

THE PENDULUM

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Democracy Matters may be newest Elon political organization

Michael Bodley
News Editor

A new student political organization is aiming to join the likes of Young Americans for Liberty (YLA) and the Elon College Democrats next fall.

Democracy Matters, a national non-profit and nonpartisan organization that seeks to “get big money out of politics and people back in” is in talks with Elon University to establish a chapter.

The organization’s National Field Director, Anita Kinney, said it’s important not only to educate young people about politics, but to mobilize them and harness their energy also.

“We strive to tell college students that there is always something you can do,” Kinney said. “You can raise awareness, not just money. You can take your congress-people to task for what they should be doing.”

A group of a half-dozen students are working with the Student Union Board (SUB) to get initial approval for the new organization. From there, they plan to work with Jana Lynn Patterson, assistant vice president for student life, to finalize details before presenting to SUB’s Student Life Committee, which grants the final approval for student organizations on campus.

Freshman Kelsea Johnson, who has been involved in the planning stages of the hopeful Elon organization, said students are generally aware of political is-

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Interfaith community restructures staff



The first strategic plan for religious diversity created the Numen Lumen Pavilion, the Hillel Center and the Better Together Living Learning Community.

CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Stephanie Lamm
Assistant News Editor

As a part of Elon University’s commitment to a campus wide interfaith dialogue, the Truitt Center is rolling out several new projects and restructuring their chaplain offices.

Elon’s efforts to diversify in all aspects of campus life have been dictated by carefully thought-out strategic plans. As the university wraps up the fourth year of the strategic plan outlined for 2010-2015, leaders in the Truitt Center are reflecting on what they can do to reach out to people of different religious — or non-religious — traditions.

University administration and Tru-

itt Center staff are already in the formative stages of drafting the next strategic plan for the interfaith initiative. In the fall, students will have the opportunity to give input on the plan. The committee is scheduled to unveil the next strategic plan in March 2015.

While Elon’s many initiatives call for increased diversity, University Chaplain Jan Fuller said long-term change can only be achieved through small, calculated steps.

“We take a big step, and then we regroup. That may look like we are not moving forward, but we are gaining strength for our next move forward,” Fuller said. “It’s a kind of dance.”

Keeping up with student needs

This dance can be seen in the restructuring of the university chaplaincy positions. The university is currently searching for a new assistant chaplain to take over for Adam Miller-Stubbendick at the end of the year.

Originally, the search committee looked for candidates from all religious affiliations, but senior administrators pushed for a Protestant chaplain. Administrators believed the Christian students on campus felt left out of the diversity initiatives, and as a result they remained in fragmented, disengaged segments.

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THE PENDULUM

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DEMOCRACY

from cover

issues, but not necessarily comfortable with taking political action.

Johnson said the campus dialogue could use direction and a bit of organization.

“At Elon, you see a lot of people interested in and talking about the issues,” Johnson said. “But this is not only to spark the conversation, but to encourage serious action.”

Though Democracy Matters doesn't endorse specific candidates or party positions, it has aligned itself firmly against the landmark election Supreme Court Case, *Citizens United v. The Federal Election Commission (FEC)*, which found that money is the same as speech in a 2010 decision.

In the minds of many, the ruling rendered people the same as corporations, which Kinney said can lead to “explicit corruption.”

“We want to get private money out of



Elon University students interested in Democracy Matters attended the HKonJ Moral Monday March Feb. 8.

politics via campaign finance reform, and that issue relates to every single other issue that we deal with,” she said.

More recently, in *McCutcheon v. FEC*, the Supreme Court ruled April 2 that aggregate limits on individual campaign contributions are a violation of free

speech.

“This lends itself to explicit corruption,” Kinney said. “This is not the type of corruption that they can regulate, which inherently means some precedent is OK.”

Kinney said Democracy Matters would like to see a bill passed on the national

level that incorporates “some adequate level” of public funding for congressional and presidential elections.

Kinney went on to say that restructuring voting laws may require a change in elected officials nationwide, which can be brought about by educating young people about the issues that matter.

In the meantime, Democracy Matters sponsors student internships for both high school and college students, where interns spend their time engaging with the public and government officials in an effort to spur campaign finance change.

In talking to interested Elon students who may get involved with the organization, Kinney said she was impressed by the level of discourse and knowledge students displayed about politics.

“Their experience and knowledge about local politics and engagement on that community level were very sophisticated in their understanding of how the community interacts with Elon and why that matters,” she said.

Teaching and Learning minor announced

Michael Bodley
News Editor

Elon University will add a Teaching and Learning minor to its course catalog next fall for students interested in public education but not necessarily in teaching as a profession.

The 20 credit hours required aim to train students to teach outside the classroom — ideas ranging from teaching adults how to build mobile applications to accommodating special needs in an office setting.

The minor is designed to teach non-education majors how to translate educational principles to society. Through a combination of internships and real-world teaching experience, students in the minor may meet at least one Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR).

The course offerings for the minor are currently composed of courses within the School of Education and the Department of Psychology, but in the future the minor may add options that fulfill upper-level

General Studies (GST) requirements.

According to Richard Mihans, associate professor of education and chair of the department of education, the minor is tailored to the educational needs of interested students in a world that may be moving away from the traditional classroom.

“We're very open to making this work best with the professional goals that students have,” Mihans said. “We're small enough in order to be really in tune with what students needs are and address those rather quickly.”

Mihans said students leaving Elon for places like Teach for America and the Peace Corp are being asked to be educators for the first time, and he said that without any formal training, the job can be difficult.

When more than 70 percent of Elon University students are studying abroad or taking courses online, it's important for the School of Education to re-examine its goals and offerings to reflect the changing educational and workplace environment, Mihans said.

Non-education majors are being asked to assume the role of educators in the workplace, a role those without teaching experience may be hesitant or even afraid of filling.

A July 2013 Pew Research study found that teachers surveyed at the high school level are using more digital tools to teach inside the classroom. The study went on to state that technology is being used by teaching majors and non-teaching majors alike to educate their peers in the college setting, as well as later on in the workplace.

Mihans recalled a non-education major and recent graduate who was asked to teach adults how to use computer applications in a job at Google. The student in question didn't know where to start, and Mihans said the minor could have gone a long way to help.

“We're seeing this as a very viable option for a lot of students,” he said. “We want to get feedback to continually revise the minor to meet student goals and needs. We want to have more and more options that really work for students.”



DIVERSITY

from cover

"I was ultimately persuaded that the way to move forward is to secure the middle," Fuller said. "That's what we are doing with the associate chaplain position."

According to the 2013 university fact book, almost 35 percent of Elon students identify as some denomination of Protestantism, 26 percent identify as Catholic, and 5.5 percent identify as Jewish.

In order to better reflect these demographics, the position and the entire chaplaincy structure will undergo major changes next year.

Starting next fall, there will be three associate chaplains and one assistant chaplain. Under Jan Fuller, there will be an associate chaplain for Protestant life, an associate chaplain for Jewish life and an associate chaplain for Catholic life. The assistant chaplain position is open to a person of any religious affiliation.

The search committee will interview candidates for the associate chaplain for Protestant life and the assistant chaplain positions this semester.

Father Gerry Waterman, the Catholic Campus Minister, will become the associate chaplain for Catholic life. The Hillel Center is currently interviewing candidates for the position of Hillel director. This new hire will likely become the associate chaplain for Jewish life.

This arrangement follows the staffing structure laid out in the 2010 strategic plan. It also follows the model set by interfaith initiatives at other schools, such as Brandeis University, which has chaplains representing Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

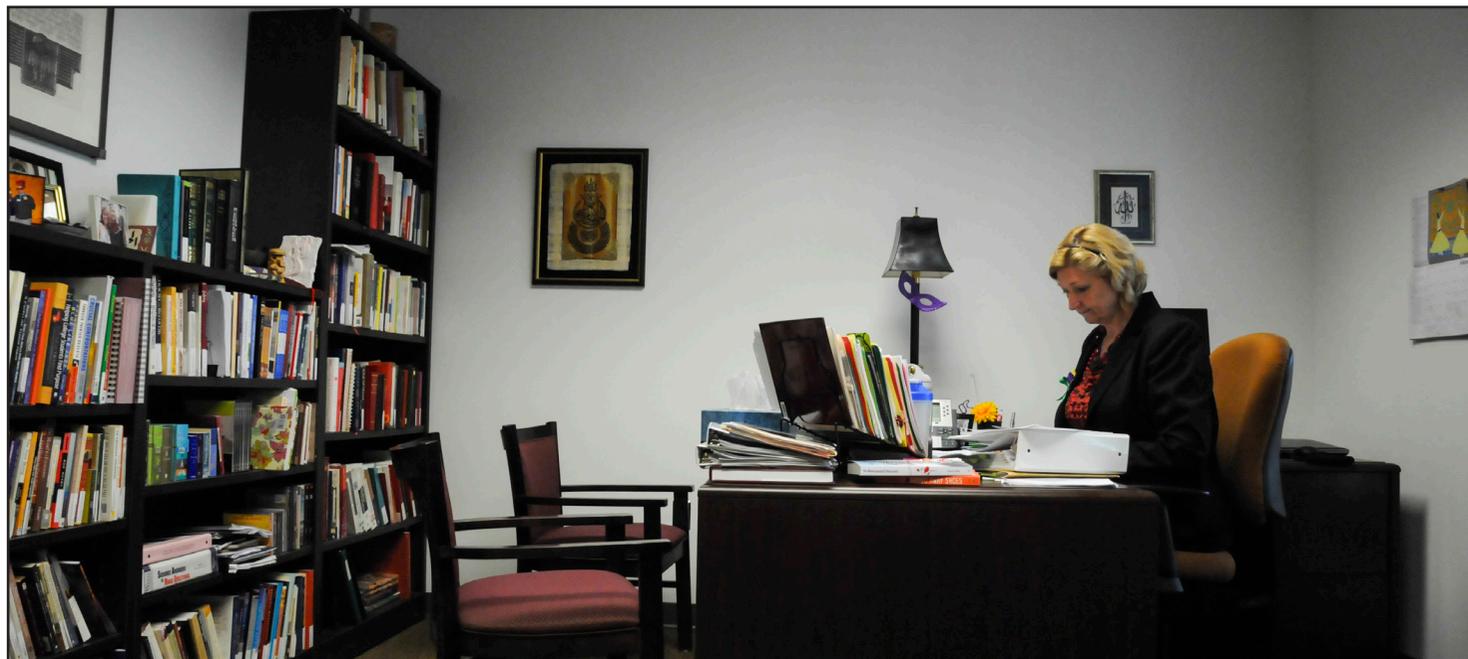
Fuller said this structure will make her job easier, because it takes some of the administrative and office work off her shoulders.

"I'm compelled by this structure, and I see how it is going to clarify the roles and make the job doable," she said.

Expanding minority resources

Many students come to Elon expecting to engage with people of many different faiths, but often this is not the case unless students seek out these opportunities.

"I wanted to come here because the school was trying to promote diversity — especially



CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

In the time since Jan Fuller took over as University Chaplain two years ago, she has pioneered several university initiatives.

religious diversity," said sophomore Shelby Lewis. "I figured out within the first few months of being here that they're really still working on it."

As co-president of the Interfaith Community at Elon (ICE), a member of the Better Together multi-faith Living Learning Community and a religious studies major, Lewis has had plenty of opportunities to engage with the university's interfaith initiatives.

Despite her involvement with campus religious life, Lewis said she sees some problems with the diversity initiatives.

