

# THE PENDULUM

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## The two year catapult *Elon ranks 15 in Campus Pride Index*



PHOTO BY HALI TAUXE-STEWART | Photo Editor  
**The Gender and LGBTQIA center is Elon's focused organization for LGBT advocacy.**

**Leena Dahal**  
Assistant News Editor

Snug in the corner of second floor Moseley, a three-roomed, brightly colored office bedecked with rainbows celebrates its second birthday this year.

But don't underestimate the office, Elon University's Gender and LGBTQIA Center (GLC), for its age.

After two years of programming, policy changing and community building, it was announced Monday that the GLC placed 15th in a nationwide study ranking LGBTQIA-friendly campuses.

Elon's center received 4.5 out of five stars and ranked No. 1 in the South.

The GLC leapt over 350 schools since its last ranking (370th), sending a bold message to college campuses: things can happen quickly with community support on all levels.

To place in the Top 25 listing in the Campus Pride Index, an institution had to score the highest percentages in the

LGBTQIA-friendly benchmarks — a checklist of practices, policies and opportunities that set LGBTQIA students up for optimal success. The listing this year includes public and private universities with student populations ranging from 1,600 to over 50,000.

### A unified voice

When Matthew Antonio Bosch, the only hired-staff member of the GLC, began his tenure at Elon in Spring 2013, LGBTQIA initiatives at Elon were scattered.

The decision to keep Chick-fil-A on campus despite its CEO's openness to anti-LGBT rights had been sparking debate throughout campus. Elon had earned only 2.5 out of 5 stars in its Campus Pride Index that year. The President's LGBTQIA task-force had only just been launched. No formal LGBTQIA programming existed in one office space.

"I think what lacked the most was a unified voice," Bosch said. "There was no one person to go up to and ask, 'Hey, why does this matter?'"

That's where Bosch's role filled the gap. Making the GLC's presence known from fraternity and sorority life, to athletics to residence life and even the application process, Bosch strived to engage many areas of campus in dialogue on LGBTQIA-related topics.

On several occasions, that meant standing in front of Elon's head coaches in the athletic department and discussing topics that Bosch

See LGBTQIA  
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## Confronting race relations

*Community Connections to join nationwide discussion on race*

**Caroline Fernandez**  
News Editor

The first of four Community Connections panels centering on race relations is scheduled to take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1 in McKinnon Hall.

The topic of the Elon University and Burlington Times-News-sponsored panel is "Improving Race Relations in America."

Jason Husser, assistant professor of political science and policy studies, will moderate the discussion that includes four panelists—Jim Bissett, professor of history, Barrett Brown, NAACP of Alamance County president, Patrice Fields, St. Matthew's AME Church pastor and Tony Foriest, a former state senator and retired business executive.

"Many members of the Alamance County and Elon University community have expressed a desire for a civil, authentic conversation about the ways to understand and improve race relations in the United States," Husser said in a story on E-net.

Unlike past years, during which each forum centered around a different topic, all four discussions of the 2015-2016 year will center on an aspect of race in the United States' past, present and future.

Madison Taylor, executive editor of the Times-News, recently wrote a column in which he described why the topic of race relations was chosen for all four forums, not just one.

"Last month we decided our first forum topic would be Race Relations," Taylor wrote. "But after a few minutes of discussion on Monday, we quickly determined that a single one-hour forum would hardly

be enough to cover such a complex subject and quickly decided to make Race Relations the theme for all of our forums this coming school year. This offers a great opportunity for a running discussion about what is arguably the most important issue in America today."

This year marks the third year that Elon partnered with The Times-News to discuss methods to improve local and national issues.

Last year, three forums were held that centered on the topics of domestic violence, the future of the area and the issue of hunger.

The event, which is scheduled to run 7-8:15 p.m., is free and open to the public. In his column, Taylor said in hopes to have a wide range of views at the event, planners even considered offering transportation for people located outside of Elon's campus.

### RACE RELATIONS FORUM

- **When:** September 1
- **Where:** McKinnon Hall
- **Topic:** "Improving Race Relations in America"
- *There will be three more forums about race relations this year*

# Three schmears for Einstein Bros. Bagels

Morgan Abate  
Online Editor

By the time Einstein Bros. Bagels opened late Monday morning, the line in Daniel Commons already wrapped around the large wooden table to the back door opening to the newly renovated Danieley Center.

"I got here 10 minutes early because I knew there would be a line," said sophomore Emily Freeman. "We need it, especially in Danieley for breakfast, since Colonnades is closed on the weekends. It's a great way to glamorize the neighborhood."

Sophomores Maddie Rogers and Sarah Chadwell said they are excited to have more food options in Danieley this year. They lived in the buildings farthest away from the Commons than others last year, which made the walk to Colonnades on the weekends a trek.

"This is probably where I'll eat breakfast every day," Chadwell said.

While Einstein Bros. officially opened Aug. 24, Elon Dining held a soft opening a week ago. According to Heather Krieger, director of marketing for Elon Dining, the



The Einstein Bros. Bagels, which sits in Daniel Commons, saw a rush of students since opening Monday.

LEENA DAHAL | Assistant News Editor

opening was intended to help the staff practice taking orders, making meals and interacting with students. Many of the RAs in the Danieley Center, such as Freeman, had the opportunity to sample free food and drinks.

Within the first few hours of Monday's opening, the lines grew longer, and the staff became overwhelmed by the numbers of students and orders.

"We waited about 45 minutes," said sophomore Arlet VanHoutan. "But they were doing their best. They were very kind and courteous."

Pulkit Vigg, resident district manager of Elon Dining, explained that during the training, the staff did not work with meal exchanges and the technology behind it.

"With any new locations you have kinks," he said. "And this showed us the shortcomings of the system. We gave students a free coupon for a meal exchange as a way of saying 'thank you for supporting us.'"

Krieger said the staff was nervous and overwhelmed, but as students started to come in and interact with them, they started to relax.

VanHoutan and her friends left not only

with their orders, but also with free sandwiches for their patience and understanding.

"I think in about two weeks, they will be running smoothly. I will definitely be coming back," she said.

Einstein Bros. Bagels is not the only new addition to campus dining. The Winter Garden Cafe that houses Topio's, Biscuitville and Freshii has added a Chobani Yogurt Creations cart, a Go-Go Jamba Juice and a small selection of snacks. Biscuitville unveiled a new menu that has not yet been introduced in stores. Fountain Market in downstairs Colonnades also added a Chobani Yogurt Creations cart.

Vigg said these new options are all a part of the university's goal to add new things on campus, as well as to show that the university is listening to student feedback.

"This is something to say that the university actually cares about what students have to say," he said.



## Meal Exchange Options

- 1 Breakfast Egg Sandwich and choice of beverage
- 2 Bagel with Schmeer, with choice of side and beverage
- 3 Hot or Cold Sandwich (including Grab n Go) with choice of side and beverage
- 4 Salad with choice of beverage

GRAPHIC BY MORGAN ABATE | Online Editor

# Elon Center in Shanghai opens for business students

Simone Jasper  
Assistant News Editor

This fall, 16 Elon University students will study at the new Elon Center in Shanghai.

The center's program, geared toward business majors, will provide students with the chance to learn about the economy of the world's most populous country.

For the new program, Elon partnered with the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), a study abroad organization, to create custom course offerings. Rosey Bao, assistant professor in strategic management for the Love School of Business, will serve as faculty in residence.

Raghu Tadepalli, dean of the business school, said the program helps students to learn about the economy of a key country.

"China is the second-largest economy in the world," Tadepalli said. "Predictions show in 15 to 20 years, it will be the largest in the world. It's a country that cannot be ignored culturally, politically or economically. As Elon is developing globally, it is important to have a presence there."

The offerings for the semester-long program include several business courses, taught in English over a two-month period at East China Normal University. The core course, "Business in China: Introduction to Culture & Language," has a Chinese language component.

For the remaining weeks of the semester, students are required to have internships, with Bao as internship adviser.

"An internship in a market such as China is valuable," Bao said. "Employers will be impressed that they also learned about another culture."

Elon also has centers in Florence, London and San Jose, Costa Rica.

Elon Centers differ from other study abroad programs because they have at least one Elon faculty member on site and include custom course offerings.

Bill Burress, associate director of study abroad and the program director for the Shanghai center, said creating the new center might draw more people to that part of the world.

"Our study abroad numbers tend to be Eurocentric," Burress said. "The center programs tend to draw students to places they wouldn't consider. Especially in business, the markets that are up-and-coming aren't really in Europe."

Elon already has a business course in Asia, called "Business in the Pacific Rim." During the Winter Term program, students travel to Cambodia, Hong Kong and Thailand. But Bao said the Shanghai semester gives students more exposure to the region's economy and culture.

"This is really a unique and different experience," Bao said. "Past semester-long study abroad sessions have not offered as much. We have not done anything in Asia, especially not in emerging markets."

Elon offers another study abroad program in Shanghai, which focuses on Chinese language, history and culture. The new program's curriculum will help business students stand out in the job market, according to Burress.

"The goal is that when these students are interviewing for businesses and jobs, they can talk about their study abroad experience and relate it to the jobs," Burress said. "It will give them an advantage."

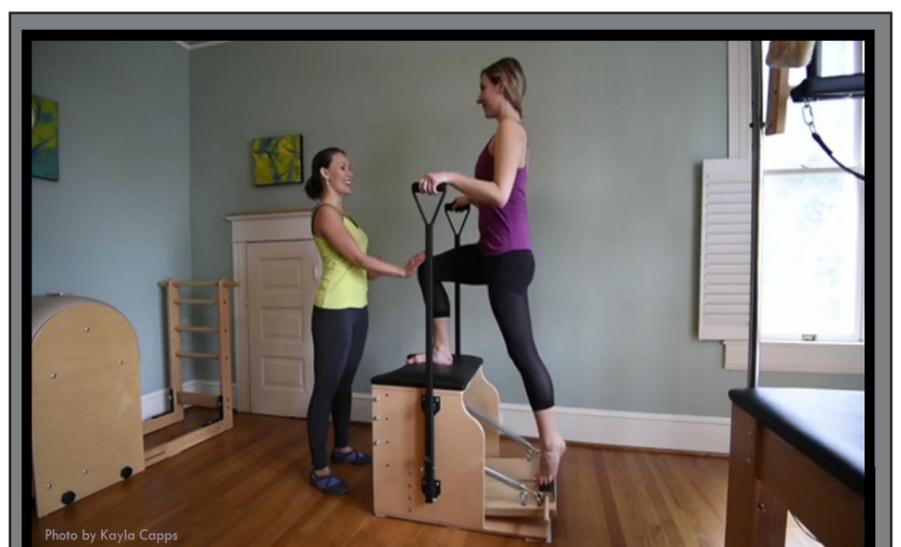


Photo by Kayla Capps

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## LGBTQIA from cover

said a few were uncomfortable with.

"I would be talking to some people who had never even thought about LGBTQIA identities and concerns in their department before," he said. "But they would ask questions and engage thoroughly in the discussion — even if they were red in the face throughout much of the process."

Many students — including junior Sophie Natan, president of Spectrum — credit Bosch's eagerness to bring LGBTQIA discussion into classrooms, office spaces and residence halls, to much of Elon's advancements in LGBTQIA inclusivity.

"Bosch has completely overhauled how Elon administration approaches Gender and LGBTQIA topics," Natan said. "He uses his kindness, quiet influence and infectious happi-

ness to educate a wide range of organizations on campus."

Joelle Halle, a junior at Elon, can attest to this. Though she has only met Bosch on one occasion — a discussion on LGBTQIA-friendly reporting which he led in one of her communications class — he left a lasting impression.

"He kept my attention from the minute he walked into our class until the minute he left," she said. "I know that if I ever had any questions about the LGBTQIA community, I could go to him without hesitation or fear of judgement and he would be thrilled to answer my questions."

Through continued efforts from the GLC, Inclusive Community Council and Spectrum — to name a few active organizations — and members of the overall faculty, staff, and student body, today Elon is one of only 12 schools that gives prospective students the option to self-identify on applications. Seventy universal bathrooms can be found all over campus. Ath-

letes participating on intramural sports teams can play with the gender they identify with.

Current students and alumni can change gender markers and names on transcripts and diplomas. Individuals with different gender identities can live together in several residential spaces including Oaks and Colonnades.

LGBTQIA-identifying seniors now look forward to the third Lavender Graduation, an annual scholarship and graduation ceremony. More than 10 nationally acclaimed speakers have hosted campus-wide discussions on LGBTQIA rights. And the list of advancements just keeps growing.

Thousands of rainbow-colored 'bELONG' pins later, Bosch finds it difficult to explain the momentum on campus.

"I really can't explain it," he said. "I think a lot of it connects to national discussions on LGBTQIA rights, responses to violent acts in the region and increased visibility. It caused all this dialogue and — in many ways — led to

how fast things could be changed and introduced at Elon."

Natan said she was ecstatic about the new ranking but not surprised.

"Many people have put hard work into changing attitudes around Elon," she said. "And I've never been more proud to be an Elon student during a time of such growth."

With 3.5 percent of the incoming class identifying as part of the LGBTQIA community and with the many individuals and allies not reported in that statistic, Natan is excited for future progress at Elon and hopes that Spectrum will continue playing a role in serving as a place where anyone, regardless of identity and background, can feel welcome, safe and heard.

"Regardless of this achievement, I recognize that progress regarding diversity and intersectionality of identities at Elon can not stop now," Natan said. "And because of people like Matthew Antonio, it won't."

# Community members unite in building 'Allymance County'

Leena Dahal and Max Garland  
Assistant News Editors

From Drag Queen bingo at the church to Alamance County's first Pride Parade, Alamance Pride, the area's newly created nonprofit organization supporting the LGBTQIA communities, guarantees no silence this year.

The organization's most anticipated event, Alamance County's first annual Pride Festival, will take place Oct. 10 near the old historical train depot in downtown Burlington. The event, for which Elon University is an official sponsor, will feature musical acts, vendors, pride gifts, drag queens, entertainment and ways for people to get connected services and vendors.

Until October, Bosch said there will be plenty of opportunities for LGBTQIA individuals and their allies to meet, greet and showcase pride. Last Friday's Drag Queen Bingo Night at the Elon Community Church raised more than \$1,000 for LGBTQIA resource and support.

"The church was a little nervous at first, but it turned out to be a great time and a lot of people showed up," said Orwig. "Everyone left with a big smile on their face."

The Pride website teases the next installation, called "Blue Light Drag Queen Bingo," which will take place Sept. 25 and help raise funds for Alamance Pride.

All the events are tied together with the goal that individuals belonging to and living in Alamance County are aware of LGBTQIA support systems and resources, and that their identities are visible and accepted in the community.

### Momentum gains over summer

The voices of LGBTQIA-identifying individuals amplified nationwide over the summer.

When the Supreme Court ruled in favor of legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide in June reverberated back to Elon, members of the Elon Community Church thought they were dreaming.

"The mood was celebration," said senior pastor Rev. Randy Orwig. "We were still kind of pinching ourselves at the progress that was made with that decision. It all just unfolded so quickly."

Orwig said the church, which has become an active part of Elon's



Last Friday's Drag Queen Bingo Session, at the Elon Community Church, raised more than \$1,000 for LGBTQIA resource and support. The next edition will take place Sept. 25, to raise funds for Alamance pride.

LGBTQIA community, felt the decision was a step in the right direction for gay rights. Events scheduled by the Elon Community Church, Elon University's Gender and LGBTQIA Center and the University itself, will continue to increase progress and awareness, at least in Alamance County.

"At Elon, I feel good vibes about gay rights," Orwig said. "People feel safe to be themselves here. But in the rest of Alamance County, I'm not sure I can say that. We can't say that until there is more work done to raise awareness there."

