster's List and the Faculty Honor Roll.

Senior guard Lauren Brown was in the same light. She was MVP of the region tournament her senior year at Alpharetta High School outside Atlanta, and led her team to a first-place region finish as a junior.

Off the court, while at Elon, she's conducted research with Elon Brain-CARE on concussions.

In short, Smith wanted players already in a championship state of mind who were good people on and off the court.

"When you've been there and done it before, you know what it takes," Rhodes said. "You know the urgency that's needed, and the focus and teamwork that's needed to make a championship team."

Four years ago, Rhodes and Brown became the foundation of the team that'll be the No. 11 seed playing No. 6 West Virginia University in College Park, Maryland. They landed at Elon with fellow senior guard Lenaira Ruffin, who's from Burlington and helped River Mill Academy to three conference regular-season and tournament titles.

WITH THAT, AND THE VETERANS WE HAVE, AND THE LEADERSHIP, THIS IS OUR TIME. THIS IS OUR YEAR. WE NEED TO FOCUS AND GET IT DONE.

JENIFER RHODES
SENIOR FORWARD

Rhodes and Brown started for the Phoenix during their freshman year. They've since been joined by Baucom, a transfer from the University of Alabama-Birmingham, and guard Maddie McCallie, a transfer from Miami University, to form a five-member senior class laden with experience.

Then there's the junior class. Guard Shay Burnett has transformed into one of the CAA's best players, and forward Malaya Johnson has been a consistent force in the post besides Rhodes since day one.

Meme Garner has made an impact in her first season with Elon after transferring from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, developing a knack for 3-point shooting (40 percent from deep).

Don't forget freshman guard Jada

Graves, who's excelled at the point in a back-up role for the Phoenix.

Put that all together, and it's an experienced team that isn't fazed by the spotlight.

"It starts with the character of the players," Smith said. "I have some great players, some outstanding people. That's one of the things we wanted to focus on in the recruiting process. We wanted to make sure we're not only bringing great players, but great people."

"We have players that are capable of stepping up every night and just taking over a game. They don't have to because we are so balanced."

Buying into the system

It's easy to see how much Elon enjoys playing with each other.

There are always smiles after big 3-pointers, or drives through the lane that end in a trip to the free throw line.

As the Phoenix was thumping College of William & Mary in the CAA semifinals Friday, Brown drove to the paint, pump-faked then went up and scored, drawing the foul. She chest-bumped Rhodes and Baucom in celebration.

Through all the honors and recognition of the past weeks, Elon's been sure to note the importance of buying into Smith's system and everyone being on the same page with one another.

Smith has always preached defense and rebounding as the two things a team can control during a game. She makes it a goal for the Phoenix to hold the edge on the boards and to hold the opponent under 40 percent from the field each game.

This team does both of those well. Elon's held its opponent under 40 percent in 20 of its 32 games, and out-rebounded them 23 times.

"I truly feel it's not a better time to be a Phoenix," Brown said. "It's unbelievable to be on a team where everyone is buying in and everyone wants the same thing and really has the mentality that the team is more important than themselves. It's a phenomenal feeling."

Elon's shown that thus far in the CAA Tournament, with dominant victories over Hofstra University and William & Mary. The Phoenix had four players in double-figures in both those games, but it was a different pair leading the way each game.

Earning its shining moment

The last test blocking the Phoenix from a guaranteed spot in the Big Dance was a familiar one, and one that hasn't been so kind.

James Madison is the CAA's benchmark in women's basketball. The Dukes have won three straight CAA Tournament titles, and five of the last seven. They're led by senior guard Precious Hall, the two-time CAA Player of the Year.

Until Saturday, Elon had never beaten them.

Rhodes acknowledged beforehand there would be some butterflies. It was the biggest game Elon has played in since joining the Division I ranks.

But they weren't there on the court. Elon was in control from the onset, speeding past James Madison and shutting down their offense in a 78-60 victory.

These players have played in these situations before. They've bought into the system, and can execute it flawlessly. More than anything, they enjoy being out there together — and show it.

That embodies this year's team, distinguishing it from a group that was bounced from its first game of the CAA Tournament last year and one that lost a tight one to the Dukes two years ago in the semifinals.

This is its moment.

"We've had the talent," Rhodes said. "We didn't have the leadership and the veterans that we needed to come forth. Now we have five seniors that are great players. I'm not afraid to say this, but I think we have the best talent on the team in the CAA."

"With that, and the veterans we have, and the leadership, this is our time. This is our year. We need to focus and get it done."

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LAUREN BROWN ▶



ALEX SIMON | Sports Director
Senior guard Lauren Brown (3) shoots a jumper against the College of William & Mary in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) semifinals March 10. Brown was named CAA Tournament Most Outstanding Player.