"We are on the right track, but we need to work on our implementation in order to improve the authenticity of the message," she said.

Fuller said it is hard to know how to allocate resources when promoting diversity. On the one hand, providing resources for a student population that represents a small fraction of the campus population may be seen as a waste of resources, but on the other hand, students from that religious faith will not be attracted to Elon unless those resources are available.

"Do you wait until you have the critical mass before you supply the resources? Our perspective at Elon is that we err in the direction of having provided the resources first, rather than waiting for the critical mass of students," Fuller said.

Elon's Jewish population has doubled

since the establishment of the Hillel Center.

Iliana Brodsky, a freshman, said the resources for Jewish students were what initially attracted her to Elon. After spending a gap year in Israel, she realized that a strong Jewish community was essential to her college experience.

"Both the Hillel House and Numen Lumen Pavilion are brand new, quite functional and beautiful. When I first got here, that alone really excited me," Brodsky said. "I also immediately got the feeling that the university was making serious efforts to expand religious and spiritual life."

Brodsky said the staff within Hillel and the Truitt Center made her feel safe and welcomed at Elon.

"I knew that Elon was a place that cared, and a place that wanted me to be a part of the building process," she said.

Similar resources will soon be in place for students of underrepresented faiths.

Elon recently hired Eesaa Wood to serve as the campus Muslim coordinator. He worked on the Four Weddings and an Understanding series, in which the Truitt Center staged marriage ceremonies from different religious traditions.

A large part of bringing in diversity is creating a hospitable campus climate, and this includes educating the campus about faiths they may never have been exposed to.

In order to teach students about different traditions, religious studies lecturer L.

D. Russell hosted a "Whirlwind Tour" of world religions, which focused not only on understanding, but also experiencing different faiths.

Fuller said events like Holi and Diwali are important because they show that exploring other faiths can be fun and something the campus can rally around.

"Bringing in speakers and hosting events is starting to plant a seed in peoples' minds, and hopefully people will go to the Truitt Center and get engaged," Lewis said.

Exploring the big questions

However, some students who do not have a strong religious affiliation feel these activities are not directed towards them.

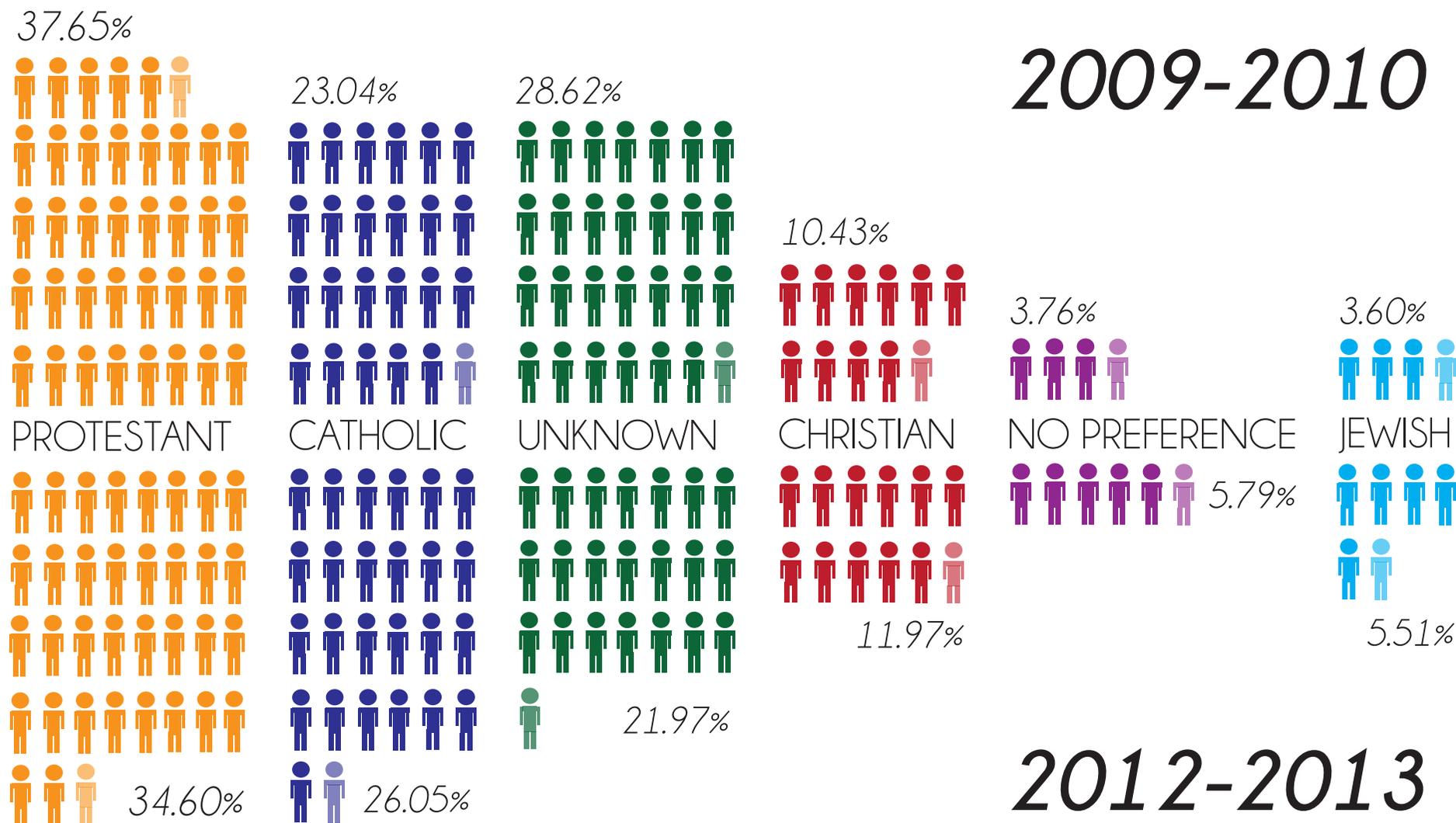
Sydney Lawton, a freshman, said she would like to learn about other faiths, but is sometimes hesitant to go to religious services in Numen Lumen because she is not religious.

"I just always assume they are for religious people, and I feel like I'm intruding," she said.

Almost 22 percent of students are listed as an "unknown" religion in the 2013 survey. These students may come from mixed religious traditions, they may be questioning their religious affiliation or they may be spiritual without a religious affiliation.

"Another way to read it is this developmental movement. Entering college often coincides with psychological and spiritual

CHANGING RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION AT ELON



GRAPHIC BY KRISTEN DEMARIA | Design Chief

development,” Fuller said. “Students may drop their religion for a while and pick up pieces here and there that they can claim as their own. It’s not because they don’t care about it, but they’re busy doing other things.”

Next year, programming will focus on what Fuller calls the “big questions” that college students face. Every Thursday morning, the Numen Lumen center will host talks that focus on these questions. The center will also take over the Phoenix Question blog, where each week, students and faculty can reflect on philosophical or personal issues.

Fuller said the beauty of this theme is no prior understanding or familiarity with religion is required.

“Every student is asking the same set of questions,” she said. “Who do I want to be?

What difference do I want to make in the world? What character do I have? What will I major in? These are all spiritual questions.”

For students who enjoy these activities and want to learn more, Fuller has developed a program to teach students how to engage with deep questions.

The Multi-Faith Engagement Program, a two-tiered training program to teach students how to become multi-faith leaders, will launch its first cohort in the fall.

A group of about 10 students will follow a curriculum they can tailor toward their spiritual interests. The program will take about four semesters to complete. At the end of the program, students will have learned how to facilitate the exploration of different religious traditions.

Fuller’s long-term goal for the program is to develop a fund for graduates of the program so they can go to other universities and share what they have learned.

Enriching student life

It was not long ago that Elon was affiliated with the United Church of Christ, and all religious life on campus centered around the church’s teachings. Students were connected through a common religious tradition.

Fuller said that, since today’s student body is made up of people from all faiths, the university must find a way to unite the campus by creating an open-minded atmosphere.

Next year, the Truitt Center’s interns will be responsible for reaching out to all

segments of student life. Student interns will partner with resident life, Elon athletics, professors, service organizations, study abroad programs and Greek life.

“When a student crosses the stage at graduation, we want to make sure they’ve had a multi-faith experience of engagement,” Fuller said. “We have to bring the students along with us.”

Warning against the common premise that we should ignore our differences, Fuller said we should instead work to understand what makes us different and how we live in the context of those differences.

“Religion will either divide us forever or it will bring us back together. The peace of the world depends on the religious world to lead the way,” she said. §

2013 saw drop in Elon, statewide performance on NC bar exam

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

With the school year coming to an end, the Elon University School of Law is preparing its graduates for the bar exam. Law school faculty said they hope 2014 is better than last year, when the passage rate for Elon recent graduates dropped 10 percent from the previous exam.

The bar exam is a test to determine if someone is qualified to practice law. Each state administers a different test, and in 2013, 65 percent of Elon graduates taking the test for the first time passed.

Comparatively, 75 percent passed in 2012, and 83 percent passed the year before that. Andy Haile, associate dean of Elon's law school, said the 2013 figure is an anomaly for Elon.

"It's been, essentially, hovering around 80 percent every year for the last five years until this year," Haile said. "We, like a lot of other schools in North Carolina, have seen a general decline in the pass rate with respects to this most recent July administration of the bar."

Statewide drop

Other North Carolina law schools had comparable drops. At the University of North Carolina's law school, 81 percent of first-timers passed the bar in 2013, compared to 88 percent in 2012.

Similarly, 71 percent of North Carolinians who took the bar in July for the first time passed in 2013, compared to 79 percent in 2012 and 82 percent in 2011.

Duke University's law school had a 93

percent passage rate, but Haile said that they have a "relatively small" number of students who take the bar, so they are subject to more statistical variability.

In addition, the data available for Elon's bar passage rate only goes back to 2009.

"You're working on a sample size of five administrations of the July bar, so it's a small sample, but I think you'll see variations from year to year, and this was a low year for us," Haile said. "The numbers are what they are, but I think you have to put it in context of the overall pass rate being down approximately 10 percent this year."

Understanding the bar

The bar exam in North Carolina, and in most states, is comprised of two parts: an essay section and a multiple choice section known as the MBE. In North Carolina, there are 200 questions and 12 essays.