### Alamance Pride

On June 25, 2015, a Facebook page titled "Alamance Pride" was created. Within a couple of hours, it garnered more than 200 likes.

Around mid morning the very next day, an invitation was sent out on the page, calling upon members of Alamance County to meet and celebrate the Supreme Court's ruling.

The instructions were simple: show up at Mosca's, an Italian restaurant on E. Front Street, at around 8 p.m. to celebrate. Though the notice was short, more than 40 people attended. Seeing that, members of Alamance County — including Matthew Antonio Bosch, director of Elon's GLC — knew

that Alamance County was ready for an Alamance Pride.

"We thought, 'If we could get more than 40 people to show up within an hour of notice, just think about what more we could do,'" Bosch said.

Discussions around creating an established support and programming community for LGBTQIA individuals in Alamance County had been in place for years. The summer ruling gave the final push, reaffirming the county's previous efforts and widening possibilities for further visibility.

After conversations with the City of Burlington, the Police Department, local businesses and residents, members of Alamance County came together to form Alamance Pride. It is the county's first nonprofit organization serving the LGBTQIA communities by organizing and presenting annual Pride festivals.

To Orwig, the group's existence is a miracle.

"We thought being gay and being in Alamance County just didn't go together," he said. "But it turned out to be the opposite. It's been really cool to see how this has all come together."

For Bosch, the creation of the organization will place Burlington and Alamance County on the map in ways people are not expect-

ing. He noted that Pride Parades are prominent in North Carolina. Raleigh has one, Durham has one — and if you keep going, Winston-Salem, Salisbury and Charlotte all have their own.

"And then, there's Burlington," he said. "It just sticks out as another large city that does not have a Pride festival, so I think this group will be one that comes out of the folds a lot."

Bosch is joined by nine other board members including Elon faculty members Laurin Kier, assistant professor of sociology and Lynn Huber, associate professor of religious studies.

### University at center of Burlington's LGBTQIA support

For Bosch, Elon University sits at a powerful position in terms of changing a culture, movement and country.

"People view Elon University as the most affirming area in the county, and that's infectious," he said. "We create more opportunities for people to ask tough questions and that so powerful in shaping a movement."

Upcoming opportunities at Elon include Thursday's LGBTQIA & Ally New Student Welcome, the "Making Sense of Religious Freedom & Marriage Equality" panel

Sept. 17 and events for National Coming Out Week, which will begin Oct. 5 and include student discussions and ally training.

These events are especially important for the LGBTQIA community, which still has progress to make even after same-sex marriage legalization, according to Orwig.

"There is one caveat," he said. "Marriage is legal, but you can still be fired in North Carolina for being gay. And no one can do anything about that."

The national issues do not stop there, according to Joel Harter, Elon University's associate chaplain for Protestant Life.

"The ruling was absolutely huge, but there are still inequalities out there," he said. "Hospital visitation rights, guardianship and rules against employment discrimination are some of the major areas that still need to be worked on."

In North Carolina, homicides against LGBT citizens have been especially jarring to the community.

Last November, Stephen White, a gay veteran living in Greensboro, died after enduring burns to 52 percent of his body in a hate crime. Nine months later, the body of Elisha Walker, a 20-year-old transgender woman who had been missing for almost a year, was found in a crude grave in Salisbury, North Carolina — just an hour outside Burlington.

Suicide rates are also very high, especially among the transgender community. Blake Brockington, an 18-year-old transgender boy who had become a symbol for trans rights after being crowned Homecoming King at his school in Charlotte, took his life in March.

While headlines on losses in the LGBTQIA community have been published, Bosch said that visibility is key in gaining acceptance and support. Alamance Pride and Elon University's support in its events and programming is just one of many steps to create an Allymance Community.

"This court decision, for many of us, really reaffirms this notion that we are just as valued as humans as anyone else," Bosch said. "Now, it has really pushed people to think twice about their thoughts about LGBTQIA people — especially as our visibility and acceptance is out there in the open to a greater extent."

# Alamance County's Confederate statue rally

*Want a complicated news story explained? Email [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) and find it in next week's Cheat Sheet*



COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Over the summer, conversations surrounding the removal of the Confederate flag and symbols spread to Alamance County.

## By the News Editors

July 18, a rally against the call to remove the Common Soldier Statue at the Alamance County Historic Courthouse drew roughly 1,500 supporters to its location, along with national news attention.

The statue depicts an unnamed Civil War Confederate soldier, angering those who view Confederate imagery as a symbol of racism and slavery. Supporters of the statue contend that it represents heritage and Southern pride. The statue remains standing at the courthouse after county commissioners said it would only stay two days after the rally.

## The buildup

An online petition started by Alamance County resident James Myrick called to organize a rally of people supporting the Confederate symbol. It was created in response to calls for the removal of Confederate imagery across the South in the wake of shootings at a historically black church

by a man wearing Confederate imagery. The most notable Confederate image removal spurred by the shooting was the Confederate flag on the South Carolina State House grounds.

After a larger-than-expected response to the petition through Facebook — the page garnered more than 3,000 likes — the organizers' permit was revoked and they had to apply for a new one that would allow them to host more than 1,000 people. Graham Police Captain Steve McGilvray called it an unprecedented event, according to an ABC11 report.

## The rally

Noon - 2 p.m. July 18, the courthouse square was packed with Confederate flags and clothing. Speakers, including members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and Concerned Citizens of Alamance County, discussed Confederate history and how locals should stand up for their ancestry. Petitions were passed around to add to the thousands of the signatures already obtained.

No counter-demonstration to the pro-Confederate statue rally occurred. According to a Times-News report, 50 officers from different departments were prepared for potential conflict. Most of the demonstrators filed out before 2 p.m.

## Region-wide impact

North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory signed a monuments bill July 24, which would protect Confederate memorials in the state. The bill removes local control over monuments, and only the General Assembly would be able to take down the memorial.

A petition calling for the removal of the sale of license plates with Confederate imagery did draw approval from McCrory, but he said he would wait for General Assembly approval before making an official decision.

Stokes County, Hillsborough and Monroe, North Carolina each had rallies in August in support of keeping Confederate imagery present across the state.

## News Briefs

### Burlington introduces Link Transit

The Burlington City Council recently approved a proposal for a name, tagline and logo for the city's upcoming public transit system. The new system, called LINK Transit, will begin operating in spring 2016, according to the city's website. The city worked with Quest Corporation of America for branding, marketing and educating the public about the system. The city also created a survey for the public, and feedback was taken into consideration during the naming process, approved Aug 17.

### Elon to host meal-packaging event Aug. 29

Elon University is hosting Stop Hunger Now, a meal-packaging event, Saturday, Aug. 29 9 a.m. - noon in McKinnon. The event is intended for first-year students and aims to raise awareness about the issue of hunger and highlight service opportunities on campus. Stop Hunger Now, a Raleigh-based organization, has provided more than 200 million meals to people in 71 countries since its start in 1998. Additional information about Elon's event can be found on the Fall 2015 Diversity Education page of the university's website.

### Town of Elon bans e-cigarettes on its properties

The Town of Elon's Board of Aldermen voted Aug. 11 to ban the use of electronic cigarettes in municipal buildings and parks. "It shall be unlawful for any person to smoke or use an e-cigarette in any building now or hereafter owned, leased, operated, occupied, managed or controlled by the Town," the revised smoking ordinance says. The city has the ability to designate areas for smoking and e-cigarette use, according to the ordinance.

## CRIME REPORT

### August 22 VANDALISM

#### E TROLLINGER AVE, ELON:

A woman reported that an unknown person damaged her mailbox at some point between 11 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday, according to Town of Elon police reports. The woman said she saw some people in her parking lot around 2 a.m.

### August 24 BREAK-IN

#### GREEN STREET, GRAHAM:

An elderly woman answered the door to her home, and a man in his twenties allegedly forced his way in while carrying a laptop, according to the Burlington Police Department. The man told her he helped seniors, but the woman didn't know his identity or his purpose for being there. He eventually left in a red SUV without taking anything.

### August 24 ROBBERY

#### HANFORD ROAD, BURLINGTON:

Two women allegedly arranged a meet-up with a victim to be robbed at a Burlington hotel late Saturday night, according to the Burlington Police Department. While they were talking to the victim, three men approached and demanded money from him. One of the men went through the victim's pockets. No injuries were reported. The two women have been arrested, while the man who robbed the victim at gunpoint has been charged but not found.

# Editorial

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

## Make Elon 101 more collaborative

Elon 101 teaching assistants (TAs) are often some of the first upperclassmen at Elon University to come into contact with new students.

On paper, the TA serves only as an assistant to the faculty or staff member instructor and explains parts of Elon the instructor isn't familiar with. But the TA should take a more interactive role that allows him or her to better engage new students and prepare them for life at Elon both inside and outside the classroom.

It is not enough to merely assist. TAs must develop collaborative teaching partnerships with their supervising instructors in order to adequately prepare new students for academic and social life at Elon.

A TA's most important role is that of role model and peer mentor to new students. Director of Elon 101 Brandy Propst said a TA, as a type of peer mentor, is effective in providing new students with peer support, acclimating them to campus and helping them with academic and social integration. She also said peer mentors, in this case TAs, help students become more invested in the larger campus community and assist in student retention.

By taking greater roles in the planning and leading

of Elon 101 courses, TAs can build stronger, more supportive relationships with new students and encourage them to reach out in the event of questions or crises.

While the faculty or staff instructor is able to provide information on academic expectations, a TA can explain meal plans, campus events and residence halls — things new students know little about.

Nearly all incoming students — more than 98 percent — take Elon 101 their first year on campus, Propst said. The course is a continuation of new student orientation that serves as an introduction to life at Elon and explains such topics as the Honor Code, academic expectations and life on campus to new students.

"The primary goal of Elon 101 is to equip students with academic advising goals," said Academic Advising Fellow Audra Pretty.

Over the semester-long seminar course, new students, their instructor and their TA go over coursework and create a graduation plan. The Elon 101 instructor, who also serves as the new students' academic adviser until they declare a major, trains students to work with and follow these plans over the course of

their college careers.

The TA is particularly useful in these situations because most instructors don't know how to use tools such as OnTrack, which new students will use to register for courses, view their degree audits and apply for on-campus housing. The TA is able to show new students how to use tools and websites that faculty and staff members are unfamiliar with and offer advice and tips.

Elon 101 instructors need to recognize that their student TAs have different areas of knowledge and allow them to apply this knowledge during class meetings. With instructor assistance, TAs will be able to take on more responsibility for the students in their Elon 101 class and make guiding these students through their transition into college a priority.

By adopting a form of co-teaching, at least in practice, Elon 101 instructors and their TAs can play to their respective strengths in order to better prepare new students for the years ahead and to make Elon 101 a more effective and satisfying experience for everyone involved.

# Experiences over expectations

Coming into college, many of us were told, "Watch out for the Freshman 15," those pounds you may or may not pick



Lauren Phillips  
Columnist

up after late-night snacks and forgetting to go to the gym for a few weeks in a row.

It doesn't end with freshman year, though. The Sophomore Slump, Junior Year Sucks, Senioritis — these expectations persist

each year of college and rob us of our right to make what is arguably the most defining experience of our lives our own. And we need to stop putting up with it.

Three years ago, I — like most incoming freshmen — was excited to be in a new place, meet new people, figure out who I was without my family around and maybe even learn a thing or two in class. But as excited as I was for all that, I couldn't help but worry about the Freshman 15.

Gaining a few pounds wouldn't have been the end of the world for me, but knowing that it was practically expected, I found myself watching the scale, terrified to see those numbers rise. I couldn't ward off the feeling that, when I returned home over break, my friends and family would be looking for those extra pounds.

It was the expectation that bothered me. Why should anyone else expect

something from my freshman year? I felt like my experience at college wasn't completely my own, like other people were watching and waiting for me to change in a prescribed way. The looming expectation prevented my freshman year from being defined by the friends I made or the things I learned. Instead, it was defined by the Freshman 15.

And it didn't end after freshman year. The summer before I returned for my second year at Elon, I heard rumors of a Sophomore Slump.

Sure enough, my sophomore year, I was prepared for things to go downhill. Everything that went wrong that year — a fight with a friend, a bad grade, a bout of sickness — I blamed on the Sophomore Slump. In the face of the expectation that I would have a bad year, I did, and I felt helpless to stop it.

By junior year, I was finished listening to what other people expected from my year. And, lo and behold, I had my best year of college yet.

Now, as a senior, I'll tell you a secret: each year of college is not defined by anything, unless you let it. Focus on the experiences you have throughout the year and wait to determine what defined your year until you can look back on it. Don't go into this year expecting it to be a certain way just because your older friends or parents told you it would be.

Yes, things happen. Yes, sophomore year may not be your best year, or you'll have a hard time staying focused in class senior year. But don't go into this year



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY HALEY LONGBOTTOM | Design Editor

Fear of the Freshman 15 — gaining 15 pounds over the course of freshman year — haunts many.

expecting these things. By perpetuating the idea that each year of college is defined by something negative, we are affecting how we — and any college students who come after us — experience these years.

So let's decide not to announce to

the world our determination to avoid or achieve the Freshman 15, or the Sophomore Slump, or Senioritis. Let's agree to let each year be what it is, defined by the experiences we have during it, not by expectations others give us. I think, if we do that, we'll all enjoy this year a little more.

## THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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# Students want best option for textbooks

There are plenty of demands and concerns associated with moving back to college and starting a new semester.



**Tim Melton**  
Columnist

It would be nice if acquiring textbooks weren't one of them.

With a new semester comes new classes, and with new classes come new textbooks. As another new year at Elon University begins, students are forced to brace

themselves — and their wallets — as they prepare to order textbooks.

Depending on the classes and subject, textbooks, even used ones or rentals, can cost hundreds of dollars. As such, when it comes to purchasing their required books, students naturally gravitate toward venues that promise both convenient service and reasonable pricing. Unfortunately, even with an official campus bookstore, finding a venue that offers both isn't as easy as it sounds.

One might initially think that the university's Barnes & Noble bookstore would be the most appropriate place to buy textbooks. Issues in the way the bookstore's textbook service is run seriously affect the students who use it.

Still, it could hardly be considered a non-option, because its proximity to campus provides a level of convenience that other venues of textbook purchasing can't match. It's only a few steps from campus, and its access to course catalogs practically guarantees that it will have the necessary textbooks in stock.

But it seems that each year, more and more students are choosing to order their books online through retailers such as Chegg and Amazon, denying the bookstore a significant portion of its consumer base. While the bookstore has made strides in providing digital content through its Yuzu eTextbook service, it does not appear to have made an impact on public opinion.

Simply put, textbook prices at the bookstore are more often than not significantly higher than those offered by its competition. They're affordable, yes, but nowhere close to the best deals available. In addition, there have been instances in the past of poor communication between the bookstore and Elon professors, which in turn can lead to problems such as too few textbooks and wrong editions.

Late orders and the university's add/drop period only further highlight the bookstore's major issues with flexibility and quick adjustments.

The bookstore is too unreliable and does not offer low enough prices to become the quick, cheap solution to buying textbooks students are looking for. It certainly has potential, but it cannot survive solely on the idea of university loyalty.

Hopefully, these unfavorable trends are showing the bookstore that change is necessary, and the situation could eventually improve for students who are patient enough — or who have enough years left at Elon — to wait. Until such a time, though, students are left with too many better options.

# Campus Voices: Get your geek on

The gap between professors and students can be big. Elon University will help make them small. This is good because those relationships will be wildly rewarding now and throughout your life. Just ask



**Tom Mould**  
Professor of Anthropology

the 30,000 students polled by Gallup and Purdue who were twice as likely to be happy in their lives and careers if they had a professor or staff member who took a personal interest in their intellectual development. This is great, but don't miss out on the opportunity to build the same kind of relationships with your peers. In other words, let your geek flag fly. Because we all have a passionate geek inside us if we're willing to admit it, and we are all a heck of a lot more interesting when we connect our social lives with our intellectual ones and let our inner geeks out.

My guess is you already know this, but the temptation to retreat into superficiality in our social interactions is strong and doesn't go away with age or education. Faculty can fall into mind-numbing conversations about how many meetings we have or how many papers we have left to grade.

As brief phatic conversation, this doesn't sound the death knell of intellectual thought on campus, but don't let sociability keep you from engaging in deep conversations. Instead, let one feed the other. Because sociability and intellectuality aren't antithetical to one another, they're perfect partners, like Lewis and Clark, Masters and Johnson or Thelma and Louise. Combining your intellectual and social interests is the recipe for an interesting, engaging, fulfilling life.

So, how do we reprogram ourselves to recognize that meaty conversation isn't a chore, or something we're supposed to feel obligated to do as "global citizens," but something we can enjoy? In other words, how do we get our geek on?

**1. Own the term.** If you've watched even one Hollywood teen movie, you know that the geeks always win. Because after only an hour and a half in movie time, even the snitty popular kids finally realize that the "geeks" are far more interesting, successful and, yes, even popular. While official definitions of "geek" continue to suggest people who are overly intellectual or excessively interested in a specialized subject, more contemporary definitions suggest a very different meaning: "The people you pick on in high school and wind up working for as an adult" (Urbandictionary.com). That switch happens in college. Own it now.

**2. Take it outside.** The classroom is a great place to foster intellectual discourse. In fact, as faculty, we think it's one of the best incubators out there. But like any good incubator, the goal is to initially nurture something that will then thrive beyond its bounds. The classroom is just the starting point. Your professors regularly ask you to draw on

The Pendulum is renewing its efforts to serve as a voice of the Elon University community. Each week, this space will feature a column from a member of the community. Want to participate? Contact us at [elonpendulum.com](http://elonpendulum.com).

your personal experiences and make connections to class readings and content. Your job is to do the reverse. Take your class readings, discussions and experiences and make them part of your personal life. If you found an idea in class interesting, chances are one of your friends will, too. On a more practical level, do it because it will raise your GPA. If you really want to understand an issue, try to engage in conversation about it. The areas you do and don't understand will become clear.

**3. Stretch before running.** Warm up. Don't go straight from "Jackass Number Two" to Nietzsche or Durkheim, or you'll pull something. Start with typical conversation fodder. Television, celebrities, sports and rumors tend to be popular conversation topics. Start there. Take Caitlyn Jenner. She hits all four of these categories with ease. Conversations about her clothing choices or media appearances leave little to digest, but consider what happens when you apply those feminist and queer theories you learned about in your (fill in the blank) class. All of a sudden, the media circus becomes a fascinating space for questions about the social construction of gender. Or how about those urban legends about new technology: computer viruses, cell phone scams and money scams. We may laugh at these legends, but they tap into some very real fears about how easy it is to be mugged electronically, as our fears of dark alleys are transferred to the corridors of the microchip. Applying a bit of meme theory to the spread of these stories also opens up worlds of interesting thought and conversation, linking folklore, human behavior and genetics in surprising ways. Be creative in your intellectual connections and you'll be amazed at how much richer your conversations become.

**4. Take on the World.** Now that you've stretched, continue to add ideas and issues to your conversational plate. In an ideal world, we would all read 15 newspapers and magazines from around the globe. But you can still tackle current and pervasive global issues without failing out of school and losing your job. I won't try to suggest how you should stay informed other than to note that I'm a big fan of newsfeeds and daily email updates that skim the major national and world stories. Just be sure to follow a few of the links to the deeper story.

Reveling in your intellectual interests rather than denying them is liberating. And it makes for a much more interesting college campus. In fact, deepening the intellectual climate at Elon is so important that for the past three years, students from across campus, including leaders in SGA, have been working to make Elon a more interesting place. Join them, whether by following the steps above, or joining their Intellectual Climate Working Group (simply email Alex Vandermaas-Peeler at [apeeler@elon.edu](mailto:apeeler@elon.edu) or Ben Lutz at [blutz3@elon.edu](mailto:blutz3@elon.edu)). Either way, don't be stingy with your big brains and great ideas. Tap into just how fun it can be to chat with friends about those ideas that captivate, perplex or challenge you. We'll all be the better for it.

## DOCTORS' ORDERS THE ELON EXPERIENCE: FRESHMAN VS. SENIOR YEAR



**Lauryl Fischer & Frankie Campisano**  
Columnists

The start of school has a curious effect on the Phoenix student body. We here at Doctor's Orders have this theory that seniors eventually build immunity to return-to-school-itis, whereas freshmen experience the full brunt force of the plague. Here are some of the trends we're seeing on our first day back.

### Constant construction

**Freshmen:** This iteration is the only Elon they've ever known. What McEwen parking? What is parking, anyway? Mount McEwen is more than

just a big pile o' dirt: It's an inspiration. They don't care, as long as they can Instagram their new collegiate home with #mostbeautifulcampus.

**Seniors:** To you, the current Future Communications Building is little more than an inconvenient eyesore serving as a reminder that the knowledge you've gained and the degree you started four years ago will already be irrelevant in your field. Get ready, you'll be spammed with emails soon enough begging you to contribute to the building of more brick-spawn after this temple of wealth is completed.

### Elon's Most Beautiful Campus status

**Freshmen:** So young, so pure, so innocent that their Elon pride blinds them to anything less than the best. With a nationalistic fervor, they need so badly to have validation that their choice of campus isn't just a pretty, beautiful botanical garden but in fact the single most beautiful place on our green Earth.

A missing brick? Artistic aesthetic. Cue the creative filters and slap that on your timeline.

**Seniors:** At this point, seniors have seen this click-bait list make the rounds every year. And every year, people lose their minds over it, smothering your social media timeline with the Most Beautiful Campus fanfare. But it's made up. It's just a made-up list from a made-up publication designed to go viral off people who don't know any better. Seniors just want this self-congratulatory Elon myth to die, once and for all. There are plenty of real things to be proud of Elon for.

**Late Night**  
**Freshmen:** Whether they're starting their nights or ending them here, the freshman swarm is guaranteed to stampede this Elon tradition to the ground. Late Night, for freshmen, is just so college, more college than classes or hangovers or football games.

**R<sub>x</sub> PRESCRIPTION**  
Doctors' Orders is a weekly satirical column in which two unprofessional, definitely fake doctors offer up prescriptions for their Phoenix patients.

Maybe if people tailgated with tots the games would be as crowded and terrifying as Late Night around midnight.

**Seniors:** Legend has it that Late Night used to be held in upstairs McEwen, and it was glorious. There was a time when crusty golden tots had their appeal, and the queasy post-tot sweats in the middle of the night were worth it. Those days are a relic of the past. Maybe a few brave, nostalgic seniors will revisit the hallowed halls of McEwen before the year is over, but most of them have moved on. The only Late Night these seniors indulge in is one with Seth Meyers.

# Elon entrepreneur embarks in bike-share

Courtney Campbell  
Style Editor

For those living in Danieley Center or off-campus, getting to the hub of Elon University can be a struggle. Students can make a 20 to 30 minute trek, wait impatiently for the BioBus or ride their own bike, the more costly option.

Junior and entrepreneur Ben Kleiman hopes to bring more bike access to campuses and urban areas with his latest venture, a bike-share program called BikePass. Unlike other bike-share programs like CitiBike, BikePass does not use docking stations. Instead there are locks set up at different trees, bike racks and posts around an area.

BikePass allows users to download the app and find the green icons indicating the location of each bike on a map. After picking a bike, users type the bike ID into the app and are given a lock combination. Later, users can lock the bike up at any public locking option the area permits.

"BikePass is the first privately funded bike share system that does not utilize stations," Kleiman said. "Our concept eliminates the hassle of finding a docking station, and through our app, makes it more flexible and user friendly."

Although BikePass has yet to come to Elon, Kleiman sees how it can benefit campus.

"Elon is a highly populated campus with a majority of students walking to class," Kleiman said. "The others will take their car just to travel up the street. This causes not only traffic problems, but is constantly posing parking and safety problems. By integrating BikePass at Elon we can provide economically friendly transportation, while eliminating the problems driving can cause."

Over the summer, Kleiman discussed the possibility of bringing BikePass to campus via email with Smith Jackson, vice president for student life. He was referred to sophomore Rachel Hobbs, who is on the SGA student Concerns Committee and has been researching bike-share programs since January.

According to Jackson, Hobbs has been looking into bike-share programs by visiting Duke University to look at their program, constructing a student survey and talking with university departments. She also is including BikePass in the SGA feasibility study that is underway.

"Once SGA Student Concerns Committee has completed its feasibility study and discussed it with the full Senate, the administration will be interested in knowing the results as cycling fits the universities goals of healthy life styles and energy conservation," Jackson said in an email. "So no decisions at this point, but this project is being researched."

Kleiman has a history with business ventures and is the co-founder of the clothing companies Costal Prep Collection and Pattani Pants. He currently acts as CFO of BikePass, dealing with the financial aspects. He also acts as an expansion officer who reaches out to college campuses.

While scrolling through Facebook, Kleiman discovered the company when he saw a post by CEO and Pennsylvania State University student Adam Chain. Intrigued, he met up with Chain and immediately knew this was something he wanted to be a part of.

"BikePass uses pragmatic and innovative solutions to improve the concept of bike-sharing," Kleiman said. "It maintains the demand for bikes while decreasing the supply, benefiting both BikePass riders and the communities it operates in."

Chain, who founded the company, came up with the idea when he was in New York City and saw there were no CitiBike stations near the World Trade Center Memorial, but there was plenty of legal public bike parking, like benches, surrounding the memorial. From there, the idea grew to use these already available locking options for stations, and BikePass was born.

He also saw how bike-shares can benefit schools, especially sustainably focused ones like Elon.

"The benefits of decreasing demand for busses and cars on campus include less pollution, decreased bus costs and relieved congestion for schools," Chain said. "Students also enjoy the convenience of reliable rides on-demand. I very much support every other bike share company out there because I truly believe that this concept can have a huge economical impact on the current transportation methods of condensed and highly-populated areas."

BikePass is still in the start-up stage and has a small team with one other team leader: Connor Walsh, University of Cincinnati alum, who acts as the general manager.

So far, BikePass has only had a successful beta launch in New Jersey this summer and is now working to make agreement with universities. The management team is close to making agreements with California State University, Long Beach and are involved in talks with New York University, Georgia State University, Miami University and Saint Joseph's College.

The company is working to launch at larger, well-known colleges where the weather is warm year-round. From there, they will fix any problems and manage the campuses before expanding to more northern states.

According to Walsh, BikePass is an affordable option for universities. Cities are investing millions of dollars for bikes and the installation of the stations, but BikePass only charges universities \$65 per bike, including the locks.

"So, the key to success isn't figuring out if bike-sharing



A screenshot of the BikePass app, indicating where available bikes are in New Jersey through the use of Google Maps.

works, but rather a way to eliminate the long lead-time and expensive costs of implementing a bike-share system with stations, and that is what we do," Chain said.

They are also working to make the bikes more useful for students. Their development team is working on ways the kinetic energy created from the front wheel to charge your smartphone while you are riding, benefits of using belt drives in place of metal chains and methods of using magnets to add momentum to every push while pedaling — all for a better ride.

With bike-share programs gaining speed, it is becoming more likely to see BikePass riders, or a similar model, peddling around Elon's campus or nearby urban areas.

# Common reading as social change

*'Why We Can't Wait' offers opportunity for growth and understanding*

In his iconic "Letter from Birmingham Jail" on April 16, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote, "There comes a time when



Danielle Deavens  
Columnist

the cup of endurance runs over, and men are no longer willing to be plunged into the abyss of despair." According to King, that cup ran over in 1963, and men and women nationwide emerged defiantly from the abyss of discrimination.

This summer, incoming Elon University students were asked

to revisit the history of the Civil Rights Movement through the 2015 common reading selection, "Why We Can't Wait" by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The book begins with anecdotes about two children: a Black boy in Harlem and a Black girl in Birmingham. Both, though miles apart, ponder the same question: "Why does misery constantly haunt the Negro?"

From there, King launches readers into the tale of the sociopolitical landscape in 1963 that became a breeding ground for well-planned protests and lasting institutional change, examining the events and forces behind the Civil Rights Movement.

Anything written by King, whether a speech, a sermon or a book, is expected to

be prolific and inspiring. "Why We Can't Wait" does not disappoint. King develops both rhythm and momentum as he recounts a section of history scattered with forgotten details.

An evergreen work of social commentary, "Why We Can't Wait" offers Elon students an opportunity to better understand the time, effort and constant commitment that are necessary for social change to happen. It is now our responsibility to keep working towards that change on our campus.

In the last academic year, Elon has experienced its own grassroots movements for civil rights. There were silent protests, die-ins, open forums and a rally for respect. Though some student-led demonstrations were spurred by repeated minority encounters with racial slurs, they were also part of a greater sociopolitical context.

With the death of Michael Brown and subsequent lack of indictment of the officer who killed him, the United States saw the cup of endurance run over once again. In 1963, it was the cup of enduring Jim Crow — in 2014 it was the cup of racially charged deaths of unarmed minorities.

From these incidences, "Why We Can't Wait" was chosen for this year's common reading. The similarities between the book's content and today's headlines are uncanny.

King's description of choosing between three segregationist mayoral candidates in Birmingham can be compared to the discussion of the large pool of 2016 presidential candidates, none of whom seem to have satisfied the expectations of minority activists,

particularly Black Lives Matter advocates.

The postponing of mobilization in Birmingham due to the mayoral elections echoed the eleventh-hour decision of Elon students to make last year's protest at Luminaries a silent one.

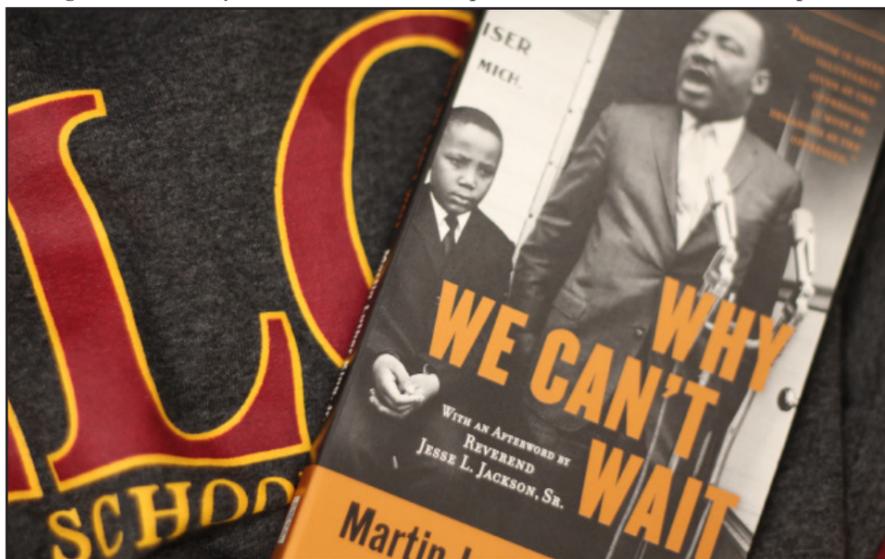
With the racial and sociopolitical debates happening across not only Elon's campus but the entire nation, it was imperative that a book like "Why We Can't Wait" was also chosen as an opportunity for growth. The next step is requiring students, especially those new to the Elon community, to understand why this book is still relevant today and why that fact means the nation still has a great deal of growing to do.

Teaching this book correctly and responsibly will require Elon 101 and Global Experience professors to compare this book to both the national and the local sociopolitical landscape in 2015.