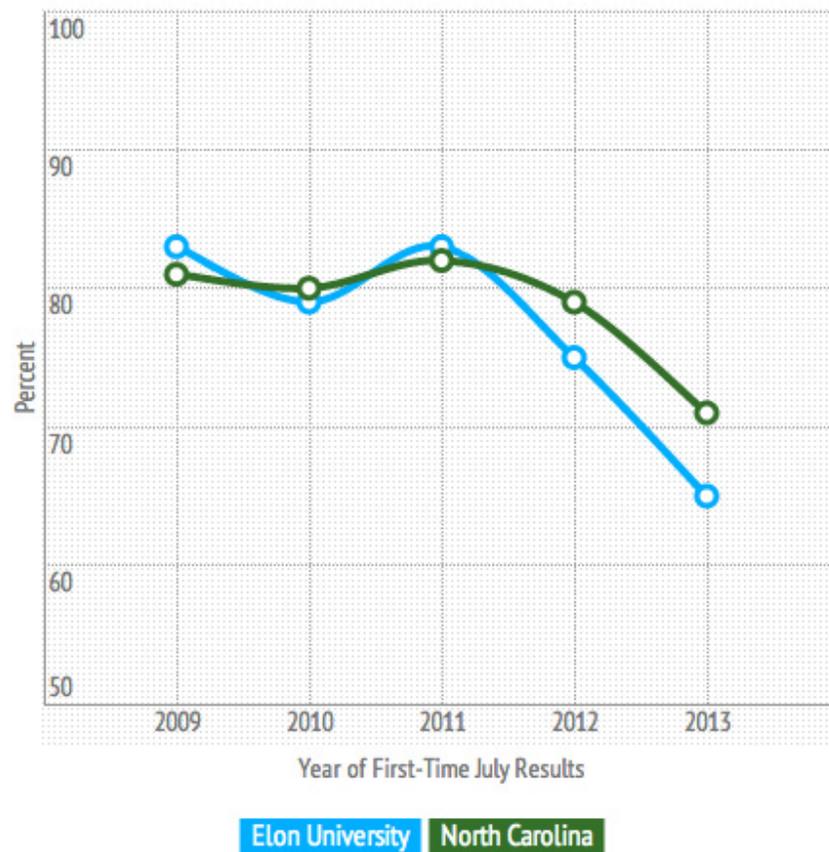
The exam is held twice a year in February and July. Of the two, more students take the July exam because it is right after graduation. More first-time exam takers go in July for this reason.

The only limit to how many times someone can take the bar exam, as Haile put it, is the student's stamina.

"The bar exam itself is a two-day process. In North Carolina, both days you have six hours of exams: three in the morning and three in the afternoon," he said.

Antonette Barilla, director of academic and bar support at Elon's law school,

Pass rate for NC bar exam



GRAPHIC BY KRISTEN DEMARIA | Design Chief

said a change in the 2013 MBE portion, which changes each year, could have led to the statewide drop in bar passage.

"They take the scores for the multiple choice test, set something like a mean, and scale the way they score their essays against that. So if you have a particularly difficult MBE, then that's going to affect the overall scoring," Barilla said.

Barilla said another theory about the reason for the drop could be an attempt to limit the supply of lawyers let into the market. Each state sets its own grading criteria, so she said a state that already has a large attorney population would be more stringent.

"If you look at California or New York, their passage rate overall is pretty low," she said.

Barilla added that the 2014 July bar

results will provide some answers as to what happened in 2013.

Haile said nothing has changed at Elon that could explain the passage rate drop.

"We've had a very stable faculty for the last five years. I don't think that we're teaching any differently," he said.

As Elon Law School students head toward graduation, Haile said the school is focused on getting them ready to take the exam.

"Even though we think there are external explanations for the most recent year's bar results, we do take it very serious, and we're concentrated on assisting our students to pass the bar exam because we know the importance in their lives of doing that," he said.

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Elon students work to help lives of undocumented immigrants

Morgan Abate
Senior Reporter

As debates surrounding immigration continue, Elon University is supporting the enrollment of academically promising undocumented students who could not attend college otherwise.

But small private schools like Elon lack the funding for large numbers of undocumented students.

“We have to be as creative as we can by working with organizations that invest in undocumented students,” said Greg Zaiser, vice president of admissions and financial planning.

During the 2012-2013 school year, according to the Diversity and Global Engagement Progress Report, Elon partnered with the organization Golden Doors to help fund undocumented student enrollment.

Golden Doors provides scholarship and internship opportunities to enhance undocumented students’ educations.

After going through the selection process, it is possible that two students supported by Golden Doors will attend Elon in the fall, Zaiser said.

According to the Immigration Policy Center, 65,000 undocumented students graduate high school at the top of their classes but can’t continue their educations. Only 5 to 10 percent of undocumented graduates enroll in college.

Usually, low enrollment results from a lack of aid and low family income.

Undocumented students do not qualify for any type of aid because they lack the identification necessary — namely, a U.S. passport.

Erendira “Endy” Mendez, the administrative assistant and immigrant outreach coordinator for FaithAction International House, an organization that helps immigrants in Greensboro meet their basic needs, faced this difficulty.

“We walked the Arizona desert for three days,” said Mendez at the “Drop the ‘I’ Word Event,” a campaign against the use of the world “illegals” in reference to undocumented immigrants.

“Thinking about it still hurts,” she said.

Mendez said when it came time for her

to graduate high school, she had to choose whether to use her parents’ hard-earned money for a college education. Ultimately, she decided she could not go to college.

But Zaiser pointed out that it is important to understand undocumented students are not the only students who cannot apply for or receive aid. No international student without a U.S. passport is eligible for federal aid.

In that regard, undocumented students are considered international students.

One goal of the Elon commitment is to triple the number of international students on campus.

“We want to triple the number of non-U.S. students,” said Zaiser. “And in doing so, we want to triple the number overall.”

The Elon Academy, founded in 2007, has been another source for undocumented students. The Academy does not ask for students’ citizenship statuses when they apply.

The four-phase program helps academically promising Alamance-Burlington high school students build leadership skills, receive college degrees and understand their social responsibilities. Students accepted into the program engage in challenging classes, a rigorous summer program and internships.

The Elon administration is not the only body trying to help attract and support undocumented students. Elon students have also gotten involved.

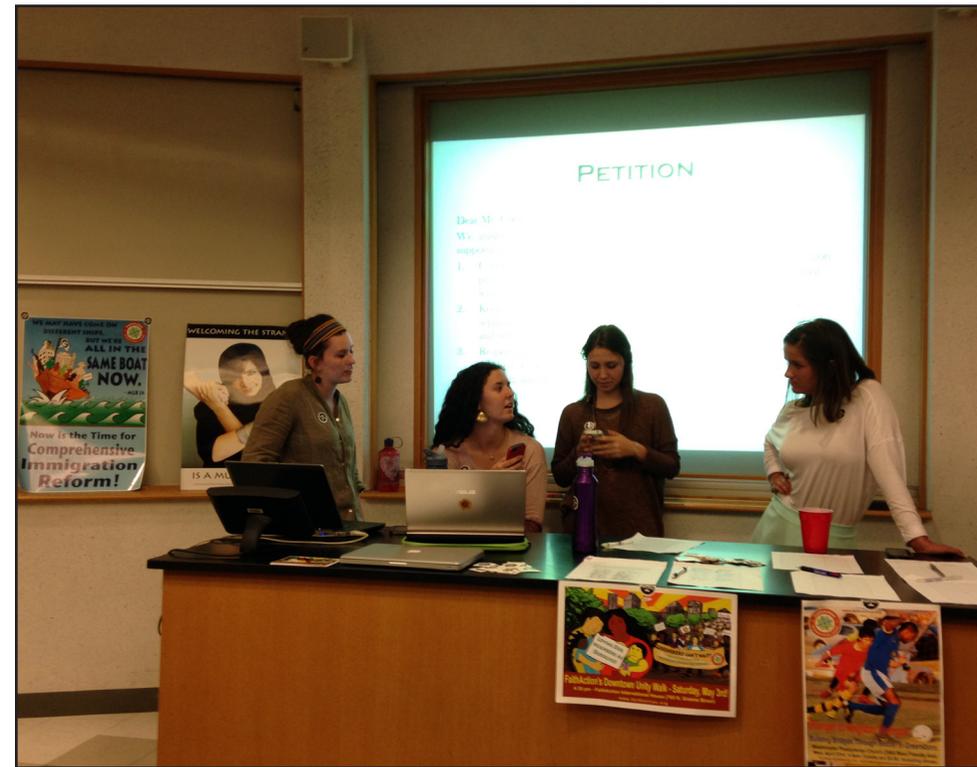
In a move to increase awareness for immigration reform, four Elon students gathered recently to share their experiences with immigration during their “Drop the ‘I’ Word” event.

“Drop the ‘I’ Word” demonstrated what the students have learned through an internship this semester with FaithAction.

“The ‘I’ word is ‘illegal,’” said Katie Russell, a senior Civic Engagement Scholar. “We want to educate Elon’s community about immigration reform and promote individuals to take action for change.”

The interns stressed that all students at Elon should be aware of immigration and the debate surrounding it.

According to Russell, there are two detention centers not too far from Elon: one in Winston-Salem and one in Raleigh.



MORGAN ABATE | Senior Reporter

Four Elon students held a talk to discuss immigration in the United States and immigration reform.

“Thirty-four thousand [immigrants] are in detention centers at any given time,” Russell said.

In fall 2012, the Department of Justice sued the Alamance County sheriff’s office for racial profiling of Latinos, a charge the office has denied.

“At one point in time, it was easier politically for people to come into the United States,” said sophomore Gabrielle Toledo, whose family immigrated to the United States from Cuba.

Organizations like FaithAction International House in Greensboro have been able to help undocumented immigrants by issuing a form of verifiable identification.

It created its own ID cards for immigrants. FaithAction ID cards are accepted by the Greensboro Police Department as valid identification.

According to Sarah Rawleigh, the immigrant assistant and resource center coordinator for FaithAction, when a person lacks identification, police need to bring him or her to the station to find out who he or she is. Usually, the identification process is what leads to detention and, for many, deporta-

tion.

As a result, fear plagues many immigrants. Fear prevents them from seeking out hospitals, from filing complaints or reporting a crime to the police, Rawleigh said.

These cards are “solutions to fears” of the police, she said.

According to its website, FaithAction hopes to deliver 2,000 cards by the end of 2014.

Juliana Sierra, a sophomore originally from Colombia, received her citizenship status in 2011 after almost 14 years of living as an undocumented student. She experienced multiple financial difficulties and even a run-in with immigration at a checkpoint in Arizona.

“I am blessed enough to have the opportunity to go to my top-choice university and to be able to pursue a career of my choice and dreams,” she said.

The students from the “Drop the ‘I’ Word” event have a meeting scheduled for May 12 with North Carolina Senator Howard Coble. They plan to hand-deliver a petition signed by supporters of immigration reform.

NC ACLU director discusses concerns over NSA and surveillance

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

From college students to professors, every American citizen may fall under the National Security Agency's surveillance at any given time.

In the Isabella Cannon Room, Sarah Preston, program director of the North Carolina American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), described the variety of ways the American government can look at individuals' electronic data. Former NSA contractor Edward Snowden revealed these programs to the world in the summer of 2013.

Preston described government programs that collect information about domestic phone calls, emails, what library books individuals check out and even our present locations.

"We all basically carry a GPS in our pocket if we have a cell phone," she said. "So the phone company has a map of everywhere we've been."

Preston described the debate over the NSA as twofold: whether the government can legally carry out this surveillance and whether they should be allowed to do it.

"We pretty much think the govern-

ment's surveillance is both impermissible and wrong, according to the U.S. Constitution," she said.

In her April 17 talk, Preston described the kind of invasive information that could be gleaned from phone data, telling the audience that it could be put together to figure out a person's personal relationships, what family members people do and do not talk to and if they contacted any organization they might want to be confidential, like an abortion clinic or a suicide hotline.

The ACLU is suing the NSA based on the recent revelations about the domestic spying program. Preston said this is because the government would have the ability to find out who ACLU members are contacting and who is trying to contact the ACLU.

"It could chill whistleblowers who want to report civil liberties violations," she said.

But as these revelations have surfaced, the surveillance apparatus in the United States has not stopped or been reorganized. Preston said the government's defense of the program is, in part, that they are not doing anything wrong.

"They say they're not actually seizing any of our data, and it's not surveillance because it comes from a third party — the

phone companies," she said.

Leaked NSA documents show that Verizon, AT&T and Sprint all gave telephone data to the government when asked.