Last semester, Elon's newly-elected student body president, Avery Steadman, stood in front of her peers and admitted that she has said the N-word. This should have been a wake-up call to Elon: even the best and brightest students engage in acts of ignorance and discrimination, but this can be changed.

The choice to require students to reexamine this nation's history of racism was more than timely, it was imperative. But it can't stop there.

In order to continue the momentum of last year's progress on campus, professors and students must connect "Why We Can't Wait" with the protests and tragedies that have made national headlines.



"Why Can't We Wait" by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was selected as the 2015 common reading.



Courtney Campbell  
Style Editor

# Tangent Eat + Bar

The once-froyo joint in downtown Elon has gotten a makeover, transforming into the new restaurant, Tangent Eat + Bar. The owners of campus favorite The Root Trackside have brought their earthy, trendy feel to a quick, customizable eat bar with an ever-changing menu of tacos, curry and corn on the cob.

Elon, which has a small downtown, was in need of a new restaurant and Tangent was exactly the restaurant it needed. The casual, order-at-the-counter vibe is a nice contrast to sit-down restaurants like Pandora's Pies and West End Terrace.

"We thought we could do something to help benefit Elon University, the town of Elon and the surrounding Alamance area," said general manager Quinn Ray. "The owners, Chris Brumbaugh and Lynn Terrell, had an idea to go off on a tangent, which is a crazy idea and we wanted to be more adventurous. Something a little different from The Root."

Upon entering the establishment, customers notice a chill vibe similar to the Root's atmosphere. Unlike the sit-down restaurant, customers order at the counter and are given a stand with familiar characters and memes ranging from Justin Bieber's mugshot to The Simpsons.

There's a fair amount of seating for the small space, with unique tables decorated with U.S. maps and a bar where those over 21 can enjoy craft beer, wine or cocktails.

Most importantly, eyes are drawn to the giant, hanging, interchangeable menu that lists a wide variety of tacos. There's something for everyone's taste preference, with options ranging from a "Blackened Shrimp Taco" to the "Roasted Cauliflower Taco" the more adventurous "Chicken and Waffle Taco."

"I'm a fan," said junior Abbey Maloney. "I like that there's not all conventional tacos and there's a mix of the South in it. I'm definitely going to come back here soon."

Each taco comes conveniently wrapped in tin foil inside a small cardboard box — perfect for grabbing on the go.

Tangent will please vegans and vegetarians. Like the Root, meatless options are abundant here. It's a nice

change from other local restaurants which only have unhealthy meat-free options like mac and cheese bites or quesadillas.

Tangent's major difference is its ability to allow the customers to make meals completely their own. Each taco is about three dollars, so you can mix and match for whatever your heart desires for an inexpensive but tasty meal. Plus, if you're not feeling too hungry or just want a snack with your drink, you could order one taco instead of a full meal.

"You can get as much or as little as you want," Ray said. "It's more of a quick eat. It's all about the customer making their experience. We're just giving them the food and the environment."

There are aspects of The Root prevalent in this new space. Just like the mother restaurant, at each table there's a cup filled with quiz cards to keep conversation going. Like The Root, Tangent's website will soon have an online ordering option for to-go meals.

The food is similar, too, and the restaurant is taking advantage of it's knowledge of what the Root's customers like and incorporating it into their tacos.

"One of our biggest specials and favorite specials is the spicy fried catfish, so we have brought that over here year round," Ray said. "We only do the catfish in the summer at The Root, but we have the taco over here."

Although the restaurant has only been open for about two weeks, business has been steady and the owners hope to grow within the next few weeks as more students and locals hear about it.

"We haven't done much advertising," Ray said. "We like the grassroots word of mouth. The end goal having two well-known restaurants that benefit everybody in the surrounding area."

Despite being known as "that new taco place," Tangent is so much more than tacos. It's quick, it's custom and it's creative.

The other food options are delicious as well. The "Grilled Truffle Butter Corn on the Cob" is a healthier option than Root's truffle fries, but equally as good.

According to Ray, Tangent will be expanding its options in the future.

"We're going to be more adventurous with our food and try to incorporate other vessels of food," Ray said. "Maybe mess around with noodles sometime. Just try-



HALI TALUXE-STEWART | Photo Editor

Tangent Eat + Bar, from The Root Trackside owners, opened in downtown Elon just in time for the fall semester.

ing to be faster with easy, streamline, creative food."

With its food-truck feel in a restaurant space, Tangent has a vibe that will not disappoint, and students should check it out in the next few weeks before word gets out and the crowds begin to pour in.

PHOTOS BY COURTNEY CAMPBELL  
"Fried Green Tomato Taco" and "Roasted Cauliflower Taco" are only two of the many tacos at Tangent.

A sample of the interchangeable menu at Tangent.



"Truffle Butter Corn on the Cob" is a must for those who love the popular truffle fries at The Root Trackside.

# Fall Sports Preview

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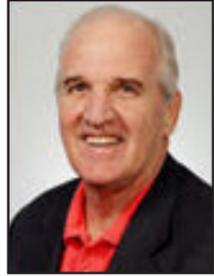


## Finding, mastering a role

*Jerry Tolley's impact on Elon spans more than just championships*

Tommy Hamzik  
Managing Editor

A scrawny high school freshman named Jerry Tolley, sitting on his bicycle, leaned against the Edenton High School building on the first day of football practice in fall 1957.



**Jerry Tolley**  
Former football head coach

The legendary coach Bill Billings, who won four state titles at Edenton and later collected 10 unbeaten seasons as a coach in Delaware, approached Tolley

with a skeptical look.

"Tolley, what are you doing?" Billings inquired.

"Well, I want to be a manager," Tolley replied.

Billings snapped back. "Nope. You're gonna' play football."

It wasn't the first time Tolley would be asked to do something he wasn't expecting, and it wouldn't be the last time he complied. And, actually, that moment just might have parlayed Tolley into a Hall of Fame career.

Tolley, 72, has spent nearly 50 years around Elon University and the Town of Elon in a number of capacities — coach, teacher, author, director of giving, development board member, mayor. This fall is the 35th anniversary of his first national championship football team.

He's seen the school and the area change drastically in more ways than one. But he's been a mainstay.

### Finding his spot

Tolley grew up in Edenton, North Carolina, a town of about 5,000 that sits on Albemarle Sound in the eastern part of the state. The Most Outstanding Player on Edenton's 1960 state championship team, Tolley had a number of in-state colleges recruiting him.

"I grew up in Eastern North Carolina, and it was rural," Tolley said. "My family wasn't farmers, but we were there. Past Duke [University], [University of North] Carolina [at Chapel Hill], N.C. State [University], Wake Forest [University] and East Carolina [University], I didn't know anything."

One day, he received a letter from Davidson College.

"I said, 'I don't know what a Davidson is. Why would I want to go to Davidson?'" Tolley said.

So he threw the letter aside and never looked at it.

Tolley acknowledges now that, knowing Davidson's reputation as a strong academic institution, he'd probably give the school a little more consideration. But he ended up going to East Carolina in Greenville, where he played football and ran track, winning a pair of bowl games in his junior and senior seasons.

He met his wife, Joanie, at East Carolina. The couple has two sons, Jay and Justin, who each have two children now.

East Carolina ran the single-wing offense when Tolley played there, which prompted a call from Red Wilson one day asking him to come onboard as a coach at Fayetteville Senior High School, where they also ran the single-wing. After six months in Fayetteville, Wilson took the head coaching job at Elon and brought Tolley along as an assistant.

### Building a championship team

Ernie Tootoo, a linebacker at Elon from 1978-1982, remembers Tolley holding a Coke and wearing a blue hat with the letters NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) on it.

One day, Tootoo stopped wondering about the hat and finally asked his coach about it.

"That's what I want to win, a national championship," Tolley said. "I've never won one."

Tootoo doesn't remember seeing Tolley wear the hat much later on — he would see it just in Tolley's office. Perhaps that's because of the 1980 and 1981 seasons, where Elon took home consecutive NAIA national championships.

Tolley spent 10 years as an assistant under Wilson in a period when Elon won six conference titles and advanced to the NAIA playoffs three times. As an assistant, Tolley also coached the track and tennis teams and taught physical education.

When Wilson stepped down, Tolley took over and saw immediate success. Elon went 49-11-2 in his five years at the helm.

The Phoenix reached the national championship game in 1978, but lost 35-14 on the road to Angelo State University, a national power at the time.

Two years later, it was a loss to Mars Hill early in the season: "They beat the crap out of us," said defensive lineman and captain Chris Worst — that helped turn the tides. Elon won 12 straight games after that to capture the title, beating Northeastern State University 17-10.

The next year, the Phoenix beat Pittsburg State University 3-0 for its second straight title.

Tolley was known to his players as not always the loudest coach, but a strong disciplinarian. Tootoo said Tolley had what he called a "mess-up list," for players being late to practice and things of that nature. That'd mean some extra running on the weekends for whoever made the list.

"There was really no room for error," Tootoo said. "You knew if you stepped out of line, you were going to be disciplined for that wrong action. He never screamed or hollered too much. He'd sort of just talk to you. You knew that when he came around, you had to be ready to play."

Tolley earned the respect of his players, and still keeps in touch with a lot of them.

"[Tolley] had a lot of confidence in his players," Worst said. "We respected him, but we also feared him at times. He didn't care if you were a fourth-teamer — he'd treat you the same as everyone else."

"He could just get the best out of us. It wasn't like he got in there and jumped around, but when he spoke, everyone listened. You could hear a pin drop."

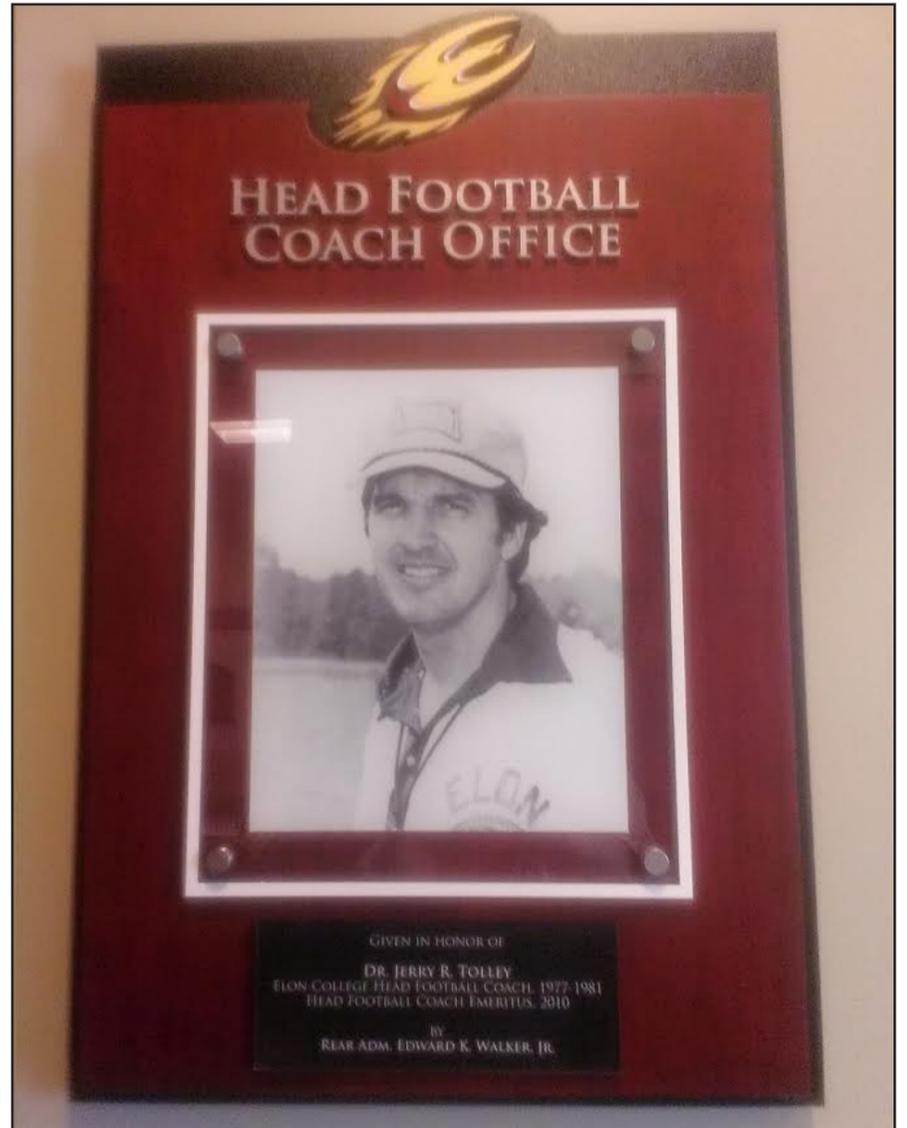
Tolley retired from coaching after the second national title — he was 39. But he was prepared. He received his doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro while coaching at Elon.

"I always said I was going to be out of coaching by 40," Tolley said. "I didn't know where old coaches went. I figured they were all selling insurance or used cars somewhere."

### Taking on a new role

It was 1982 when Tolley was approached by Fred Young, the president of Elon at the time.

"Have you ever thought of running for



TOMMY HAMZIK | Managing Editor

The head football coach's office in Elon's Alumni Fieldhouse is named for Jerry Tolley.

the Town Board of Alderman?" Young asked.

"Furthest thing from my mind," Tolley answered.

"Well, I asked two other people to do it, and they said no," Young said. "Would you do it?"

So, once again, Tolley obliged.

Tolley served on the Board for six years, and eventually ran for mayor of the Town of Elon. He's currently in the midst of his fifth term as the mayor, the longest-serving mayor in Town history.

He first became interested in politics when he was a freshman at East Carolina and the president of the SGA asked him to run for a freshman representative position. He won that, and later took on roles with the Inner Dormitory Council, the Honor Council and the Dean's Advisory Council.

### Keeping a presence

More than once a month, Tolley visits the office in Alumni Fieldhouse that bears his name to visit current Elon head football coach Rich Skrosky.

"How's the team doing?" Tolley will ask.

Tolley still keeps his presence among the Elon football team, whether it be by attending the weekly radio show during the season, sitting on the hill and watching practice once a week or spending time in the press box at each home football game.

He splits his fall calendar in two, highlighting which Saturdays he'll get to go to East Carolina games and which ones he'll watch Elon. Last spring, he served as an honorary coach for Elon's spring game.

Prior to last season, his first as head coach, Skrosky brought in Tolley to teach the team about the history of Elon football, which is more impressive than recent seasons would suggest. Besides Appala-

chian State University, Elon is the only North Carolina college to win a national championship in football (in 1980 and 1981).

"That's why I want to keep him involved in our program," Skrosky said. "One of the biggest feedbacks I've gotten from our kids is they'll say, 'We realized we were part of something bigger.' It's guys like Jerry that keep that thread."

Skrosky is reminded of those titles each day when he walks in his office, which is named for Tolley. Tolley is the only coach in Elon's history to garner the title Coach Emeritus.

"It lets you know there's a standard here, and you have to live up to it," Skrosky said. "It's pretty cool to get reminded by him every day."

### Staying at home

Worst still chats with Tolley a lot, and the two tailgate and sit together at Elon home games.

Worst tells Tolley, "I'll never call you mayor. You'll always be coach to me."

The coaching is perhaps what Tolley is most known for — "Any time I am introduced within 50 miles of Elon, they say, 'Jerry won two national titles,'" Tolley said.

But he knew it wasn't something he'd do forever.

"I think I'd always thought I'd want to get into coaching," Tolley said. "But after I got into coaching, I knew that one day, I'd want to be out."

So that's how the coach who enjoys working in the yard ended up spending time at LabCorp, editing six books about football and helping raise money to build Rhodes Stadium.

All at a place he had never heard of before he came here.

"I've always thought Elon was the greatest place in the world," Tolley said.

## As season nears, no decision at QB yet

Alex Simon  
Sports Editor

The kickoff of the 2015 season for the Elon University football team will happen at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3 (weather permitting). With less than 10 days until the Phoenix battles with Wake Forest University, the starting quarterback spot is still up for grabs.

For head coach Rich Skrosky, the decision was not any more clear after the third scrimmage on Saturday than it was beforehand.

"We've got to go in and watch the tape," Skrosky said. "It's been a good camp, though. They've both grown a lot, I think, in a lot of areas. I think it's going to be close."

With three scrimmages complete and one more to be played at Rhodes Stadium, Skrosky does not feel any pressure to name the quarterback now.

"I don't have a date on it," he said. "I've said that for a year now. Basically, I'm not going to rush into a wrong decision. [There's] really no timetable."

The two quarterbacks who have been splitting time with the first team offense are redshirt freshman Connor Christiansen and true freshman Daniel Thompson.

"[Skrosky] has not said a word," Thompson said. "I think he's just taking his time to fill out who is going to make our team better, and that's all me and Connor want in the end. We want Elon to be great, and we want our team to win games."

Thompson enrolled at Elon in the spring semester last year, and he and Christiansen have been battling for the starting spot since the start of spring practice.

"I've never really been a part of anything like this," Christiansen said. "But you look for the positives in this kind of situation. Daniel is obviously good, and he makes me a lot better."

Thompson comes from a strong football family pedigree, as his brother Dylan was the starting quarterback at the University of South Carolina. After leading the Southeastern Conference in passing yards and completions, Dylan was signed as an undrafted free agent by the San Francisco 49ers, and is listed as third-string on the depth chart.

Christiansen readily admits he doesn't have the same background.

"He's very good in the classroom, and his family is all football," Christiansen said after the third scrimmage. "My brother

did fencing, and [Thompson's] is an NFL quarterback."

Even when competing against each other, Christiansen and Thompson readily help each other out.

"We're good friends, and we're both young," Thompson said. "We struggle with seeing a lot of stuff because we both haven't been here long. ... When we see something, we go, 'Hey, what did you see on that?' We can help each other out, and with two brains, we can see everything a little bit better."

The two quarterbacks have some noticeable differences: Christiansen is left-handed, Thompson is right-handed, and Christiansen is more of a scrambling quarterback, Thompson is more of a pocket passer. With these distinctions, a two-quarterback system could be an option, which was used most prominently at Ohio State in 1997 (Joe Germaine and Stanley Jackson split time) and at Florida in 2006 (Chris Leak was the main quarterback, but Tim Tebow got prominent time as a scrambling quarterback).

"I never have considered [the two-quarterback system], but never say never," Skrosky said. "There's no question that Connor brings an athletic element that Daniel doesn't. But the difference isn't as traumatic as Leak and Tebow were."

"It's mostly about what they do in the pocket. Daniel is one of those guys that will stay in pocket and let the pass play develop a little longer. Whereas Connor, I think, adds that element that, if he sees everything dropping off, he's not afraid to run, and he does. He covers a lot of ground in a short period of time."

Even as the playing styles differ between the quarterbacks, the results from camp have made them tough to tell apart.

"Whether we go with playing both of them, the interesting thing from our standpoint as a staff, we have every statistic possible," Skrosky said. "When you look at the empirical data, it's pretty close. We you look at their percentage, productivity, yards per attempt. ... It's a tough decision, which is a good thing."

As the quarterbacks alternate between the first and the second teams, they get less time to work with their teammates on those teams, potentially not getting the same level of connection and cohesion as they could if the position was set.

For Skrosky, though, this issue hasn't been a big problem.

"The great thing about it, and what makes it enjoyable for me, is that both kids



Daniel Thompson (11) attempts a pass.

FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

have the credibility of their teammates," he said. "They both have unbelievable character, they are two of the hardest workers on the team, they both are vocal and are able to interact with their teammates as a leader."

"All the intangible stuff that you want in a quarterback, the both have. ... They both have built up their credibility with the team, and whatever decision we end up making, both of them will be embraced by their teammates."

With both quarterbacks being freshmen, as well as many other freshmen around the offensive side of the ball, Elon projects to start multiple players who will be in their first college games.

"It's awesome," said Skrosky, with a smile. "I think we got good, young talent. There's no question about it. We feel like we're moving forward. The question is, 'How are they gonna respond next Thursday night?' Nobody knows."

"You hope that, when the lights go on, they do what they do. And we hope we put them in enough stressful situations in practice that, when the lights come on at Wake Thursday night, and the consecutive Saturdays thereafter, they are ready to go."

"[We hope] they've done enough and they just go out and have fun."

## Taking responsibility

It's hardly surprising that we're inside of two weeks before the Elon Uni-



Tommy Hamzik  
Columnist

versity football team's season opener and we still don't know who the starting quarterback will be.

Head coach Rich Skrosky has been adamant about not rushing into a decision dating

back to spring practices. And that's fine.

It's just ... well ... we'd like to know.

No matter who Skrosky chooses — redshirt freshman Connor Christiansen or true freshman Daniel Thompson — that quarterback becomes the most vital part to any offensive success Elon has this year. He also becomes responsible for any stagnancy.

It's no secret that Elon's offense struggled last year. With Mike Quinn under center, the Phoenix averaged just 14.1 points and 295.2 yards per game. Both of those ranked in the bottom half of the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA).

Elon managed 20 points in only three games, and scored less than 10 three times.

The Phoenix could use a spark offensively. Christiansen or Thompson will have to provide it.

"The quarterback's always the most important component, whether you're the best team in America or the worst team in America," Skrosky said. "I've said that from day one. That's not hidden. The whole world knows that. They know that every day. Left guard misses a block, it's the quarterback's fault. That's the expectation. And they have all that stuff. I don't worry about any of their acumen or leadership. That stuff, they're awesome, both those guys. They're just young and they have to get a lot of experience."

Skrosky has been high on both quarterbacks since they arrived on campus. Christiansen was a target of Skrosky's when Skrosky was the offensive coordinator at Ball State University.

If it weren't so clear that Elon was going to struggle last year, Christiansen probably would have seen some playing time. But deciding to redshirt him was beneficial, and he's clearly shown in practice and scrimmages that he spent a year learning the system.

He orchestrated some fine drives in Elon's most recent scrimmage, including a 16-play, 91-yard drive that ended in a touchdown. Christiansen completed 10 of 11 passes on that drive.

Thompson comes from a football family — his brother played at the University of South Carolina and in the NFL. It didn't take him long to pick up Elon's system when he enrolled early in February.

Skrosky said he has no timetable to make a decision. If he really wants to wait it out, the Phoenix doesn't take the field until 7 p.m. Sept. 3 at Wake Forest University.

Whoever is under center on the first series against the Demon Deacons will be taking the first snap of his college career.

And, boy, he'd better be ready to go.



Connor Christiansen (12) avoids the rush during the 2015 spring game. He is one of two quarterbacks in contention for the starting spot.

FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

## Experienced secondary ready to shine for Phoenix

Alex Simon  
Sports Editor

When Chris Blair arrived at Elon University last spring, he said the other defensive backs on the football team knew more about him than he knew about himself.

“[Junior linebacker] John Silas welcomed me into his apartment and told me to move in with him,” Blair said.

The camaraderie is hoping to translate to some onfield success for Elon this fall, as Blair and seniors Miles Williams and Julius Moore will anchor what should be a strong secondary.

The Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) did not welcome Elon kindly in the 2014 season. The 1-11 (0-8 in CAA) campaign left a lot to be desired in head coach Rich Skrosky’s first season.

Now, as the 2015 season approaches, Skrosky is challenging the defense most, which he declared as the strongest of the three units in 2014.

“There’s no question we have more experience on the defensive side of the ball coming back,” he said. “There’s a mindset that those guys know what the expectation is. And I challenge them. I challenged them at the end of the spring. They need to embrace the challenge of being a good defense. The bar for our defense is very high.”

While the defense as a whole struggled in places (11th of 12 in scoring defense in conference, 11th in rushing defense), the pass defense was ninth in the CAA, and the Phoenix was tied for seventh in average passing yardage per play, at 6.9 yards.

The team had 11 interceptions in 12 games, good for seventh in the conference – though four of the teams ahead of the Phoenix were CAA playoff teams, with three of the four teams playing two more games than Elon.

The strength of the pass defense, and the experience returning, leaves little doubt as to what position group Skrosky is expecting the most from.

“I challenged the secondary to step up, and some guys have.” Skrosky said. “I saw the work [the secondary] put in this summer [and] during camp. Their work ethic has been phenomenal. We’re establishing the expectation that this is what it’s gonna take.”

### The transfer-turned-star

Of the 10 leading tacklers from 2014, the five returning are all defensive backs, led by sophomore Chris Blair. The preseason third-team All-CAA honoree was third on the team with 98 tackles last season, his first at Elon.

Blair, a Winston-Salem native, originally attended Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. After redshirting his first year on campus, Blair left the Cardinal program to come to Elon, following the path of Skrosky.

“We don’t put a lot of stock in the preseason stuff, but it tells you what our peers think of him, and he really brings a great passion for the game,” Skrosky said.



FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

Julius Moore (6) returns an interception 34 yards as Chris Blair (8) looks to set a block for him in a game against Maine last fall on Nov. 15, 2014.



Chris Blair

For many of the transfers, joining a new school is hard – and in football, joining a position group that has already built a close relationship can

seem daunting.

Transferring into Elon, Blair was prepared to face those issues, but he was immediately comforted.

That carried over during the season, as he started the final nine games. Blair is Elon’s second leading returner with 51 solo tackles.

With three years of eligibility left, Blair is on a record-shattering pace at Elon, and the potential for success is sky-high for the sophomore.

### Leading consistently

As Skrosky talked to the press 15 minutes after the first scrimmage, there was one player still on the field for the Phoenix. Senior defensive back Miles Williams ran sprints behind the coach as the interview went on.

That’s a habit for the starting safety, who was selected to be a captain for the second straight season.

Williams is starting his fifth season with the Elon program, and save for a medical redshirt year in 2013, he’s played in every game but two since arriving at Elon.

Williams has been a steady, consistent performer in his time with the Phoenix, with 137 tackles in his three seasons without ever recording a double-digit tackle game (his career high is nine tackles at Appalachian State University in 2012). Last year, Williams had his season-high eight tackles in four different games (vs. University of Richmond, at Towson University, at College of William & Mary and at James Madison University).



Miles Williams

As the oldest member of the secondary, Williams can appreciate that the players push each other to be better instead of dragging each

other down.

“We’re all competitors, especially the four starters,” Williams said. “We make each other better every day. That’s on the field, but also in the weight room, where I see Chris and senior [defensive back] Julius [Moore] in the weight room, and they put up their numbers. I go to the weight room and want to be their numbers.”

“As long as we’re competing every day, that’s all that we can really ask for.”

### The lurking ball hawk

Much like his former safety counterpart Williams, Moore has played in all but two games during his career with the Phoenix. But Moore didn’t have a medical redshirt year – instead, the senior has played in 25 consecutive games for Elon.

“We’re familiar with each other.” Moore said of his counterparts. “We know each other’s playing styles. I know CB [Chris Blair] is gonna come down with big hits, Miles will be in position, and [junior defensive back] Adrian [McClendon] is great in coverage. Knowing how each other plays helps in the long run.”

The 2014 season was a strong campaign for Moore, as he was fourth on the team with 67 total tackles. He shone brightest when the ball was in the air, though, as he led the team with four interceptions and six pass breakups.

The 2015 season will bring Moore a challenge he hasn’t faced as a starter at Elon: the cornerback



Julius Moore

position.

“In the second scrimmage, we were a little disappointed in Julius,” Skrosky said. “Those guys play such a critical role on special teams, that [the depth] is going to give us the ability to be significantly better than last year.”

Moore hasn’t had much trouble in the transition so far. He had one interception in the first scrimmage, and he had two touchdowns in the third scrimmage on Saturday, one blocked punt return and one interception return.

Moore hasn’t had much trouble in the transition so far. He had one interception in the first scrimmage, and he had two touchdowns in the third scrimmage on Saturday, one blocked punt return and one interception return.

### Raising expectations

With all four starters back, Skrosky has high expectations for the defensive backs – but his expectations pale in comparison to those set by the defensive backs themselves.

“Our No. 1 goal is to win the national championship,” Moore said. “That’s what we strive for and it’s our main goal. Everything else is secondary to that.”

Williams focused the team’s goals in terms of the CAA.

“We want to be the best defense in the conference, and that means stopping the run,” Williams said. “So we need to be a big run-stopping secondary, but we also want to be the best in pass coverage as well.”

Blair takes a smaller scale, more relaxed approach to the upcoming season.

“We just have to take it day-by-day,” Blair said. “We got to focus on the little things to make everything go together in the big picture.”

While these three defensive backs will be under the spotlight throughout the season, the secondary has a major role in the special

teams for Elon.

“We’ve got great depth at defensive back, and not only will that help our secondary, but it will help our special teams,” Skrosky said. “Those guys play such a critical role on special teams, that [the depth] is going to give us the ability to be significantly better than last year.”

The depth can be great, but Skrosky reiterates that good depth doesn’t guarantee success.

“A great work ethic doesn’t guarantee you anything, but it gives you the chance to be good,” Skrosky said. “If you don’t work, you have no chance. And that’s the mindset right now as we are moving this program forward.”

### A family environment

All three players agree that the secondary is a tight-knit unit, both on the field and off.

“They’re my boys. I love them,” Moore said. “Adrian, Chris, Miles, even Little Adrian. We have fun and go out together and have a good time. We really enjoy each other’s company all the time. These really are my boys.”

As Williams and Moore exchanged laughs, Blair elaborated on what his teammate said.

“It’s not just about the football field when we’re together, we got a brotherhood within ourselves,” Blair said. “Not only do we have a good time together, but in the meeting room, we are our own worst critics.”

“When we see each other doing something wrong, we get on each other before the coaches do. We can take that [from each other] because we’re that close.”

The group loves to laugh with each other, and they don’t mind talking trash at one another. But, as Moore said: “We know when to joke around and when it’s time to get down to business. We have a good balance of the two.”

# 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



## WAKE FOREST



**SEPT. 3 - 7 p.m. at Winston-Salem**

**TV:** ESPN 3

**2014 RECORD:** 3-9, 1-7 ACC

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:**

Offense: sophomore QB John Wolford - more than 2,000 yards with 58% completion rate as a freshman.

Defense: senior LB Brandon Chubb - preseason first team All-ACC had 109 tackles last season.

## GARDNER-WEBB



**SEPT. 12 - 6 p.m. at Boiling Springs, N.C.**

**2014 RECORD:** 0-5, 4-8

Big South

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:**

Offense: junior TE Mike Estes - preseason FCS All-America candidate will need double-teams all night.

Defense: senior NG O.J. Mau - preseason Big South Defensive Player of the Year; 319-pound force of humanity.

## NC A&T



**SEPT. 19 - 6 p.m. at Elon**

**2014 RECORD:** 6-2, 9-3

MEAC

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:**

Offense: junior RB Tarik Cohen - burned Elon for 81-yard TD run last year, can expect more of the same this year.

Defense: junior DL Marquis Ragland - eight sacks and three blocked kicks last year.

## TOWSON



**SEPT. 26 - 3 p.m. at Elon**

**2014 RECORD:** 4-8, 2-6 CAA

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:**

Offense: junior RB Darius Victor - 153 yards against Elon in 2014, 1,305 yards rushing on the year. Defense: sophomore LB James Simms - led team in tackles with 99 as a freshman, strong in run and pass game.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE



**OCT. 3 - 3:30 p.m. at Durham, N.H.**

**TV:** American Sports Network

**2014 RECORD:** 12-2, 8-0 CAA

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:**

Offense: senior QB Sean Gol-drich - the four-year starter has national title aspirations for UNH. Defense: junior DB Casey De-Andrade - playmaker on de-fense (69 tackles) and in special teams).