"Any time the government wants information, they should need to get a warrant," Preston said. "That's the bare minimum. It really isn't that hard to get a warrant these days."

Another part of the government's defense, as Preston described it, is that much of the information collected is never read. It is just stored, so the NSA is not searching through data.

Preston also addressed the position surveillance proponents hold that the Constitution never addresses privacy rights by name. She considered this a "specious" argument and added that the Supreme Court has found that a right to privacy exists within the Constitution.

A large part of Preston's problem with these interpretations of the Patriot Act and other laws related to surveillance is that they are being interpreted in the closed Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) courts with no defense attorneys, only the government asking for the ability to surveil. The FISA courts have never denied a government application for surveillance.

"In a democracy, we don't think the laws should be state secrets," she said.

The existing laws in the United States meant to protect individuals' privacy and limit the government on these issues are also increasingly ineffective.

"You will never write a law that keeps up with technology," Preston said. "We have 30-year-old laws meant to address the Internet and the modern age."

Given how quickly technology evolves, Preston said it is important for work to be done now to control domestic surveillance. She described how, even after these revelations, plans for expanding surveillance are going forward.

"The FAA estimates that there will be around 30,000 drones in the U.S. sky by the end of the decade," she said.

Preston said there are efforts underway now to limit surveillance, including court

cases that will go before the Supreme Court soon, and legislation to restrict surveillance, introduced by one of the Patriot Act's first sponsors, U.S. Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr., a R-Wis.

"He is now saying the collection of information is troubling," Preston said.

In addition, Senators Mark Udall and Ron Wyden, D-Colo. and D-Ore. respectively, have publically said information that helped thwart terrorist attacks came through means other than surveillance. Also, Preston said surveys show more than 70 percent of North Carolinians think the government needs a warrant to conduct surveillance.

In the end, Preston said the NSA's programs are wrong and the ACLU has to sue for each small infraction so the country can respond to a large violation if it comes in the future.

"The unexamined government is not worth having," she said.

OCTOBER 26, 2001:
Patriot Act is signed into law by then-President George W. Bush, which would later be interpreted to authorize data collection methods used by the National Security Agency.

MAY 11, 2006:
U.S. government reveals it has been collecting data on American phone records through the NSA.

JUNE 5, 2013:
The Guardian publishes its first exclusive story on the NSA's data collection program, based on leaks from Edward Snowden.

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY TIMELINE OF KEY DATES



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Since The Guardian reported the NSA leaks in 2013, liberal and conservative groups have come out in protest.

Cheat Sheet: Inside Elon financial aid process

News Briefs

2014-15 Fall and Spring Convocation speakers announced

The 2014-15 school year will bring two Pulitzer Prize winners and one winner of the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal.

The Fall Convocation will be given by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, who won the Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of pro-democracy demonstrations in China, becoming the first married team to win the journalism prize.

Kristof is a columnist for The New York Times and won another Pulitzer Prize for his columns focused on the genocide in Darfur. WuDunn is currently a vice president of investment management at Goldman Sachs & Co. and was the first Asian-American to win a Pulitzer Prize.

The Spring Convocation will be given by Neil DeGrasse Tyson, director of the Hayden Planetarium and current host of Cosmos, a recently rebooted television show on astrophysics that was first popularized in the 1980s when it was hosted by Carl Sagan. Tyson is a frequent guest on late-night talk shows, where he discusses physics and the importance of science education in America and was one of the scientists who voted to take away Pluto's classification as a planet. Tyson is also the author of 10 books on astrophysics, including "Death By Black Hole: And Other Cosmic Quandaries."

Elon student arrested for alcohol, drug, fake ID charges

A group of Elon University freshmen were stopped by a Town of Elon Police officer Friday April 25 on Phoenix Drive near the Loy Center. One freshman was charged with possessing a fake ID, an open container and possession of drug equipment and rolling papers.



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

By the News Editors

Including room and board, class materials and transportation, studying at Elon University during the 2014-2015 school year will cost about \$45,000. With around two-thirds of all American college students receiving some form of financial aid in college and the price of college growing across the country, understanding the college financial aid process is increasingly useful.

First, there are three different forms of financial aid students can receive. Work-study is one form of aid, with federal and state governments giving funds to universities to hire students for jobs around campus, although some schools put up the money for work-study themselves. Most work-study programs are given based on a student's family's financial resources and family size.

The work-study program at Elon may, but isn't tied to, definitely, a student's demonstrated financial aid. After a student is approved, he or she must apply for jobs on campus, so being approved for work-study does not guarantee a paying job.

Because of the timeline of work-study employment, the money students make does not directly go to a year's tuition, housing or class materials. Elon expanded its work-study in 2011 with the Providing Aid through Campus Employment (PACE) program, a national program meant to help students from low-income families secure jobs on campus.

Grants are another form of financial aid that does not need to be paid back. States and individual schools can give their own grants, but the most common grant is the federal Pell Grant. Pell Grants are awarded based on a student's financial need. Other factors include a college's cost and how many classes a student will be taking in a particular semester.

The other main form of financial aid, and the one that gets the most attention, is college loans, because these accumulate interest over time and need to be paid back

by students after they graduate. Loans are divided into student and parent loans, depending on who is actually paying back the loan.

Federal loans for students include the Stafford and Perkins loans, which have capped interest rates, although these rates have fluctuated as Congress has lowered interest rates that then expired. Perkins loans can refer to federal funds or funds given by an individual college. Stafford loans are carried by a bank or credit union, although some schools are granted funds directly from the government.

Nationally, loans for students are at an all-time high in terms of dollars and the default rate. Federal loans come in both subsidized and unsubsidized versions. The federal government supports subsidized loans, so borrowers don't have to pay the interest that normally would be com-

pounded.

Unsubsidized loans are like private loans in the sense that interest rates build with time, with most still hovering between 3 and 7 percent.

Parent Loan to Undergraduate Student (PLUS) loans start the repayment process earlier than student loans and allow parents to get more money at one time than student loans. While student loans are usually restricted at around \$5,000-\$7,000, parent loans can be as much as the difference between the cost of a semester and the financial aid a student has already received.

PLUS loans also have a simpler credit check system, with applicants only needing to prove that they had no credit problems in the past 60 days.

Senior Reporter Meghan Leonard assisted reporting.



Many families touring campus must consider financial aid when making their decisions about college.

CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Changing intellectual climate is in students' hands

In the weeks leading up to an intellectual climate summit at Elon University, the issue of students' intellectual experience has been discussed in-depth across campus. In the past two decades, Elon has risen to prominence in terms of admissions standards and national rankings, consistently bringing in high-caliber students with growing ambitions and skill sets. Despite higher incoming GPAs, stronger SAT medians and impressive national rankings for the university as a whole, students still feel that the intellectual climate on campus does not meet their expectations, according to a SGA report.

Although the university has continuously demonstrated efforts to stimulate intellectual conversation outside the classroom, the overall efforts seem to be lost on a majority of the student body. Only 13 percent of students say they frequently partake in intellectual discussions according to the report. It is disappointing for students who expect intellectual conversations to extend beyond classroom walls and guest speakers.

It is a paradox in which ambitious, bright students come in to Elon with high expectations — but then join a campus culture that seems to stifle the inherently intellectual bubbles within the community. Outside of the small select groups within the larger community, such as the fellows programs, specific student organizations and guest speaker forums, students' expectations are not matching up with their perceived intellectual stimulation.

The on-campus trends, according to the SGA report, demonstrate that the percentage of students whose intellectual expectations are not met increase as they progress from freshman year to senior year. This is completely within the control of the individual students. If students' expectations are increasingly not met as they rise through Elon, they must take it upon themselves to seek out intellectual situations to bring their experience in line with their expectations. This issue is completely in the students' hands.

Although the SGA poll offers insight on the overall student perception of the intellectual climate at Elon, the university's efforts

seem to be lost in the shuffle.

The administration, faculty and a select group of students within the Elon community have worked tirelessly over the past two decades to lay the foundation for a climate and environment where intellectual discussion can flourish. Simply put, students are not engaging at the levels they are capable of.

A movement of building a stronger intellectual climate on campus exists at Elon, and, encouragingly, it is primarily student run. After a group of students noticed that Elon lacks opportunities outside of the classroom to have deep, intellectual conversations, they partnered with a group of faculty and administrators to form an intellectual climate working group. From this working group comes two incredibly beneficial programs that will help those seeking deep

intellectual discussions: Coffee Klatch and Book Club.

But these efforts will be for naught if students choose to ignore them. If the students can learn to take advantage of the intellectual opportunities at Elon they will be able to reach the potential that so many see in us. Students have to ask themselves what type of people they want to be in college. The Elon student body controls the narrative of their experience here at Elon, but as a campus students are not reaching their potential.

The intellectual climate movement is something every student is capable of taking part in that would benefit each and every one of us. If students actively seek out this intellectual stimulation — the deep conversations on the sidewalk, attending discussions that delve further in to important

topics — students can reach the expectations they have for themselves.

Collectively, Elon students demonstrate the potential to make their college experience something special and beneficial that will help prepare them for the real world ahead. Clearly, the student body recognizes that the intellectual climate around campus does not live up to its expectations. This important issue is in students' hands. The university has made incredible progress in the past two decades, but only proactivity and a renewed sense of engagement will allow the campus to attain an intellectual climate that lives up to the high expectations the Elon community hopes for.

A campus-wide dialogue on intellectual climate will be held at 4:30 p.m. today in Whitley Auditorium.



Students who engage in intellectual conversation outside the classroom help forward the movement to improve the intellectual climate at Elon.

More compost, fewer camels: thoughts on hump day

Last Wednesday the Office of Sustainability put on an event called “Landfill on the Lawn” in which bags of trash from around campus were dissected to show how much of what was destined for the landfill is actually compostable or recyclable. Because of this, I found it quite humorous when our very obvious display of human wastefulness was flanked by the procession of



Allison Hren
Columnist

one-eighth of a nativity scene.

A blog post on the Elon Awareness Blog was posted focusing on animals rights, which I strongly agree with, but I would also like to emphasize the ways the money spent on the camels could have been better used. The Fun Fund is meant to provide students with entertainment, but it's possible to be entertained and educated at the same time.

Importance should be placed on a statement pulled directly from the Fun Fund Manual that reads: “The goal [of the Fun Fund] is to enrich the lives of

all students and to provide more opportunities to those with a unique idea.” The camels were neither enriching, nor unique. Especially during a time when SGA is pushing a conversation about the intellectual climate, it's disheartening to find large amounts of SGA money spent on something that does little to spark thoughtful reflection among students.

There seems to be more thoughtful reflection in opposition to the event than the other way around. The negative response makes apparent the ability of large portions of capital to inspire intelligent discourse. Money spent with thoughtful dialogue as the end goal could evoke powerful positive change.

The Fun Fund's purpose and the ability of every student or student group to ask for funds are not heavily advertised. Many Elon students are unaware of the Fun Fund and its purpose. More advertising for the Fund and its purpose is necessary, so it can truly benefit the entire student body. More educational, and arguably more entertaining, programs have been denied funds this semester, and it's frustrating to see what the remainder of the funds supported.

Especially during Earth Week, it would have been awesome to see local farmers teaching about sustainable food production while providing free food or Kopper Top and Society for the Preven-

tion of Cruelty to Animals bring animals on Young Commons. There have not been an absence of requests for the funds, and the money would be much better spent in other ways.



JANE SEIDEL | Staff Photographer

The Fun Fund brought camels to Elon's campus to break up the monotony of hump day.