## RICHMOND



**OCT. 10 - 3:30 p.m. at Richmond, Va.**

**2014 RECORD:** 9-5, 5-3 CAA

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:**

Offense: senior RB/FB Seth Fisher - bruising runner led team with 12 touchdowns last year. Defense: junior LB Omar How-ard - expect Howard to be in the backfield a lot this season (92 tackles, six TFL, three sacks in 2014).

## JAMES MADISON



**OCT. 17 - 3 p.m. at Elon**

**2014 RECORD:** 9-4, 6-2 CAA

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:**

Offense: senior TE Deane Cheatham - great in pass catch-ing (42 catches for 453 yards) and in blocking.

Defense: sophomore LB Kyre Hawkins - started every game, led team with 97 tackles as a freshman.

## STONY BROOK



**OCT. 31 - 12 p.m. at Stony Brook, N.Y.**

**TV:** American Sports Network

**2014 RECORD:** 5-7, 4-4 CAA

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:**

Offense: senior QB Conor Bed-narski - Fullerton College transfer should shine in second year with team.

Defense: senior DL Victor Ochi - 1st team All-CAA with 11 sacks, 16.5 TFL last year.

## WILLIAM & MARY



**NOV. 7 - 12 p.m. at Elon**

**TV:** Comcast Sportsnet

**2014 RECORD:** 7-5, 4-4 CAA

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:**

Offense: senior RB Mikal Ab-dul-Saboor - first team All-CAA last year was 13th national in rushing yard per game (115.1). Defense: senior DB DeAndre Houston-Carson - punt block specialist (4 blocks last year) also great in secondary (3 INTs).

## MAINE



**NOV. 14 - 12:30 p.m. at Orono, Maine**

**TV:** Fox College Sports

**2014 RECORD:** 5-6, 4-4 CAA

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:**

Offense: sophomore QB/WR Matt Cosgrove - head coach's son can be offensive playmaker. Defense: junior LB Christophe Mulumba Tshimanga - Maine's Most Outstanding Defensive Player had 12+ tackles in four games last year.

## DELAWARE



**NOV. 21 - 12 p.m. at Elon**

**2014 RECORD:** 6-6, 4-4 CAA

**PLAYERS TO WATCH:**

Offense: senior OL Ben Curtis - consistent presence at left tackle, has started 29 consecutive games for the Blue Hens. Defense: sophomore DL Blaine Woodson - CAA Defensive Rookie of the Year had 8.5 sacks and 11 TFL, also chosen as Most Improved in the spring.



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www.elonpendulum.com/sports

- August 28**  
DePaul | 5 p.m.  
Durham, N.C.
- August 30**  
Saint Mary's | 12 p.m.  
Durham, N.C.
- September 4**  
Campbell | 5 p.m.  
Wilmington, N.C.
- September 6**  
North Florida | 12 p.m.  
Wilmington N.C.
- September 12**  
Davidson | 7 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.
- September 15:**  
Wake Forest | 7 p.m.  
Winston-Salem, N.C.
- September 18**  
Drexel | 7 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.
- September 22**  
South Carolina | 7 p.m.  
Columbia, S.C.
- September 26**  
Delaware | 7 p.m.  
Newark, Del.
- September 30**  
William & Mary | 7 p.m.  
Williamsburg, Va.
- October 3**  
Northeastern | 7 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.
- October 10**  
Lipscomb | 7 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.
- October 14**  
UNCW | 7 p.m.  
Wilmington, N.C.
- October 17**  
James Madison | 8 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.
- October 20**  
Duke | 7 p.m.  
Durham, N.C.
- October 24**  
Hofstra | 7 p.m.  
Hempstead, N.Y.
- October 28**  
Radford | 7 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.
- October 31**  
C. of Charleston | 7 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.

## Goal for Little's team: More goals



James Brace (10) tries to win possession against Drexel University on Oct. 18, 2014. Brace will be a key piece of the offense in 2015.

FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

**Jordan Spritzer**  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Elon University men's soccer team was one point clear atop the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) standings entering their regular season finale against the University of Delaware. Two first half goals sunk the Phoenix and the team left 2-1 losers, dropping them to fourth in the standings and eliminating the chance to host the conference tournament.

Instead, the Phoenix was forced to play a quarterfinal match at home against Northeastern University, the team Elon had defeated 5-0 at Rudd Field one month earlier. The Phoenix was then stunned on their home field losing 2-0, crashing out of the CAA tournament and losing any hope of earning a bid to the NCAA tournament.

It was the first time in four years the team would go without a championship of any kind.

"We did pretty well, but we fell short," said head coach Chris Little. "That stung a little bit and left a bad taste in our mouths."

The Phoenix was unbeaten in eight matches before consecutive losses to close out the season. The Phoenix's lone goal in those two games was an own goal from a Delaware defender.

Now in his second season as head coach, Chris Little will continue to implement his system of attractive, possession-based soccer as the Phoenix look to become more clinical in front of the goal.

"He's had that time to shape us now," said redshirt junior goalkeeper Chris Shannon. "I think everybody is pretty comfortable with him. We know how he likes to play with a good, technical team passing the ball, moving it around rather than a more direct approach. Everybody appreciates that style of play."

The Phoenix scored multiple goals in just six matches in 2014, and only once scored more than two, during its 5-0 win over Northeastern. Elon's only defeat in those matches came in a season-opening 3-2 defeat to Stetson University at the John Rennie/Nike Classic.

Instead, Elon relied on its defense last season. Senior right back Nathan Diehl said its defensive work and focus on transitioning from defense to offense early in training can make a difference

when looking for goals this season. He said the high-pressure press in defense allows Elon to keep control of the game even when it doesn't have the ball.

"Solely based on your team's movement, you can force the other team to play a pass that you know is coming, so you can be ready to intercept the ball or apply more pressure," he said.

The high-pressure system allows the Phoenix to capitalize on misplaced passes or heavy touches from opposing players and quickly turn them into scoring opportunities.

Senior midfielder James Brace returns as Elon's leading goal scorer from 2014 with six from 21 shots on goal.

"I didn't record an assist last year, so that's definitely something I'll be looking to improve on," he said.

Brace tallied four assists as a part of a career-high 24-point sophomore year as well as two in his rookie campaign in 2012.

Brace won't lead the attacking line alone. A pair of new faces, senior forward Cooper Vandermaas-Peeler and freshman Jaiden Fortune, will try to improve on Elon's mark of 19 goals in 22 matches last season.

Vandermaas-Peeler joined the Phoenix in January, after transferring from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Fortune joins from the Orlando City Youth Academy, home of former Elon head coach Darren Powell.

Diehl expects chemistry to grow with time but is already seeing a difference. Vandermaas-Peeler played during the spring season, while Fortune is familiar with the Elon system from his time at Orlando City.

Diehl, a fellow North Carolina transfer, knows Vandermaas-Peeler well and expects him to flourish in a Phoenix uniform.

"He's a goal-scoring threat and with the ball at his feet he's quick, he makes good decisions [and] he can beat people on the dribble," Diehl said. "I haven't seen too many players that are more comfortable on the ball than him."

Vandermaas-Peeler scored three goals and racked up four assists in his final season as a Tar Heel, finishing second on the team in points with 10. He appeared in all 20 matches during the 2013 season, starting 19 of them for a UNC team that advanced to the second round of the

NCAA Tournament.

Fortune has already turned heads of senior players and coaches with his physical ability. At six feet, 170 pounds, the Bedford, England native has the strength and pace to wreak havoc on opposing defenses.

"He's a big, powerful guy. He gives us something different," Brace said.

Brace said he and Vandermaas-Peeler are similar in the sense they like to come onto the ball and are slighter, and both create space and opportunities for themselves with small touches, feints and weight shifts. Fortune offers the Phoenix a battering ram of sorts going forward who can win headers and physical battles and offer the pace to get in behind defenses.

Fortune sees himself not only as a goal-scoring threat but also as someone who can help build up play or hold it up. With his size, strength and pace, Fortune offers a viable outlet from clearances out of the Elon defense.

If Fortune can consistently get on the end of clearances or long balls out of the back and hold the ball up, other Phoenix players will be able to get up the field, get forward and offer more attacking options.

The Phoenix may be forced to score early and often as they start their 2015 season with difficult road and neutral site tests. The Phoenix only play two home matches before October. Elon will face DePaul University and Saint Mary's College of California in the John Rennie/Nike Classic in Durham, N.C. and then travel to Wilmington for the UNC Wilmington Classic to take on Campbell University and the University of North Florida.

Elon's home opener comes against in-state rival Davidson College Sept. 12 and then they hit the road again to take on Atlantic Coast Conference opposition Wake Forest University. Elon's CAA slate follows with a home contest against Drexel University before starting a three-match road swing against University of South Carolina and conference foes the University of Delaware and the College of William & Mary.

"To attract the best players you have to play against the best teams," Little said. "For the player's individual development and our team's development we need to be tested on a regular basis."

## Men's soccer seeking right fit in net



Nathan Diehl (19) will have to help transition a new goalkeeper in the 2015 season to replace longtime starter Nathan Dean (1).

**Jordan Spritzer**  
Assistant Sports Editor

For the past three seasons, former Elon University men's soccer goalkeeper Nathan Dean '15 played all but five minutes of action in net for the Phoenix. After starting 11 matches in his freshman year, Dean became the rock at the back of Elon's defense starting in each of the team's 64 matches from 2012-14.

Head coach Chris Little must now find a new keeper, after the Liverpool native graduated. With two returning goalkeepers, in redshirt freshman Matthew Jegier and redshirt junior Christopher Shannon, and new recruits freshmen Jimmy Coyle and Julian Dean, the competition is wide open.

Little said he is in no hurry to make a decision and may not make up his mind until the first game of the season. He said he wants to give the players the time and opportunity to prove themselves and claim the starting spot for themselves.

"We have good competition there, so we're excited to see how it'll unfold," Little said. "That spot has to be earned."

Little has been impressed with the goalkeeper play since Dean's departure. The results from the spring schedule seem to back that up.

"We played a very talented schedule in the spring," Little said. "We kept clean

sheets against Wake Forest [University], [University of] Virginia and [University of North Carolina at] Charlotte and those are all top 20 teams in the country."

The Phoenix also held Spanish fourth-division side Unio Jabac i Terrasa scoreless in a 2-0 win during its Spring Break trip to Spain.

Shannon was given the opportunity to play significant minutes during the spring. Little was impressed with Shannon as he made the most of his extended run in the starting lineup in the spring, looking just as sharp as the rest of the defense.

"The response of the group that was here in the spring was very good," Little said. "Defensively, we were very pleased with the concepts and the things we were doing."

Shannon said having four goalkeepers creates a much better training experience, though, he too is looking forward to battling for the starting spot.

"It'll be great to push each other with the competition," he said. "It's something for everyone to fight for."

Shannon's first look at the new goalkeepers came during a captain's practice a few days before official training begun and has been impressed ever since.

Coyle, a New Hope, Pennsylvania native, comes to Elon from prep-school powerhouse The Berkshire School in

Sheffield, Massachusetts. He recorded 17 shutouts in his first season and won the national championship with Berkshire in 2014.

Seattle native Julian Dean comes from Seattle Waldorf School and was a member of the Crossfire Premiere U18 Academy team. He was named the Northwest National Club Player of the Year and Goalkeeper of the Year for the 2013-14 season.

Senior right back Nathan Diehl said he hasn't seen a favorite emerge after the first few training sessions but doesn't expect the defense to suffer with three of the four starting defenders returning this season. Diehl, along with senior Sam McBride and sophomore Johnathan Coleby, returns to the Phoenix side that recorded nine shutouts last season.

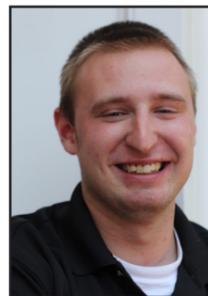
Coleby started all 19 matches for Elon in his rookie season, as well as leading the team in minutes played for an outfield player with 1800. McBride, a three-year starter for the Phoenix, started and appeared in 17 matches in 2014.

Diehl said the goalkeeper competition among the players can be contagious, causing everyone in the squad to be more intense in the early part of the season.

"It's a battle, but it's a battle that will develop their skills in the long run," he said.

## Finding that happy ending

The scene was depressing, with blank stares across many Elon University men's soccer players' faces as they coped with their loss



**Tommy Hamzik**  
Columnist

to Northeastern University in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Tournament.

Their chances at a fourth straight NCAA Tournament berth had all but disappeared.

Without a doubt, that loss still stings. Even though

the most accomplished senior class in program history is gone, the Phoenix has a slew of returners, including seven seniors. That loss now rides with them.

It's on the shoulders of James Brace, the always-smiling England native who led the team in goals last year. Same with Miguel Salazar, hailing from Mexico, who had a knack for scoring some wild goals last season.

It's on Nathan Diehl, the long-haired defenseman from Birmingham, Alabama, who figures to anchor the backline this year. And on Caue Da Silva, the quick Brazil native, who isn't afraid to try a bicycle kick.

Most importantly, it sits on head coach Chris Little to help his team move past it.

In a way, the loss to Northeastern might have been an appropriate wake-up call for Elon. Nothing was going to be handed to the Phoenix in the CAA, and conjuring up a last-second miracle — or two or three — just wasn't plausible.

It also could've taken some pressure off the team, which assuredly was thinking of upholding its legacy when the postseason rolled around last year. That added weight is gone this year.

The upperclassmen will hold onto the memories from those NCAA Tournament seasons, but having a fresh start with an incoming group won't hurt.

There's really nothing to be ashamed of from last season. Elon faced stiff competition in the CAA and handled it well. The Phoenix beat the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, which was ranked for much of the year, on the road. With one week left in the regular season, Elon controlled its own destiny and was in the mix to host the CAA semifinals and championship.

Then, a tie with James Madison University, a narrow victory over cellar-dweller College of Charleston and a 2-1 loss to University of Delaware dropped Elon into a quarterfinal game.

James Madison, which was picked to finish last in the league in the preseason, ended up winning the CAA Tournament and earning the league's automatic NCAA Tournament bid. That alone speaks to the parity of the league.

It'll surely be the same way this year. The loss to Northeastern hurt so much because the Phoenix beat the Huskies 5-0 earlier in the season. Maybe it's a lesson in not taking a team lightly based on a previous result.

Regardless, the loss is nothing Elon should be dwelling on. Use it as some extra motivation, sure. But don't make it a point of emphasis.

It's a new year, one that brings with it a lot of potential with the returners. With that core, it's not unrealistic to strive for starting a new dynasty.

And if that falls into place, the ending won't be so tough.

## Coaching web proving big on recruiting trail

**Jordan Spritzer**  
Assistant Sports Editor

Elon University's athletic department acted swiftly to appoint a new men's soccer head coach following the resignation of Darren Powell in April 2014. Director of Athletics Dave Blank announced the hiring of Powell's former assistant Chris Little just 26 days after Powell's resignation.

Powell set off to coach in Major League Soccer's Orlando City's youth academy. While he no longer occupies the touchline at Elon matches, Powell's presence is still felt in the form of new recruits freshmen Jaiden Fortune and Nicholas O'Callaghan.

Fortune and O'Callaghan both join the Phoenix after having played for Powell at Orlando City's Pro Development Academy.

While both will begin a new environment, O'Callaghan expects the transition to be smooth.

"We played the same system [at Orlando City], so we're able to get used to the style of play Elon plays," he said.

Little said he is still close with Powell and trusts his ability to evaluate players. On top of that, Little said Powell is able to provide more meaningful scouting re-

ports since he is able to watch players on a regular basis.