Changing the perceptions of ADHD in today's society

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder is seen by some as “not real” or an attempt to “normalize” the behavior of children, in particular boys and young men. The truth is that it is a real and diagnosable mental illness, and labeling it as “not real” harms those affected by it.

People who are opposed to treating individuals with ADHD fail to grasp the evidence: differences in brain activity and structure, as well as the hereditary nature (40 percent

have at least one parent with ADHD). Some might point to scientists and doctors who call it fake but forget that there are scientists who deny global warming's existence.

While I am not a scientist, I can see the outcry against the disorder has a real effect, especially on me.

I was diagnosed with ADHD-Hyperactive in kindergarten. All I knew then was that I had to take a blue pill and a yellow pill every morning. Life continued like that until high school, when I started learning about the disorder and my mind. It helped immensely. No longer was I alone, but part of a community. Previously, I lived my life unaware of others like me; normal people with a

brain like mine.

By labeling our illness as “fake,” the people who could help us push us down, labeling us as lazy or as “just being kids.” The brain of an ADHD patient sends signals slower compared to those without, which is why we are prescribed stimulants. Without help, we struggle through a society that is not built to accommodate our needs.

Many teens with ADHD will drop out of school, be suspended or fail a grade level. The system either catches the illness and treats the individual or fails itself by allowing a student to fall through the cracks.

ADHD has high correlation with other illnesses, such as depression and

anxiety. In fact, 25 percent of us with ADHD have anxiety, and 30 percent have depression. People telling us our pain is just a lie built to sell drugs do not help. Many of us, including myself, have experienced moments of self-hatred and loathing, temporarily convinced by a minor error or bad luck that we have failed our loved ones and ourselves.

I do not want to sound offensive towards others with mental illnesses, but the focus of the public is to “cure” people on the Autism spectrum and others. We do not want to be “fixed.” We want a society that appreciates us for our abilities and gives us room and time to discover them. We don't want people to see us as broken or weak, because we sure don't.



Tom Neas
Columnist

International groups sponsor World Cup tournament

Students brought together by common interest

Kaitlin Dunn
International Editor

The sun shone brightly upon Elon University's O'Kelly Fields April 27 as 12 soccer teams took to the grounds to compete in the World Cup.

Even though the FIFA World Cup won't be taking place until June, the Elon African Society, Elon International Society and El Centro put together a soccer competition for Elon students to mimic the tournament.

Each team took on the identity of a country, and after two preliminary rounds, each team was eliminated from the tournament until the Ivory Coast prevailed as champions.

Bringing people together

Senior Lee Hopcraft, president of Elon African Society, said he was pleased at how

well the event turned out.

"Soccer is growing in popularity in the United States," Hopcraft said, "And with good people, good food, good music and of course some great games, you can't go wrong."

According to Hopcraft, the point of the World Cup was to have fun and bring different groups of people together through the game.

"Elon African Society appreciates how much football brings people together," Hopcraft said. "Being from Kenya, I have seen firsthand how football builds bonds and strengthens relationships, and today is all about bringing people together for the love of football."

International groups have put on a World Cup at Elon in years past, but this year boasted the biggest turnout.

Senior Jake Sotir, a member of the Ghanaian team, played in the tournament two

years ago as well.

"It's gotten so much bigger than when I played in it before," Sotir said. "I was really impressed with how much it's grown."

Sophomore Kelly Fawcett, public relations chair of Elon African Society, was a driving force in planning the event and spreading the word.

Fawcett said the groups have been planning this event since the beginning of the semester.

"I was really excited when I saw how many teams we had on the final roster," Fawcett said. "It's great that so many people just heard about it and decided to sign up. I was worried we wouldn't have enough people, but a lot of people heard about it by word of mouth."

Sophomore Carlos Salas came to play for the Honduran team because he heard about it from a friend.

"It's a great way to spend a Sunday af-

ternoon," Salas said. "The World Cup brings people together, and it seemed to do that here as well."

Junior Todd Sheron, who played on the Ghanaian team, also heard about the event from a friend.

"One of my friends in the Elon International Society told me about it, and I thought it sounded like a good idea," Sheron said. "I love to play soccer, and I thought it would be fun to come out and play with a bunch of other people who share that common ground."

Music and food added to the worldly atmosphere of the tournament. El Centro provided a spread of food, including traditional El Salvadorian snacks, pupusas. An international playlist of songs excited the spectators, making many of them sing and dance while cheering on the teams.

Both Hopcraft and Elon International Society president Katie Lindholm, said they agree this is one of the best events put on by either of their clubs this year.

"Everyone did such a great job," Lindholm said. "I would definitely call this a success."

Hopcraft said he was proud of the hard work everyone put in.

"I'm so glad that [Elon African Society] got the chance to partner with El Centro and the International Society and make such an awesome event without any outside help," Hopcraft said.

Senior Andrew Wolschlag played on the Ivory Coast team and said he was pleased with how smoothly everything ran.

"Everyone was so great," Wolschlag said. "The refs were wonderful, and everything was so organized. I would definitely do it all again."

Game play

In order to make a team, students had to form groups of 5-7 players and register online, where they then picked a country to



Players competing in the World Cup tournament struggle for control of the ball in one of the preliminary rounds of the competition.

CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

represent their name. Teams included Ivory Coast, Ghana, France, Germany, Spain, Japan, Cameroon, Honduras, Switzerland, Brazil, Italy and the Netherlands.

"I think we got a really good mix of athletes who were brought together by common goals," Hopcraft said.

The field was split in half, so two games could be played simultaneously. Each game was divided into five-minute halves with a short halftime break for the players to get water.

Even after teams were eliminated, many players stuck around to cheer on their friends and enjoy the camaraderie, food and music.

Sophomore Amelie Speer played on the Cameroonian team, which was one of the first teams eliminated in the tournament.

"It didn't really matter that we got eliminated," Speer said. "I think that all of us were just doing it to have fun, and we did."

After three hours of strenuous play, four teams remained— Ivory Coast, Ghana, Germany and Honduras. The undefeated Honduras and Ivory Coast teams competed for first and second place, while Germany and Ghana battled one another for third and fourth.

Germany defeated Ghana in the game for third place, winning \$5 Smitty's gift cards for each member of the team.

After a 0-0 score at halftime in the championship game, Ivory Coast rallied and defeated the Hondurans 1-0.

Each member of the victorious team won a miniature world cup soccer ball, and each

member of the second place team received a \$10 gift certificate to his choice of West End or The Root.

"Everyone played extremely well and had a great time," Hopcraft said. "The best teams were in the final rounds, and they all put up a great fight."

Junior Stefano De La Feld played for the Honduran team.

"It shows that there's no difference between people. We all just want to play soccer and have a good time," De La Feld said.

Wolschlag was on the winning team, and said he was proud of everyone on it.

"We battled the heat and the elements to win," Wolschlag said. "Everyone played hard and had a great time, and that's what we're here for."

International Briefs

••••• Muslim Brotherhood members, supporters sentenced to death

CAIRO — An Egyptian court sentenced 683 supporters and members of the Muslim Brotherhood to death, including Mohammed Badie, the spiritual leader of the group.

The case will now be taken to the Grand Mufti, Egypt's highest religious authority.

Last month, 529 Muslim Brotherhood supporters were sentenced to death, but only 37 sentences were upheld.

The Muslim Brotherhood controlled the Egyptian government until July, when President Mohammed Morsi was ousted from office.

Former popes canonized

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis elevated former pontiffs John XXIII and John Paul II to sainthood April 27.

This is the first time two popes have been canonized at the same time.

John XXIII is known for his liberal Second Vatican Council of the 1960s, which opened the church to a modern era.

John Paul II is remembered for his conservative and strong anti-communism stance.

US, Philippines agree to 10-year pact on use of military bases

The United States reached an agreement with the Philippines that will give American warships, planes and troops greater access to Philippine bases.

This will give the United States a visible presence in the country for the first time since 1992.

The U.S. and the Philippines have had a tense relationship over the American military presence in the Philippines, but after U.S. support came after Typhoon Haiyan, support for the U.S. military has increased within the county.

* All information in briefs compiled from CNN and The New York Times.



KAITLIN DUNN | International Editor

Members of the Elon African Society, Elon International Society and El Centro celebrate the conclusion of a successful World Cup tournament.

Historic Graham Cinema defies odds

Kyra Gemberling
Senior Reporter

One quiet afternoon in 1984, as he surveyed the condition of his newest financial undertaking, Tim Matthews realized the long road that lay ahead of him.

He had recently accepted an offer to purchase and take ownership of Graham Cinema, where he had worked as a projectionist until then, making a mere \$5 an hour.

But the little movie theater, nestled on 119 N. Main Street in historic downtown Graham, had certainly seen better days.

Opened in 1928, it was once the epitome of Saturday night hangouts in Small Town, U.S.A. The balcony of the cinema's only auditorium overflowed with children bouncing up and down in their seats. The line for the concession stand filled the tiny lobby, often going out the front door and

flowing into the bustling street. The grand marquee, advertising show times for classic films such as "The Little Colonel" starring Shirley Temple, was a beacon of light to guide families from all over Alamance County and beyond to its doors.

But with the passing of nearly six decades, countless owners and a fire that gutted the entire building, Matthews knew Graham Cinema was no longer the sparkling movie house it once was.

He spent the next 30 years working tirelessly to restore the old theater to its former glory. He reupholstered all 240 seats himself. He hired a cleaning crew to scrub the building from top to bottom. He gave out free tickets all over town just to get people in the door.

Luckily for Matthews, his efforts were not in vain. Today, the theater averages more than 50,000 visitors a year, and, with its unique history and loyal following, the

future of the Graham Cinema is looking brighter every day.

Changing hands

As one of the few remaining single-screen movie theaters in the state and in the country, Graham Cinema is a lingering testament to a time long gone.

Its old-style balcony and vintage architectural designs are some of the more obvious indicators of the theater's age, but its character is revealed in subtler ways: the black and white photos hung above the concession stand, the old school arcade games stationed along the wall, the surprisingly comfortable wooden seats in the auditorium.

Matthews recalled a time when Graham Cinema was owned by Stewart & Everett Theatres and had only one heating and air conditioning system for the entire building.

"In the old days, you just had one heating and air conditioning [that ran] from the lobby," Matthews said. "But now you've got to have two because it may be hot in the lobby but cold in the auditorium."

After Stewart & Everett, Roy Harp owned the cinema. It was during this time that Matthews first came into the picture. He moved to Burlington in the 1970s after working as a teacher in Raleigh, but his interest in theater and prior experience working as a movie theater projectionist led him to ask for a job at Graham Cinema.

"[Harp] told me he couldn't afford to pay me union scale, but I said, 'That's fine. I just wanted to see the movies for free and get popcorn and drink.'"

But when Graham Cinema faced financial difficulty in the 1980s, Harp decided to sell the theater to Matthews, leaving him with the burden of revitalizing a business on the verge of collapse.

Still, Matthews wasn't deterred.

In addition to his cleanup efforts and free ticket giveaways, Matthews temporarily dropped the admission price from \$4 per person to \$1, and the results were incredible.

"Attendance went from 200 people a week to 1,000," he said. "At one time I had it up to 70,000 people a year."

In 2005, Matthews sold the cinema to Chuck and Jennifer Talley, who were the owners of several downtown Graham businesses already, including the historic Graham Soda Shop.

"Jennifer had been talking to Tim a few years earlier [when he was first thinking of selling] and said, 'Whatever you do, Tim, please find somebody that cares about that theater as much as you do because you're the heartbeat of Graham, North Carolina,'" Chuck said.

But for Matthews, the choice was obvious. When the time came, he asked Chuck to come speak with him at the cinema in person.

"[Matthews] said to me, 'Well, I can't find nobody that cares more about the downtown than the people I'm going to sell the theater to,'" Chuck said. "So I said,



KYRA GEMBERLING | Senior Reporter

Graham Cinema opened in 1928 and has managed to stay successful to this day with its low prices, unique atmosphere and loyal following.

through loyal following, cheap prices

'Well that's great, you finally found somebody,' and Tim said, 'Yeah, it's you.'

Despite initial reservations, the Talleys agreed to purchase Graham Cinema after Matthews agreed to continue running the theater as a manager.

Nearly 10 years later, Matthews said he estimates the theater is currently averaging 1,000 people a week, equating to roughly \$4,000 a week at the box office and \$3,000 in concessions.

As for the theater's leadership, the dynamic trio has no plans to make changes any time soon.

'A thing of the past'

The continued success experienced by Graham Cinema is rare for theaters of its kind. Today, there are only a handful of historic downtown movie theaters left in the United States.

During the mid-20th century, many movie theater operators realized they could double the revenue of a single-screen theater by adding more screens but still operating in one building. This gave rise to the country's first multiplexes — movie theater complexes with usually 10 or more screens housed in a specially designed building.

"A multiplex has the advantage of having a variety of different movies all at one time," said Patrick Corcoran, vice president and chief communications officer of the National Association of Theatre Owners. "A single-screen theater usually has only one movie at a time, so that's been a big change that theaters had to adapt to."

The competition proved to be too difficult for many single-screen theaters, forcing them to move into larger complexes or close down entirely.

"All the old theaters shut down," Matthews said. "They all moved to shopping centers, multiplexes and everything. It used to be that everybody went to the movies downtown somewhere, but most of your downtown theaters are gone — a thing of the past."

Another obstacle for smaller theaters, according to Corcoran, has been the indus-

try transition from traditional analog film to digital film.

"Instead of having to build up and tear down a big movie film reel, anything that can be shown digitally can be transmitted to a hard drive and shown at your theater," he said.

The transition is expensive for a lot of smaller theaters, Corcoran said, but if a theater can manage to do it, it can allow more flexibility for offering a variety of programming.

Steve Morris is general manager of Kannapolis' Gem Theatre, which, like Graham Cinema, is one of a few historic, single-screen theaters still operating in North Carolina. Morris said his theater is fortunate because it was able to switch to digital and continue to be successful.

"Fortunately, we were able to handle that switch, but a lot of the smaller theaters were not able to make that investment and get the payback they needed to justify it," he said. "That has hurt a lot of the older theaters throughout the country, not just in our area."

Secrets to success

In addition to making the switch to digital this year, Graham Cinema relies on a specific tactic that has managed to keep the theater afloat for more than 80 years.

"The secret of the theater is, basically, keep your prices down, and give people quality at the same time," Matthews said. "If you give people a bargain for a lower price, you'll be successful."

Because Graham Cinema is a sub-run theater that only shows movies that have

already been released from large, first-run theaters, tickets are currently sold at a discounted rate of \$4 per person. When compared to the average cinema ticket price of \$8.13, according to 2013 statistics from the Motion Picture Association of America, Graham Cinema's admission price is considerably more affordable.

Concession prices are discounted as well. Soft drinks and candy are \$2, and the largest popcorn size available is sold for \$5, which includes free refills.

"[Concession prices] kill you at other theaters," Matthews said. "\$4.50 for a box of candy? \$4.75 for a small drink, no refills? It's crazy. People can't afford that stuff."

Graham Cinema customers cite the low prices as one of the main reasons they continue to come to the theater.

"My favorite thing about Graham Cinema is that it's cheap enough to where I can come multiple times a month and not spend a lot of money," said Briana Roy, Burlington resident.

"It's very affordable for families," added Roseanna Pugh, also a resident of Burlington.

Other than the reasonable prices, Jennifer Talley said customers also appreciate the cinema's strict enforcement of theater etiquette rules.

"A lot of our customers don't like going to places like [Burlington multiplex] Carousel Cinemas at Alamance Crossing because cell phones are going off, people are talking ... there's no strictness about that sort of stuff, and we're real strict about it," she said.

Matthews agreed, adding that Graham Cinema only welcomes customers who are

serious about seeing a movie.

"We don't put up with troublemakers," he said. "And people love that. They like it to this day when I go down and make somebody cut their cell phone off. It's just been successful that way."

Preserving a piece of history

What sets Graham Cinema apart the most is the support it receives from its loyal customer following.

"The biggest reward, I can you tell right now, is dozens of people thanking you all the time," Matthews said. "Thanking you for keeping the theater running."

Graham Mayor Jerry Peterman, a lifetime resident of Graham who's been going to the cinema since he was a child, is a prime example of one of the cinema's many devoted customers. To this day, he goes to Graham Cinema with his wife every Friday night.

"When we're there, there are people all over the theater that we know," Peterman said. "It's almost like going to church every Sunday. They're always in the same place, and we're always in the same place."

This sentimental, community feeling is exactly what the Talleys aim for in each of the downtown projects they've undertaken, and Graham Cinema is no exception.

"When people come in, they're not just watching a movie — they're having an experience," Chuck Talley said. "It's a nostalgic feeling you have when you come back. We want people to have that feeling."

Despite the economic difficulties that so many small-town theaters have succumbed to, Chuck Talley said he's confident that Graham Cinema will continue to be an exception to this trend, and people should anticipate the theater being around for many years to come.

"You can't compete with corporate America," he said. "But where you find your uniqueness is in your history. So you market your history. You try to salvage your history, and that's what we're trying to do. There's only one Graham Cinema, and it needs to be here for a long, long time."

**“WHEN WE’RE
THERE,
THERE ARE
PEOPLE ALL
OVER THE
THEATER
THAT WE
KNOW.”**

**JERRY PETERMAN
MAYOR OF GRAHAM**

Senior dance major conquers limitations

Diana Stancy
Reporter

Julie Crothers lets nothing stand in the way of achievement. A senior Elon College Fellow, she is majoring in dance and arts administration. She performed her final dance research project, "Performing Self: An Evening of Dance and Conversation," in Studio A in the Center for the Arts.

The April 24 performance was the culmination of two years of research, largely influenced by her interest in autobiographical performance. As Crothers explained in her brief introduction, she was born without a left forearm and had previously danced with a prosthetic arm.

Not anymore. In the 20-minute solo, Crothers told her story through dance.

The solo began with a long pause as sounds of water running and seagulls filled the studio. Suddenly, Crothers collapsed to the floor but powerfully caught herself in a sustained pose. The piece included extensive floor work as she moved her body into various shapes and positions.

Then, Crothers began to speak as she danced. She expressed her thoughts as a child, how she prayed every day her arm would grow and how she longed to do ordinary tasks and learn how to French braid her own hair.

"Maybe like magic, it would grow," Crothers said between movements. "Or maybe not. It didn't happen."

She shared her initial desire to fit in and her eventual acceptance of the qualities that make her unique.

"Thus, independence grows out of a need to self suffice," she said toward the end of the solo. "This is all I'll ever have. And this is all I'll ever need. This is me."

Crothers then stood and faced the audience as she began an incredible task: She French-braided her hair with only her right hand.

"Each time I see it, it becomes more and more impactful," said Lauren Kearns, head of the Performing Arts Dance Program and Crothers' mentor, commenting on how she has seen this project develop.

Crothers showed the audience several

poster boards that highlighted various aspects of her project. Included were pages of diary entries and notes on her choreography.

This current path is not the one Crothers originally saw herself on. When she came to Elon, said she hoped to study dance from a pedagogy perspective so she could teach one day, but did not have professional aspirations.

The turning point for Crothers was at the Bates Dance Festival in Maine during a summer internship in 2012 when she discovered the freedom of dancing without a prosthetic arm.

"It was just something I knew needed to happen. I wasn't satisfied with the dancer that I was," Crothers said, explaining while it was a sudden decision, it served as the foundation for her research to commence.

It was a monumental shift for Crothers, who now has embraced her unique qualities and is pursuing a career as a professional dancer.

"I hope to continue doing my own thing," Crothers said. "I'm definitely going to perform with someone somewhere."



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
Julie Crothers' research integrates choreography, improvisation and an autobiographical performance.

Elon presents 'Time Unplugged' during Celebrate! week

Kelsey Higgins
Senior Reporter

What is something everyone has in common, regardless of discipline?

When the faculty of the School of Arts and Sciences first came together to brainstorm a way to honor their disciplines during Elon University's Celebrate! week, the answer was unclear.

"There were a lot of question marks floating around about why we were there and what we have in common," said Chris Burnside, adjunct performing arts professor. "Then we realized that time was something we all dealt with. There is metered time in music, deep archeological time where it takes millions of years for something to happen and farm time with the cycles of the seasons."

Celebrate! week is Elon's annual celebration of student achievements in the arts and

academics that runs from April 28-May 3.

This year, to celebrate the arts and sciences, faculty, students and community members have come together to present the event "Time Unplugged: A Celebration of the Arts and Sciences at Elon University."

"There is a lot to check out. There are lectures and presentations, performances and gallery showings, and there is a table outside that will be going all day long with archeological information," Burnside said.

The event will take place from 2 - 5:30 p.m. Saturday, May 3, and attendees are encouraged to begin at Gallery 406 in Arts West, then follow the artwork to Young Commons to experience a wide range of scientific discovery.

Soundscapes and recycled costumes will be shared in the Center for the Arts along with various performances, including a percussion piece that will be played by Elon and commu-

nity musicians around Lake Mary Nell.

"We want to open our doors to the community and bring people on campus," said Angela Lewellyn Jones, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "We want them to come here and be a part of the exciting things happening here, so we sent home notes about the festival with all the kids in the Alamance and Burlington school systems."

The idea behind "Unplugged" is to be mindful of the environment and sustainability, according to Jones. The festival will have a low environmental impact and low cost.

"Community members were told that we will have some tables and some chairs and that is just about it," Burnside said.

Those involved with the festival will be the ones setting it up and tearing down, and everything that comes onto campus must be taken back off.

"The issues our planet is facing environ-

mentally are monumental, and it's not going to just be one group of people solving it," Burnside said. "If every kind of person in every kind of discipline is at the table solving this, there is more of a change of something really creative being proposed to address some of these issues."

While there are currently no plans for the festival to become a yearly event, Jones said it would be exciting to think of a new theme every year.

"We will see how this first year goes," she said. "I know we are competing with Festivus, but I hope Elon students will come out and support the event."

Tickets are not required for admission, but a donation of a nonperishable food item is encouraged to help support Campus Kitchen and Allied Churches. All donations will be collected in the parking lot in front of Arts West.

Senior premieres original work, 'Headvoice,' in Black Box

Casey Brown
Senior Reporter

It is a tradition for the performing arts department to end its season with a musical in the Black Box Theatre, but this year, it's more than just the average show. The chosen production, "Headvoice," is an original work with the script written by senior Ethan Andersen as his Elon College Fellows project.

The show is advertised as a song cycle, which is a collection of songs that have a similar theme, but according to Andersen, the show isn't a song cycle at all.

"Headvoice' is not a song cycle. It's about someone writing a song cycle," Andersen said. "It's a linear story about a young composer who is writing a song cycle. This composer is experiencing tremendous loss and recedes back into his mind to pick up pieces and figure how he got to this point."