"The easy part is assessing who has talent, but the not-so-easy part is assessing the character, the intangibles which we think allow players to be successful," Little said.

O'Callaghan has been competing for the starting left back spot, battling with senior Myles Mansfield and redshirt-junior Johnathan Wenger, but said the fact that he is left-footed gives him a slight advantage.

While his primary duty is to defend, O'Callaghan said he enjoys joining the attack to set up his teammates.

"Going forward, I like to get the ball at my feet out wide and then come inside or outside, play one-two [passes]," he said.

O'Callaghan said he's been working on his fitness throughout the summer so he can have the work rate required for both attacking and defending requirements.

Fortune hopes the arrival of O'Callaghan and himself creates a link between Orlando City and Elon. Fortune said he heard good things of Powell before his arrival at Orlando City but knew next to nothing about Elon, its soccer program or Little. When deciding where to play college soccer, he said Elon felt right.

## Youth and the future

Elon University women's soccer head coach Chris Neal has never been afraid to play freshmen. Sometimes, that's been out of necessity. But they've rarely disappointed.



**Tommy Hamzik**  
Columnist

At some point, that experience has to benefit the team. It did in 2013, when the Phoenix charged to the top of the Southern Conference (SoCon)

standings before a runner-up finish in the league tournament.

Elon played a number of freshmen that year and started three regularly last year, all key contributors on offense.

Bundle that up with a solid core of seniors, and it could mean some success for the Phoenix.

Sophomore forwards Grace Bennett, Sydney Schilling and Susannah Anderson all figure to work into Elon's attack again. Bennett, who earned Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) All-Freshman honors, led the Phoenix with three goals, and Schilling was right behind with two.

That alone exploits a problem. Elon scored just 13 goals last year, and Schilling and Bennett were the only two to score more than one. That comes out to an average of less than a goal per game.

This is after the 2013 season in which the Phoenix scored 56 goals, averaging 2.55 per game.

By now, that trio knows what to expect. It's never easy to gauge, particularly in Olympic sports, how an athlete's transition from the high school to college level will go. Bennett, Schilling and Anderson proved themselves well. But there's still a good ways to go for them to meet their potential.

Elon had a rough go of things once CAA play came around last season. The Phoenix only scored five goals against CAA teams, two of those in its lone league victory against University of Delaware.

Neal never shied away from admitting how big a jump it was from the SoCon. Having a team that played so many freshman didn't help things much.

Now those freshmen have a year under their belts, and the senior class — many of whom have played since their freshman year — should have a better grasp on leading the team.

Defender Mel Insley, now a senior, carries the leadership torch. Fellow captains Samantha Burch, Taylor Glenn and Alexis de Groot will aid with that, too. Junior midfielder Kelly Siewers, who played in every match her freshman year, is back after missing much of last year to injury.

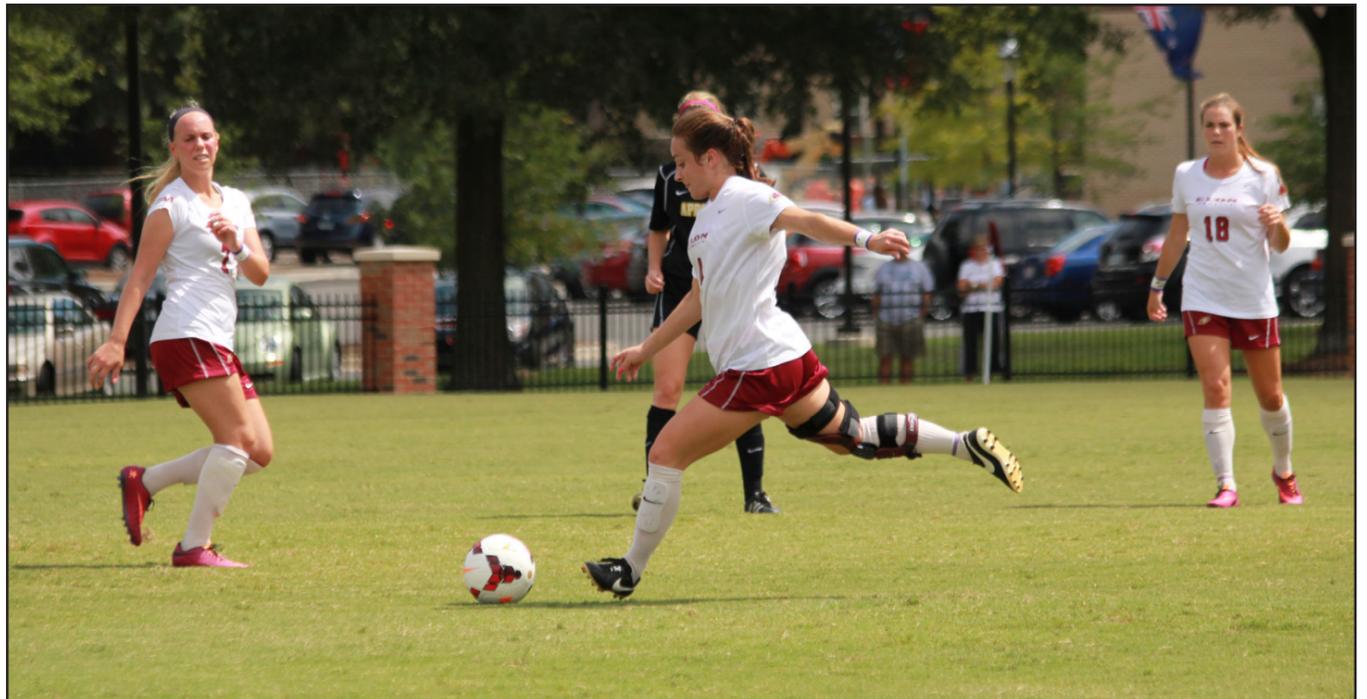
The only question mark is in between the posts. Kate Murphy, who's among the program's best in saves, starts and shutouts, graduated last spring. Sydney Branson isn't on the team, either.

So, the load falls on sophomore Hanna Macaulay, who played in four games and started one last year.

Come CAA season, the defense will need to kick it up a notch. But the offense is in place to return to its old form.

All because three freshmen took their lumps a year ago.

## Women's soccer hopes to put past behind them



Mel Insley (4) gets ready to kick the ball in a 2014 match against Appalachian State. She will help Elon control the ball in the 2015 season.

**Nathan Smith**  
Senior Reporter

The 2014 season was, as head coach Chris Neal put it, a "perfect storm" of bad things happening to the Elon University women's soccer team. The result was a 5-12 record, including a 1-8 record in Colonial Athletic Association play.

The Phoenix lost five projected starters before the season even started, losing another shortly before conference play began.

"From a personnel standpoint, 2014 was incredibly difficult," Neal said. "Now you compound all of those variables with the fact that we're moving into a league that is a top-ten women's soccer league ... it was an interesting year for us."

Since the season ended 10 months ago, the team has been working to improve its chemistry, fitness, and individual skill sets to prepare for its second season in CAA play. The team traveled to Costa Rica during spring break, playing the U20 Costa Rica national team in addition to running clinics, playing friendlies and immersing themselves with the other Elon students that were studying abroad in Costa Rica at that time.

"Ever since we lost our last game and that was over, we put that season behind us," said senior defender and Captain Mel Insley. "Starting in November, we immediately went right into training and preparing for this upcoming season. There has been huge

culture change with our team. Everyone is exactly on the same page, everyone wants to win and everyone is willing to put in whatever work they need to do to get to that point as a team."

It helps that some of the projected starters that were out for last season are back and fit. Juniors Kelly Siewers and Alexis de Groot, projected starters as central midfielders last season, each sat out the majority of the 2014 campaign (Siewers was held out after a concussion, and de Groot tore her ACL).

There are also two sophomores, Amanda Lasater and Molly Gradle, who were projected to play an integral role in the Phoenix defense. During the summer before the season began, Lasater and Gradle each had ankle surgery, ruling both of them out for the season. Even though neither has played a minute on the field, they are strong candidates to receive significant playing time on the back line.

There was also a lot of offense to replace in 2014, which is not the case this season. Last season, the team had to replace 27 goals scored by the class of 2014. This season, the team is losing one goal, returning all other scorers from last season, led by sophomore forward Grace Bennett, who was named to the CAA All-Freshman Team last season. But, Bennett knows that her efforts alone are not enough.

"We need that [scoring] in order to be successful," she said. "We need more goals

than we had last year in order to make it to the conference championships. An important goal for me is to have more goals than I did last year, and I think setting individual goals like that is extremely important for the whole team's success this year."

There are four captains on this year's team, seniors Sam Burch, Taylor Glenn, Insley and de Groot. As one of seven seniors on the roster, Insley is aware of the challenge put before the team, and has confidence in the leadership abilities of the senior class.

"I think that all of us are on the same page, and we're all willing to push each other to whatever limit that means," she said. "We've overcome a lot of adversity and challenges and everything that has brought us to this point, and so I think that we're ready to unleash everything we've put into this for the past three years and really just look for success and find that."

There are also plenty of incoming freshmen that have impressed Neal.

"We're not putting a lot of pressure on our freshmen, but we're definitely expecting them to be able to contribute right away. We're looking to sprinkle them in to complement a very strong returning core," he said.

The team is experimenting with some changes this year. There will be a new goalkeeper and different formations styles. The organization of Elon's 11 starters will "definitely have a new look," according to Neal.



## INTERESTED IN APPLYING TO THE PENDULUM?

The Pendulum news organization is always looking for reporters, designers, photographers and videographers. All years and majors welcome!

To get involved, contact our Editor-in-Chief Michael Bodley at [mbodley@elon.edu](mailto:mbodley@elon.edu) or visit our office, located on the third floor of the Elon Town Center.

**INTEREST MEETING: SEPT. 8 AT 6 P.M.**

**August 23**

Davidson | 1-0 W (OT)  
Davidson, N.C.

**August 27**

NC State | 7 p.m.  
Raleigh, N.C.

**August 30**

Chattanooga | 1 p.m.  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

**September 4**

North Florida | 7 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.

**September 6**

S.C. State | 2 p.m.  
Orangeburg, S.C.

**September 11**

Coastal Carolina | 6 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.

**September 13**

UNCG | 7 p.m.  
Greensboro, N.C.

**September 18**

Gardner-Webb | 7 p.m.  
Boiling Springs, N.C.

**September 20**

Charlotte | 2 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.

**September 25**

Northeastern | 7 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.

**September 27**

Hofstra | 1 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.

**October 2**

William & Mary | 7 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.

**October 5**

Francis Marion | 7 p.m.  
Florence, S.C.

**October 9**

UNCW | 7 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.

**October 11**

C. of Charleston | 2 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.

**October 16**

Delaware | 7 p.m.  
Newark, D.E.

**October 18**

Drexel | 12 p.m.  
Philadelphia, P.A.

**October 23**

James Madison | 7 p.m.  
Harrisonburg, V.A.

**October 25**

Towson | 1 p.m.  
Towson, M.D.

## Some long road swings

### *Elon begins, ends with four-game road stretch*

Nathan Smith  
Senior Reporter

The Elon University women's soccer team had a difficult end to its season in 2014. After a victory over the University of Delaware on Senior Day, the Phoenix had to travel to the College of William & Mary, Towson University and James Madison University to conclude its season.

The result: three losses, two of which were shutouts, on the road in the span of seven days.

Any hope that the team wouldn't have an end-of-season road trip again was thwarted when the schedule was released. Elon has four matches in four states in the span of nine days.

Looking at the other schedules in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), only one other school – William & Mary, who finished fourth in the CAA last season – finishes its season with four road matches. But the Tribe didn't have the same issues last season, playing two road matches to finish out their slate.

While the coaches put together their own nonconference schedule, for conference play they are, as head coach Chris Neal put it, "at the mercy of the league."

"When we get into conference play, we have no control over our schedule," Neal said. "Two years in a row, they've put us on the road for the last [three] games. That is certainly not ideal, but we can't control that."

The challenge, with so many away matches toward the end of the season, is having to play opponents on their Senior Days, the school's last home match of the season. Two of the four matches the Phoenix plays at the end of the season are on Senior Days – Drexel University on Oct. 18 and Towson on Oct. 25.

"You're running into teams [during Senior Day] when obviously, there's a lot of emotion on the line," Neal said. "Inevitably, on Senior Day, there's more energy. It's just the way it is – it's human nature."

While it is a bit frustrating for the coaching staff, especially going through the situation two years in a row, the players were not fazed by what appears to be another daunting end to the season campaign.

"I don't think it really makes too much of a difference because we're preparing to win each game regardless of who we're playing or where we're playing them," said Mel Insley, a senior midfielder and one of this season's team captains. "We have a common goal, and that is to win each game and grow as a team."

Sophomore forward Grace Bennett, who led the team in scoring last season with three goals, said the team has one common goal for this season: make it to the conference championships.

"Every single game to get [to the conference championships] is going to be as equally important to reach that goal," Bennett said.

While the four away matches were determined by the CAA, the four matches to begin the 2015 campaign, and the rest of the team's nonconference schedule, are purely the design of the coaching staff.

"There are some games there we should

definitely win, there are some games there that are 50/50s, either team could win, and there's a couple games sprinkled in there where we're going to be the underdog," Neal said. "You also want to, with the understanding that you're going to play a significant stretch on the road at the end of the year, get road tested as soon as possible."

The four away matches at the beginning of the season are designed to do exactly that and, according to Neal, the way the schedule works allows for the students to be in session for most of the home matches as well as having his players missing minimal class time.

"As of right now, our kids don't miss any class time at all for nonconference games," Neal said.

Last year, the team played two home games during orientation, which was the beginning of a three-game homestand to start the season. While the team went 1-1 during those games, the attendance of those matches was not any different than any of the home matches played that season.

"All eight of our home games our fan base will be here, which is great," Neal said.



Rachel Hallman (21) prepares to hit a centering ball match from the 2013 season.



Susannah Anderson (25) battles for the ball against an Appalachian State defender during the Aug. 24, 2014 match.

FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

## With additions, Elon hopes for deeper bench

Kyle Lubinsky  
Senior Reporter

The transition to the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) has been a mixed experience for Elon University thus far. Some programs have experienced more success than others. For the volleyball team, the conference change has instilled a cutthroat desire to succeed.

The Phoenix, which finished 6-26 (1-15 in CAA) in its first year of CAA play, is on the upswing. Mixing a crop of six new players with some key returning veterans, Elon is poised to rise in its second CAA campaign.

There has been a competitive spirit in the air since the preseason opened Aug. 10. Players new and experienced alike have been vying for a chance to start. According to head coach Mary Tendler, the returners put in extra work during spring workouts to stay sharp for the arrival of their new teammates.

"They're really competing hard for positions right now," she said. "We have a lot of depth on the team. That's been the most exciting thing for me, just to see them compete against each other."

The depth is anchored in the six returning upperclassmen on the team, who have more than 280 starts at Elon. That experience has helped lessen the learning curve for the many new Phoenix players.

Key members from last season will return to action this year for Elon. Junior defensive specialist Morgan Maner led last year's team in digs and aces, while senior setter Ana Nicksic led the way in assists. Sophomore outside hitter Sydney Busa was named to the CAA All-Rookie team, as well as being named Co-Rookie of the Week Oct. 6.

The first few weeks of the preseason are vital, as the players must build a rapport in a short time.

The team's chemistry has taken shape quickly. There is a willingness to learn and to teach, even in the midst of establishing a starting lineup. And on a team of 15, it is vital.

"I think we've meshed well so far," said senior outside hitter Megan Gravelly. "It's pretty rare on a team of 15 girls to get along so well."

Tendler has made it clear that the team isn't going to focus on the past – only on learning from mistakes and growing as a unit. It's an attitude that her players share.

Despite finishing 1-15 in conference play last year, the Phoenix learned from its mistakes. Each game was an opportunity to see an all-new opponent, and returning players have kept track of the strengths and weaknesses of each team.