Andersen, who plays the composer, receives help from three voices in his head, who manifest themselves and musicalize his life. The cast and crew discussed the status of the composer's brain as it spirals into chaos as inspiration to use throughout the show.

Stage manager Jessica Edwards said "Headvoice" is different from a lot of shows the Elon community might be used to seeing, not only because it's an original work, but also because of its emotional depth and intimacy.

"It's interesting because, not only is Ethan a music director or writer and composer and the lead, but he is also playing the show," Edwards said. "It's just a piano and him and the cast. There's nothing else musically. It's all coming from him. It's a little more introspective than a lot of other musicals. Other musicals rely on flashy costumes and big tap numbers, while this is more focused on his journey. It's much more personal."

As Edwards pointed out Andersen wears a number of hats throughout this production — both working within as an actor and outside as the writer and musical director. For Andersen, this has been an exercise in trust because, while he does maintain control over a number of different aspects, he has to believe in his cast and crew to bring his story to life.

"I'm a little bit of a control freak, so this has

been a good thing for me to do," Andersen said. "This has been a great practice in trust. I chose people who share the same vision as me and who are just as on top of it as I am. It's great because I have an image with my mind, but they have a different one. With my mentors [Lynne Formato and Rick Church], it's like two artists giving me their opinion."

It would not be easy for every student to hand their original work over to someone else's director, but one of Andersen's mentors, professor Rick Church, said Andersen has the maturity to hand over control and accept critique like a professional.

"When working with writers on this level, you have to choose your words wisely, because it's very personal," Church said. "But Ethan's different. He knows how to take the adjustment and say, 'Let's explore that.' He's flexible to try things. Not everyone takes adjustments so graciously."

For the costume and scenic designer, professor Jack Smith, watching Andersen's journey from bright student to accomplished colleague has been the most rewarding part of

his involvement in the show.

"It's really exciting to work with a student," Smith said. "It's a great transition that all our students go through. They come here, start to learn and grow and produce interesting things. Then they graduate and become our colleagues. [As a senior] this is that early transition [for Andersen] from a student to being a colleague. It is so lovely to see. He is grossly talented, and it's nice to work with people who are amazingly talented no matter their age."

Student director Keith Hale echoed their sentiments, saying that not only has Andersen been a pleasure to work with, but he has also been supportive of the choices and input Hale has made as a director and a peer.

"Ethan is a good person. He's smart and he knows what's going on," Hale said. "He's very understanding. He wanted to get [the show] out of his hands and into my hands. It's been very collaborative, and we work well together. [With this original work,] it's a lot easier to make bigger choices."

Premiering as the third musical of the sea-

son is an honor for Andersen and a testament to the department's faith in him. They chose his musical before they even heard his music and Church said this is a sign of trust of the department in Andersen.

"It's magical that his project took the spot of a regular show in our season," Church said. "Not everyone gets to do that. He got one of the three spots because the faculty said 'Yes, he can handle this.' They believe in him, and that's exciting."

Andersen said it's nice that he gets to finish his stage career at Elon with a work he's put so much time and effort into, but he said this performance isn't the end of the road.

"I'm excited for everyone to see it, but this is not the final step for the show," Andersen said. "It takes years for shows to come to full potential. It went through a workshop in 2010, and I want this to be the next step. It's great to get people's reactions on it. I want an open dialogue so I can continue to work on it."

"Headvoice" premieres at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 1 in the Black Box Theatre.



Ethan Andersen's cast rehearses "Headvoice," an original work with words and music written by Andersen himself for his Elon College Fellows project.

JANE SEIDEL | Staff Photographer

Elon shuffles pitching rotation

Tommy Hamzik
Sports Editor

Offense hasn't been much of a problem as of late for the Elon University baseball team. The Phoenix is hitting .272 as a team and averaging nearly six runs per game.

But the pitching staff is still finding itself because of some recent changes in the starting rotation.

Elon used a weekend rotation of junior Lucas Bakker on Friday, sophomore Michael Elefante on Saturday and junior Jake Stalzer on Sunday. But both Elefante and Stalzer were replaced in past weekends.

Stalzer didn't pitch in a weekend series against Wofford College April 11-13 but came back the next weekend and tossed eight innings against Appalachian State University April 20 to pick up the win.

On April 26 against the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, freshman Matt Harris started in place of Elefante.

"It's not so much a shake-up, but just where we are in the league right now," Elon head coach Mike Kennedy said. "We're trying to get ready for the [Southern Conference] Tournament. We have to get some guys some innings."

It ended up being a reversal of roles, as Harris lasted just two innings in which he allowed six runs on nine hits. Elefante then came on in relief of Harris in the third and lasted five innings.

Harris has made 14 appearances this year, including four starts. Prior to the game against UNCG, he hadn't started a game since March 10.

"We have to stretch him out," Kennedy said. "That's the biggest reason we're doing

that. If he's going to pitch in the conference tournament and be a factor, we can't count on him in May to pitch seven or eight innings when he's thrown three at the max."

Elon has started a number of different players during its midweek games as well. Sophomore Tyler Manez seemed to be Elon's go-to midweek starter early in the year, but is 1-3 and has lasted more than five innings just once in his five starts.

Freshmen Graham Edwards, Dimitri Lettas and Mike Krill all performed well out of the bullpen to start the year, leading Kennedy to throw them into the starter's role. Edwards and Krill both failed to reach the third inning in their starts, allowing a combined eight runs on nine hits in 3.2 innings of work.

Lettas threw 6.1 scoreless innings of re-

lief against Wake Forest University March 26, prompting Kennedy to start him the following week against North Carolina A&T State University. He continued to excel, going six innings and allowing just two hits. His hot streak ended April 13 when he was taken out after 2.1 innings in a start at Wofford.

With two losses at UNCG and some discouraging signs on the mound hanging over his head, Kennedy said he'll do whatever it takes to set his team up for a good seed in next month's SoCon Tournament.

"It puts you in a tough spot in the conference," Kennedy said. "We want to finish as high as we can. We're going to go out there and throw our best guys."

For recaps of Elon games and more, please visit elonpendulum.com.

Three-headed attack leading Phoenix offense

Kyle Maher
Senior Reporter

Softball is a team game, and everyone on the Elon University softball team has made contributions to the team's success. But three players — sophomore Emily Cameron, senior Carleigh Nester and freshman Alaina Hall — have shouldered the large majority of the offensive load.

Elon's "Big Three" have scored 90 of the team's 193 runs and contributed 75 of Elon's 183 RBIs.

To see just how much these three are relied upon to generate offense, look no further than the gap between Nester — who has the lowest batting average of the three at .306 — and the team's role players, the best of whom is hitting .245.

"They bring so much to the table," Elon head coach Kathy Bocock said. "Other teams know about them and their impact on our offense and they focus on them, which gives the other young ladies a chance to step up."

Hall said she feeds off Nester and Cameron's success because it motivates her to up

her game to match their performance.

"They motivate me to be better every day," Hall said. "When they get a hit, I want to get a hit. It's just the way I am. I'm a competitor. I want to be the best, and playing with Carleigh and [Cameron] will help me get there."

Individually, Hall has been enormously productive for a player in her first year at the collegiate level. She has the team's highest batting average at .354 and has 51 hits on the season. She's also driven in 13 runs and has three home runs under her belt.

Her production, Nester said, has been anything but surprising given the poise and maturity she's shown as a true freshman.

"She picks up on things that other people don't, things that other people miss," Nester said. "She's so dedicated to her game and to improving that she was bound to have success right away."

Cameron is hitting .320, has seven home runs and 23 RBIs. She leads the team with an on-base percentage of .406, and is second on the team with a .516 slugging percentage.

Her bat, Hall said, is vital to the Elon's

lineup, because she brings run-producing power bat to the middle of the order.

"If she's on, if she's hitting well, then there aren't too many hitters who can match her production," Hall said. "She's capable of carrying our offense by herself if she has to."

Nester, the only upperclassman of the three, is hitting .306, is second on the team in hits with 44 and leads the team with 13 home runs and a slugging percentage of .660.

Hall said Nester always "comes through in the clutch."

"Carleigh's our leader," Hall said. "She's who we turn to for the big hit in the big moment with the game on the line because she always delivers the hit we need. It makes the rest of us want to match her success and be able to deliver if we ever are up in that situation."

With the Southern Conference tournament looming, the Phoenix expects its big hitters to continue being catalysts of an offense that struggles without their consistent production.

If Hall, Cameron and Nester are able to stay hot and lead the team on a late-season

run, the Phoenix could find the momentum necessary to make a late push for a bid to the NCAA tournament.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Sophomore Emily Cameron's .320 batting average has helped carry the Elon softball team in the 2014 season.

Spring game in rearview, football pushes forward

Matt Krause
Assistant Sports Editor

The scoreboard might have said “White 16, Maroon 7,” but for the Elon University football team, the annual spring game April 26 in Rhodes Stadium was a mile marker on the road to the 2014 season. Members of Elon’s defense forced four turnovers in the game, one in which the offense failed to score a touchdown.

“That’s the way it’s been the whole spring,” Elon head coach Rich Skrosky said. “The defense has the upper hand. That’s a byproduct of seeing the same thing 15 practices in a row.”

Skrosky emphasized that defense is a “reactionary side of the ball” and that he is not concerned by the defensive domination in the spring game. He said he was excited to see four turnovers forced because of the impact forcing turnovers has on a team’s ability to win.

“It’s by far the No. 1 factor in winning and losing games,” Skrosky said. “When you’re plus-one in the turnover ratio, you’re going to win 62 percent of the time. We work hard on that.”

Sophomore linebacker John Silas, who missed his true freshman season in 2012 with an injury, was one of the defensive players who shined on Saturday. With just over a minute and half remaining, Silas picked off senior quarterback Mike Quinn and rumbled 59 yards to the White team 16-yard line before Quinn dragged him down. Silas said he could have scored on the interception had he not turned around to check where the pursuing tacklers were.

“I turned around and slowed down,” Silas said. “That’s my No. 1 problem.”

Silas was quick to point out that the two sides of the ball for Elon are on equal footing coming out of spring practice.

“The first scrimmage we [forced] four turnovers. The second we had none,” Silas said. “It just keeps going back and forth, so that’s good. It means we’re even; no unit is better than the other.”

Junior linebacker Robert Davis recorded five tackles in the contest for the Maroon squad, and credits the ability to master the

defensive system put in place by new defensive coordinator Jerry Petercuskie as a factor to his success.

“Learning the system was kind of hard, but once you get into it, you know it,” he said. “It’s fast-paced, but you’ve just got to get into your element. Hone your craft, that’s what we’re doing.”

For Skrosky, the time between the end of spring practice and the start of fall camp will be spent on just that — honing the skills of his players. Throughout spring practice, he preached mastery of the new systems and the new coaching styles of his staff. He said the team is now where he hoped they would be at this point in the year.

“We’re comfortable with the schemes on both sides of the ball,” Skrosky said. “On defense, we’re lining up correctly, and on offense, we’ve got the cadence of the offense. Now it’s about executing. We’re on track.”

There is still an open competition for arguably the most important position on the field: starting quarterback.

Quinn, the incumbent starter, was 18-for-32 in the spring game with 162 yards and an interception. Sophomore John Loughery went 13-for-27 for 86 yards in the game, though he was 7-for-12 early on when working with the White team. Skrosky said the competition is far from over, and there will be battles throughout the summer.