There wasn't necessarily a weak point on the Phoenix, either. Elon was consistent in each aspect of the game, which is something it hopes to carry over into

this season.

"We take away the knowledge of each team," said junior outside hitter Kayla Agae. "We can go back in our memories and be like, 'OK, I remember these strengths and these weaknesses about each CAA team,' and from there we can apply it with the newcomers."

Elon kicks off the season by traveling to Radford, Virginia, to compete in the Radford University/Virginia Tech Invitational. The team plays its first game Aug. 28 against Washington State University. Home games begin Sept. 4 with a bout against Charleston Southern University, and CAA play begins Sept. 25, when Elon travels to Boston to take on Northeastern University.

Expectations are high. With the new arrivals finding their place on the team, the Phoenix is prepared to make an impact this season.

"Mentality-wise, it's just an open mind," Agae said. "It's a new season, and we have six new girls – five freshmen, one transfer. It's kind of a big lineup coming in."

As the start of the season looms, the Phoenix is focusing on getting a few more victories than last year.

"[We're] just looking forward to preparing conference season with our non-conference schedule," she said. "We have a lot of players that are just ready to go. It's going to be fun to start playing against some other teams."



Elon volleyball players huddle together before an Oct. 19, 2014 match against the College of Charleston. The Phoenix lost 3-0.

FILE PHOTO BY RACHEL INGERSOLL

- September 1**  
High Point | 7 p.m.  
High Point, N.C.
- September 8**  
Davidson | 8 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.
- September 16**  
UNCG | 7 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.
- September 25**  
Northeastern | 7 p.m.  
Boston, M.A.
- September 27**  
Hofstra | 1 p.m.  
Hempstead, N.Y.
- October 2**  
James Madison | 7 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.
- October 4**  
Towson | 2 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.
- October 8**  
C. of Charleston | 7 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.
- October 10**  
Delaware | 7 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.
- October 11**  
UNCW | 2 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.
- October 17**  
William & Mary | 7 p.m.  
Williamsburg, V.A.
- October 20**  
NC A&T | 7 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.
- October 23**  
Towson | 7 p.m.  
Towson, M.D.
- October 24**  
James Madison | 7 p.m.  
Harrisonburg, V.A.
- October 28**  
William & Mary | 7 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.
- October 31**  
Delaware | 7 p.m.  
Newark, D.E.
- November 6**  
C. of Charleston | 7 p.m.  
Charleston, S.C.
- November 7**  
UNCW | 7 p.m.  
Wilmington, N.C.
- November 13**  
Hofstra | 7 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.
- November 15**  
Northeastern | 2 p.m.  
Elon, N.C.

## No more empty seats

There were a handful of games in September 2014 in which the Elon University volleyball team dressed eight or fewer players.



**Tommy Hamzik**  
Columnist

Not exactly a recipe for success.

It also shouldn't be a problem for this year's Phoenix.

With six new additions — including Michigan State University transfer junior and outside hitter Ebony Scott — Elon has a full roster and

won't see too many empty seats on the bench for games this year.

There really isn't anywhere to go but up for Elon after a 6-26 season and 1-15 mark in Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) play. It always seemed as if the Phoenix competed well with its CAA foes, but would come up a play or two short down the stretch. Elon just didn't have enough in the tank to close things out.

It isn't crazy to think fatigue played a factor, in addition to the heightened level of competition in the CAA. The Phoenix didn't play poorly, but rather couldn't keep up with its opponent.

Seven players missed time because of injuries last year, plus another left the team midway through the year, leading to some reshuffling of the lineup and players playing out of position.

Elon shouldn't need to do that much, if at all, this season. Every position is solidly stacked, and there's talent returning at each of them.

There's sophomore Sydel Curry and senior Ana Nicksic at setter and junior Morgan Maner on defense. Senior Catherine Head and junior Ally Karle will command the middle, and senior Megan Gravley and sophomore Sydney Busa will once again be forces on the outside.

Really, Elon possesses a solid mix of veterans and newcomers. But the Phoenix will need the incoming freshmen and transfer to play important roles. Maybe not all of them, but at least a few.

Scott, an outside hitter, is perhaps the most intriguing of them. After redshirting her freshman year at Michigan State, she played in eight matches the next year and four last year. She's never recorded more than two kills in a match at the collegiate level.

There's a great deal of unknown there, but she was on scholarship at Michigan State, a school in the Big Ten Conference, the nation's best for volleyball. That says something in itself.

In addition to Scott, Elon adds two defensive specialists, a setter, a middle blocker and an outside hitter. No position was overlooked in recruiting.

And with players returning at each position, there's potential for some easy transitions.

Similar to last year, Elon's greatest challenge will come in CAA play. It took the Phoenix 11 tries to win a conference game last year, and that five-set victory over College of William & Mary became its only CAA win.

It won't be any easier this time around, but the year of experience should help to some regard.

And having a full bench won't hurt, either.

## New faces hope to provide spark for volleyball

Kyle Lubinsky  
Senior Reporter

This offseason, the Elon University volleyball team added six new players, a rather large recruiting class. Made up of five freshmen and a transfer student, the newcomers look to energize Elon's efforts in its second year as a member of the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA).

Freshman defensive specialist, Maddie Jaudon earned an academic all-conference selection from 2012-14 at Batavia High School, in Batavia, Illinois. Jaudon was an Illinois state scholar and a member of the National Honor Society and National Spanish Honor Society.

A standout athlete, she received all-area, all-conference and all-state honors during her senior year. She is no stranger to success, having won the national championship with her club team, Sports Performance, as a senior.

"It was a really close game, we were about to go to a third game," she said. "It was a really great feeling to pull it out in the end."

A defensive specialist and outside hitter, freshman Erin Kelly was captain for both her high school and club teams. The Raleigh native was named team MVP and earned a spot on the all-state team as a senior at Ravenscroft School. She was named to the all-conference team for three consecutive years, 2012 to 2014.

Kelly also found success outside of school. She helped her club team, NC Elite, go to the Atlantic Coast Power League Championship in 2014.

Although she has narrowed her focus to two positions, Kelly has played every position on the court during her volleyball career, adding to her versatility.

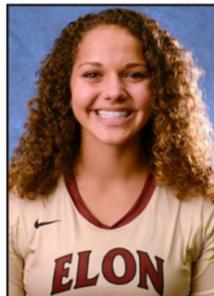
She looks forward to her time at Elon.

"I love it," she said. "The girls are great, the coaches are great, it's a great fit for me."

Freshman middle blocker Alexa Pavlick comes to Elon after helping her club team, Renaissance, qualify for nationals three years in a row. Hailing from Pittsburgh, Pavlick was a four-year letterwinner at Mt. Lebanon High School. She was also a three-time all-section first team selection, and helped Mt. Lebanon win section championships in 2011 and 2012, as well as a Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League title in 2012.

Pavlick has found her place quickly with the Phoenix.

"All the upperclassmen have been great with welcoming us and just explaining things," she said. "Even little things you



**Maddie Jaudon**



**Erin Kelly**



**Alexa Pavlick**

wouldn't necessarily think about. They're always there for advice. At practice it's really nice, because everyone's working hard and everyone's going toward the same goal."

For freshman Kam Terry, the road to Elon has been eventful. The outside hitter is originally from Marengo, Ohio.

"I come from a really small village, and not many athletes come out of there," she said. "Not many people [from Marengo] go to college period."

Terry made a habit of setting records in high school, setting single season records in kills and aces. She also helped her school, Highland, to a pair of central district championships, as well as two division championships and two regional runner-up titles.

Terry's prowess for success translated to the classroom, where she was a member of the national honor society, and ranked number one in her graduating class academically.

Freshman setter Rox Wood is originally from Eads, Tennessee. She was a three-time MVP and team captain at St. George's Independent School. Wood was also an instrumental part of the team's success, as they won the Division II-A state championship in 2010 and 2011, as well as the Division II-A regional championship in 2012 and 2013. She was named to Tennessee's all-state team in 2012 and 2013.

For Wood, coming to Elon was a natural choice.

"I looked at a lot of different schools," she said. "I knew I wanted to be in North Carolina. The campus is beautiful, and the team was awesome."

For Ebony Scott, Elon is a chance for a fresh start. The junior outside hitter originally committed to Michigan State where she was redshirted and played in a total of 12 matches in two seasons. She yearned for a more personal experience, which she found with the Phoenix.

"I really liked the team chemistry when I came," she said. "Everyone seemed like a family, which I didn't have previously."

Scott was a dual-sport athlete in high school, playing volleyball and running track. On the court, she was named to the first-team-district and received Powhatan High School's MVP award as a senior. On the track, she won all-state, all-region, all-district and all-metro awards, competing in the triple jump, long jump and shot put.

As the Phoenix gets set to start the season, the new players are adjusting to collegiate competition.

"It's a learning experience for the newcomers," said head coach Mary Tendler. "There's a lot of things that are different than what they're used to. They're learning a position on the court that we're looking for, and learning their teammates, so it's a process with them."



**Kam Terry**



**Rox Wood**



**Ebony Scott**



Megan Gravley (in air) is a returning outside hitter who will be tasked with helping some newcomers make a smooth transition.

FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY KING

## Title aspirations linger after Vargas departs



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

The women's cross country team hopes to top two consecutive second place finishes in conference championships.

**Alex Simon**  
Sports Editor

The 2014 cross country season was the longest in Elon University's history. The impact of the success in 2014 can be felt as the 2015 season dawns for the Phoenix.

In head coach Nick Polk's office hang two plaques: one is for the 2014 Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Cross Country Athlete of the Year and the other is a 2014 All-American plaque. Both of them are Luis Vargas' '15 accomplishments.

Vargas' top-25 finish at the NCAA Cross Country Championships last November earned him All-American honors, and the NCAA Championship race was the only race of seven that Vargas did not win last season.

Even though Vargas has graduated and no longer is running with Elon, his impact is still felt throughout the program.

"He was an inspiration for everybody, and I continue to use him as an example of what to do and how to be successful and how to act when you are successful," Polk said. "That trickled down into the whole group. Even though we are missing him this year, I think we are better as a team for what he did for us for four years."

Polk has seen the mindset of the runners at Elon change since this time last year.

"He opened the doors for what's possible [at Elon]," he said. "We will definitely benefit from the things that he did, because he showed them that you can be at Elon and you can be an All-American and make it to the NCAA championships. You can do big things from a smaller Division I school."

"I think there's no doubt he set a standard for success in our program."

### Building on success, frustration

The women's side has had success recently, with a track and field championship last spring. But, the cross country team has placed second at the conference title race in two consecutive seasons (Southern Conference in 2013, CAA in 2014).

"The women got to experience [a championship] in the track season, winning that first CAA championship," Polk said. "They know what it takes and what it means to be successful, but they're hungry to win the first cross country championship."

In total, the women's side has finished second in five meets in the last two sea-

sons and have placed in the top ten at the NCAA Southeast Regional Championships in both years as well. For junior Kimberly Johansen, that feeling has lingered.

"It gets frustrating after some time, constantly coming in second," said the Chelmsford, England, native. "All of us girls on the team take that as a bit of energy to push us to a championship."

Johansen said that, even though they score separately, the runners consider themselves one team.

"Luis definitely helped the women's team," she said. "He certainly had an impact on the way we thought about [running] and with his commitment to the team at every single race. His frame of mind is something that we all strive to have, both men and women runners."

The goals for the women's side, it would seem, is simple.

"Obviously, we really want to win cross country championships," Johansen said. "Another year of coming in second place would be very frustrating. We are all just trying to put in that little extra bit of work that's really gonna count and push as hard as we can in Charleston."

### A switch to pack-style running

For the men's runners, senior Ryan Gwaltney notes how Vargas' departure has changed the running style for the cross country team.

"When Luis would start off on the runs, he would break off, with a couple

guys chasing after him for a bit, but he's a next level runner," said the senior from Anaheim Hills, California. "Now we have a young team that is really looking to us to see how to get into this."

The men's team is particularly young this season, with six freshmen joining the ranks of two seniors, two juniors and four sophomores. The young group's style this season is changing, too.

"We may have lost a big gun up front [in Vargas] but I think we did a good job of replacing him with a lot of good pack-type runners," Polk said. "Instead of Luis being a minute ahead of everybody, we're gonna have a good group of seven or eight guys that can run together."

Cross country scoring is about getting the lowest score as a team, with the winner getting a single point, the second place finisher getting two, and progressing from there.

"We are way deeper as a team," Polk said. "It really hurts not having one point [from a first-place finisher], but we are way deeper on the men's side. And we could be led by a couple of freshmen."

Gwaltney is a big believer in the pack running mentality that Polk is initiating.

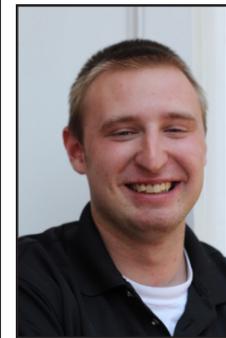
"We could have our best CAA finish ever," he said. "If we really keep things going [as they are], stay healthy and get everyone running together [in a pack], I think it is a reasonable goal."

"It is going to be different, but I think we have a lot of really cool opportunities with all of these young runners coming in."

## Runners' bragging rights

The running teams were the class of the Elon University athletic department in 2014-15.

Sophomore distance runner Kimberly Johansen and the women's track and field



**Tommy Hamzik**  
Columnist

team captured the school's first Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) title, winning the outdoor championships in May. Johansen was voted The Most Outstanding Performer at the CAA meet, breaking the league record in the 1,500-meters.

And then there's Luis Vargas '15. He

won the first six races he ran last year en route to a 25th-place finish in the NCAA Championships, becoming Elon's first cross country All-American.

Vargas and Johansen won Elon's athlete of the year awards at the annual athletics banquet in May.

Vargas has graduated. But Johansen is back and once again running for the cross country team. While the Phoenix men's and women's teams won't have the excitement of Vargas this season, there's no reason to believe it shouldn't be in the mix at the CAA Championships in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, on Halloween.

Last year, the men took second and the women took third at the event, which was held in Boston. Vargas won it.

The women have the better outlook, returning four runners who placed in the top 20 of last year's CAA Championships, including redshirt sophomore distance runner Elyse Bierut, who came in 10th.

There's a long way to go before that, though. The Phoenix hosts two home meets while traveling to North Carolina State University, University of Louisville and Wake Forest University to compete.

Since head coach Nick Polk was hired just before last season started, he's won over the runners by preaching a team-based mindset. It's not so much about the individual and his or her accolades, but rather about how they fit into the team's position and place.

Inherently, cross country is an individual sport. Runners try to beat their own time each race and are usually more concerned about that than where they finish.

But thinking of the team doesn't hurt. That can add a little more into the mix.

And without Vargas this year, Elon will need it. The Phoenix had high finishes in most meets last year by virtue of his wins. It falls on senior Ryan Gwaltney, sophomore Sam Geha, senior Reed Payne and more to fill the void. They don't have to win, but they need to improve their times.

For the women's team, the time is now. Junior distance runner Tereza Novotna and senior distance runner Jenny Gallagher are gone, but Johansen, Bierut and redshirt sophomore distance runner Kaitlin Snapp lead a good core of returners. Don't be surprised to see one of them to make a good run in the NCAAs.

By the end of it all, the runners should still hold some bragging rights in the Elon athletics department.

## CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

**Elon Open September 4 | Elon, N.C.**

**Elon Invitational September 12 | Elon, N.C.**

**Adidas XC Challenge September 18 | Cary, N.C.**

**Greater Louisville Classic October 3 | Louisville, KY.**

**Wake Forest Meet October 16 | Winston-Salem, N.C.**

**NCAA Pre-national October 17 | Louisville, KY.**

**CAA Championships October 31 | Mt. Pleasant, S.C.**