“Mike does some things better than John,” Skrosky said. “John does some things better than Mike. It’s going to be a battle throughout the summer. The summer is going to be very important for both guys.”

As for the supporting cast on offense, Skrosky anticipates all three of his top running backs — senior Karl Bostick, junior Tracey Coppedge and sophomore B.J. Bennett — will continue to see playing time. Bostick, who had 53 yards Saturday, was technically the leading rusher in the spring game, though 32 of his yards came on one carry for the White team. Bennett carried the ball 10 times for 49 yards on the White team, and Coppedge, a member of the Maroon team, only had 13 yards on seven carries. According to Skrosky, the splitting of the teams throws off the running backs most

because of the changes on the offensive line and the communication differences.

“That’s one of the negatives when you split the team,” Skrosky said. “The running game is the biggest consequence. It’s tough to get a rhythm.”

Redshirt freshman Demetrius Oliver capped off what Skrosky referred to as an up-and-down spring as the leading receiver in the game with eight catches for 52 yards.

“He’s got a ton of talent, but I’ve seen a lot of talented kids not perform,” Skrosky said. “We’re going to keep the foot on the pedal. Our expectations can’t be higher than his. Right now, that’s probably what it is.”

Now, with spring ball over, Skrosky and his team will keep working as the season opener Aug. 30 at Duke University approaches.

“There’s no days off,” Davis said.



TARA WIRTH | Staff Photographer
Rising senior Doug Warrick (82) helped lead the White team to a 16-7 win in Elon football's spring game.

Elon golf reflects on year of change

Matt Krause
Assistant Sports Editor

The 2013-14 Elon University golf season was defined by a sense of newness. For the men's program, the season marked the first in 41 years without Bill Morningstar as head coach. Former University of South Carolina assistant coach Don Hill was called upon to fill the shoes of the 1964 Elon alumnus. The women's program, on the other hand, saw a crop of new, young players as the primary contributors in winning a pair of tournaments. With the year of adjustment in the rearview mirror, both coaches said the future is bright for their programs.

Men's golf: laying the foundation

On June 2, 2013, Hill finished coaching South Carolina in the NCAA Championship Tournament in Atlanta. Just a day later, he came to Elon to begin the process of succeeding Morningstar. After one year on the job, Hill has coached the Phoenix to six top-five finishes in its 10 tournaments along with improving national rankings by more than 30 spots. As much as Hill enjoyed seeing on-course success, creating the foun-

ation for his tenure as coach was equally important.

"I haven't fully wrapped my head around all the things we've done and all the things we've changed because I followed such a great guy in Coach Morningstar," Hill said.

Coming from a South Carolina program used to winning, Hill aimed to bring that tradition to Elon.

"A new set of expectations was the first thing I wanted to establish," Hill said. "We're not going to golf tournaments to take fun trips to Hilton Head and to Kiawah. We're going there to win."

Even though Elon did not win any tournaments in Hill's first year, the Phoenix "played well enough to win three or four," according to Hill. One of those tournaments was the Coca-Cola Wofford Invitational April 13-15. Elon broke numerous school and tournament records en route to carrying an 11-stroke lead over Lamar University into the final round.

The Cardinals shot 15 strokes below the Phoenix in the final round, but Elon senior John Somers still claimed individual honors. On the final hole coming off of a rain delay, Hill faced a dilemma. He could instruct Somers to be aggressive and try to

win a team title, but instead allowed Somers to play conservative and preserve his individual win.

"John has waited so long and worked so hard to get an individual win," Hill said. "The last thing I wanted to do was tell him to be aggressive. At the same time, I want my team to win. It was the highest of highs and the lowest of lows."

Elon would follow up the strong showing at Wofford with a letdown, finishing ninth out of 10 teams at the Southern Conference Tournament.

"We just didn't play the way we were capable of playing," Hill said. "I've never met a golfer who wanted to shoot 78 or 80. You can't get on their case. They wanted to play well."

The men's golf team will graduate six seniors this year but returns several contributors such as rising senior Will DiIanni and rising juniors Jonathan DiIanni and Troy Beaver. Hill said his focus has been on coaching that group to position Elon for further and greater success in the future.

Women's golf: youth brings success

The theme of the 2014 women's golf spring season can be summarized in one word: youth.

Despite competing with two freshmen and three sophomores, the Phoenix was able to claim two team titles in their final four tournaments of the year. Head coach Chris Dockrill's team claimed the team titles at the JMU/Eagle Landing Invitational March 14-16 and the UNCW Seahawk Classic April 4-6. For Dockrill, the wins were more about overcoming a mental roadblock than a physical one.

"This year we had three sophomores and two freshmen playing," Dockrill said. "It was a goal to get them to win a tournament and realize they can win."

One of those young players was freshman Kelsey Badmaev. Badmaev earned all-Southern Conference honors and an All-SoCon freshman team nod. She finished tied for 12th or higher in her final three tournaments and earned Southern Confer-

ence golfer of the week honors for the week of April 2.

"I felt really good coming into the season," Badmaev said. "But [this success] was a really good surprise. I really enjoyed this season and had a lot of fun."

She said the team was able to improve as the season went along, which led to increased success.

"Our team dynamic was really good," Badmaev said. "Everyone got together and we all worked really well, our team dynamic is starting to click. Practices have been going well, and it led to the wins."

Despite winning two tournaments, Dockrill said he was disappointed at his team's fourth place finish at the Southern Conference Tournament in Hilton Head, S.C. The team battled adverse weather conditions and a challenging Moss Creek Golf Club, falling 30 strokes behind SoCon champion University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Dockrill said Moss Creek is a course fit for experienced players, and much of this year was geared toward preparing his team for that challenge.

"We've had a really difficult time with that Moss Creek Golf Course," Dockrill said. "You have to have multiple shots. Kids these days are very one-dimensional. Coaches teach them the perfect swing, where it's very important for kids to have multiple shots on this golf course. That was one of my goals for this year, having the kids learn punch shots, low shots, high shots and work on all that this year."

Despite the setback at the conference tournament, the future looks bright for Elon women's golf. Not only will the current young group of players return to Elon in the fall with more experience and maturity, but the Phoenix will also welcome Heather Munro, a member of the Scottish national team, to campus to compete in the fall. Combine that with the move to the Colonial Athletic Association, where Elon will compete for championships, and Dockrill is confident setting lofty goals for the program.

"We want our program top 50 in the country," he said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEREMY MCKNIGHT

PHOTO COURTESY OF JEREMY MCKNIGHT
Freshman Kelsey Badmaev was named all-Southern Conference in her first year on the links for the Phoenix.

Women's lacrosse seeks A-Sun Conference Championship

Kate Murphy
Senior Reporter

Coming off a winning record and claiming the No. 2 seed in the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament, the Elon University women's lacrosse team is on the hunt for a conference tournament title that would send them to the NCAA tournament.

"Anyone is beatable on any day, and the beauty of tournaments is that sometimes it's not the No. 1 seed or the perceived best team that always wins it," Elon head coach Josh Hexter said. "I do think we can win it."

Although he said anything is possible, Coach Hexter isn't trying to predict an outcome. Knowing success could bring a trip to the NCAA Tournament, the coaches are sticking to what has been their goal all season — getting better every day.

"We're trying to stay with the focus of trying to improve," Hexter said. "[The NCAA Tournament] is a fun motivator for the staff and the girls, but if you focus on that too much then you lose track of the little things that get you there."

The little things are what the team needs to focus on to win the A-Sun Tournament, and that is preached at practice.

"We're entering the exciting time," assistant coach Virginia Crotty said. "I didn't know what was going to come of this year, but because they focus on getting better and better and not taking those big losses as a huge hit, they used every challenge like that to grow as individual players and as a unit. And that to me is success."

The opposition

The No. 1 seed Jacksonville University is the reigning A-Sun Conference champion and has been a powerful force in the A-Sun since it joined the league in 2010. In a single elimination tournament such as this one, every game matters, and any team is beatable, but the Dolphins are going to be the toughest opponent the Phoenix will have to overcome.

"Tactically, we're going up against a really fast, aggressive Jacksonville team that likes to score off the break," Hexter said. "They put a lot of pressure on you on the ride and get shots and opportunities off of causing turnovers. We have to handle their pressure and be poised."

Luckily, the Phoenix won't be completely

shell-shocked by this fast-paced style of play, as the team had experience playing against Atlantic Coast Conference teams early in the season.

"They're not going to be as fast as Duke [University] or [University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill], and that's why we play those ACC teams, to try to simulate where we want to be," Hexter said. "Hopefully when conference tournament comes around we're ready to go."

How Elon can win

According to Crotty, who has experience on the field at Duke University with this kind of pressure, the key is sticking to the game plan and believing they belong there.

"If you focus on the little things, the big plays will come," Crotty said. "If you get back to the basics, the fundamentals, trust your instincts, trust what [you've] been through all year to propel you forward, [you] should be confident being on the big stage."

The team isn't changing how it plays, and without having the experience of tournament

play, they need to stay focused and consistent throughout the game in order to win.

"The biggest thing will be handling the tournament pressure experience," Hexter said. "A lot of the girls have won state championships and been through that kind of process, but there's a difference to how conference tournaments are run."

As a former player who has been on the big stage, Crotty offered advice to her players.

"If you're nervous, embrace it," she said. "It's the first step in conquering nerves. Start with communication and backing each other up. The game might be messy, but you have to think about what you want that team saying about you when you walk off the field, and all that is based on what you yourself can contribute."

Impact on the team

This young team has earned some bragging rights in its inaugural season with an undefeated record at home, a 4-1 record in conference and 8-8 season overall headed into the tournament. A trip to the NCAA tournament for a

first-year program is almost unheard of, but the team has a shot at making history for Elon.

"There's nothing like the NCAA [Tournament]. It would be such a great accomplishment in our first year to be even included in the tournament," Crotty said. "It's quite a stage with the most elite teams in the country. It would be the experience of a lifetime, but obviously, we need to focus and not get ahead of ourselves. If we do that, we have a really good shot at making it."

Having to overcome major challenges and work to play catch up as a first-year team hasn't set the Phoenix back, and the team is ready to get after it in the A-Sun Tournament with a championship in sight.

"[A championship] would be incredible," Hexter said. "There are so many challenges along the way but I'm lucky. I really do have a phenomenal bunch of girls on this team who work hard and are selfless and just give all of themselves for the team. At the end of the day, if we are able to hold that trophy at the end of the season, the looks on my players faces will be the coolest thing for me."



Despite being a first-year program, the Elon women's lacrosse team is in position to qualify for the NCAA tournament should they win the A-Sun Conference.



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer
Rip Chord performs at Acapalooza,
the annual a cappella concert hosted by
Sweet Signatures April 26.



MEAGAN CASAVANT | Staff Photographer
Elon Women's Rugby team plays its
annual prom dress game April 26.



TARA WIRTH | Staff Photographer
Sophomore wide receiver Justin
Osborne (18) evades a tackle for the
White team in Elon football's spring
game April 26 in Rhodes Stadium.



JANE SEIDEL | Staff Photographer
With their designated "Fun Fund," SGA brought two camels to help students through hump day April 23.



MEAGAN CASAVANT | Staff Photographer
Elon Women's Rugby team plays against UNC Greensboro and UNC Charlotte in its annual prom dress game.



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer
Senior Sean Walmer and freshman Janee Lomax dance together during the Elon Ballroom Club's Black and White Ball April 25.

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by Tommy Hamzik | on April 28, 2014 | in Baseball | 0 Comments

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