



FOOTBALL PLAYER BASHES COACH VIA TWITTER

Columnist gives take on senior running back Jamal Shuman's social media outburst.

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NO FREE BIRTH CONTROL

Elon Health Center will not be providing free birth control because of insurance regulation changes.

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THE PENDULUM

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'HAIR' tackles timeless social issues through song, passion



CLAIRE ESPARROS | Staff Photographer

Its plot sounds eerily familiar in today's world of war, social controversy and political action. "Hair," a "tribal love-rock musical," features a cast of hippies, draft-dodgers and dropouts communing in New York City during the volatile 1960s.

The large ensemble cast confronts everything from the war to sexuality, including an often-controversial nude scene, where each cast member strips down to his or her level of comfort. The cast also interacts heavily with the audience, giving the performance a more intimate feel.

Despite the adult themes, director Cathy McNeela said in a previous interview that "Hair" is not designed to appall viewers.

"Shock value is aggressive," she said. "Our 'Hair' will

be everything positive. I embrace the youthful energy and the beauty that it offers."

Senior Taylor Mettra plays 16-year-old Crissy. In a previous interview, Mettra said that although "Hair" is set in a time period different from today, the most important themes of the show are those that are still present in society.

"We're in the middle of another controversial war and have been suffering the effects socially, politically and personally just as the tribe in 'Hair' does," Mettra said. "Despite the decade differences, watching 'Hair' is like looking into a mirror for our societal issues."

See page 10 for full story on "HAIR."

General studies proposal axed by faculty

Grace Elkus
Senior Reporter

The proposed changes to the General Studies curriculum was voted down Oct. 28 by a full faculty vote, bringing an end to more than three years of work by Elon faculty and more than two years of work by the General Studies Review Committee.

The committee, which consisted of 18 faculty members from various departments, presented a seven-part proposal that had been passed by the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) in September. The final vote was given to the full faculty because of its significance to the university.

"We deferred the decision to the full faculty because it is such a big proposal and it affects every faculty member across the board," said Jean Schwind, associate professor of English and chair of the Curriculum Committee. "The faculty bylaws provide that if 15 percent of the full-time faculty petition the UCC and say we want to vote on this proposal, then it goes to full faculty."

Elon faculty members voted in favor of the New General Studies Mission Statement and Goals in 2010, a document that outlined the initial proposed changes. But when it came to approving the amended version of the proposal, votes came up short.

"We now have a general studies mission statement and goals and we don't have a curriculum that adequately addresses them," Schwind said.

Although the proposal was voted down by faculty, The Pendulum interviewed numerous professors, none of whom would say on record they voted against the proposed changes.

Primary concerns and opposition expressed in Friday's meeting addressed the proposed additional four semester hours in foreign languages, definitions to some of the new categories in the studies in the arts and sciences and the scope and definition of the Arts and Sciences, according to Rosemary Haskell, professor of English, and Tom Mould, associate professor of sociology and anthropology, co-chairs of the General Studies Review Committee.

The result of the vote comes as a disappointment to the committee, which worked at length creating the proposal to analyze research in general education, hold open forums with faculty and participate in national conferences on general education.

"We are extremely disappointed in this result, needless to say, and wish that more of the debate had been focused on the extensive national research that suggests valuable ways of strengthening Elon's general education program," said Haskell and Mould in a joint statement. "We continue to believe that the proposal is a good one."

This disappointment isn't limited to faculty on the committee. Other faculty members who were looking forward to improvements in the curriculum are also frustrated by the outcome.

"Elon had the opportunity to really advance its general studies curriculum, and unfortunately the faculty as a whole wasn't able to see the positive in the potential change," said Jessie Moore, associate professor of English. "I think that folks had a hard time wanting to put

Ceremony celebrates Numen Lumen Pavilion Students share hope for new Multi-faith Center

Mary Kate Brogan
Reporter

Students, faculty and staff accompanied the Board of Trustees at the northwest end of the Academic Village to dedicate the grounds for the new Numen Lumen Pavilion, the final building in the Academic Village that will serve as the campus Multi-faith Center.

"(The dedication) was a beautiful ceremony and it really touched many of us emotionally very deeply," said President Leo Lambert. "I hope (the pavilion) will be a very well-used facility on the campus and I'm personally very excited for it."

Prior to the ceremony, university chaplain Jan Fuller asked pairs of students representing nine religions on campus to find a word that symbolized what they hoped the Numen Lumen Pavilion would represent for the campus. Painted on stones left at the site of the groundbreaking, the words included the Hindu "Namaste," meaning "the divine in me recognizes the divine in you," "charity" for the Church of Latter-Day Saints and "umoja," meaning "oneness" in Swahili for the Baha'i religion. The words will later be engraved on stones, which will be built into the new pavilion.

"I actually just kind of declared

myself a follower of (the Baha'i religion) and one of the stones founding it was a Baha'i stone," said sophomore Meagan Casavant, who lives in the Better Together learning community. "I just thought, 'Oh, that's so cool' because ... it made me feel like I was part of the building now. I like that they literally are making several religions the building blocks of the new Numen Lumen site."

The building itself will have many unique features, according to Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, including a water wall in the lobby, a large multipurpose

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FILE PHOTO BY BRIAN ALLENBY

As part of the Numen Lumen Pavilion dedication ceremony, students placed rocks representing their faith on the location where the meditation room is set to be built, starting in December 2011.

Construction set for next month

MULTIFAITH from PAGE 1

room, a prayer room, a meditation garden between the building and Gray Pavilion to the south, a kitchen and a circular sacred space at the northern end. The building is one of the facilities included in the Ever Elon campaign.

"I think the whole campus will benefit from this," Jackson said. "I think this provides a space like we've never seen on this campus that is being viewed by national leaders as one of the most carefully designed and thought-out facilities and

programs (in the country). You don't have to be religious or identify with a particular faith to be welcome in this place. This is a place for people to come and learn. It's a powerful beacon for everyone that there's a place for them at Elon."

The Numen Lumen Pavilion will house offices for all religious leaders on campus. Because many of the current occupants of its offices will be moving to the Numen Lumen Pavilion, the Truitt Center will most likely be turned into a campus Hillel House for Jewish students, Fuller said.



FILE PHOTO BY BRIAN ALLENBY

University Chaplain Jan Fuller, President Leo Lambert and Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of student life, led the dedication ceremony Oct. 21 of the Numen Lumen Pavilion.

"What we're trying to do as a campus is support the individual faiths and religions and world views and provide spaces where people can deepen those," Jackson said.

Construction on the Numen Lumen Pavilion is scheduled to begin in December, according to Gerald Whittington, senior vice president for business, finance and technology, and the building's estimated cost is in the upper \$4 million range. Jackson speculates the construction should be completed within about a year. The building is about 15,000 square feet, while many of the other buildings in

the Academic Village are less than 10,000. The building should be ready to open in January 2013.

"(The Numen Lumen Pavilion) is very unique and I think that in 10 years, many liberal arts colleges are going to look around and think, 'What are we going to do now? We should've done this,'" Fuller said. "And you know for lots of liberal arts colleges it's not a priority, but what's unique about Elon is that it is. The reason I came to Elon, the reason I wanted to come to Elon is because Elon has made this commitment, and that's what I want to do with the rest of my life."

Dining Services launches salad, soup bar at Varsity Sports Grill

Edith Veremu
Copy Editor

Students who often eat at Varsity Sports Grill were greeted with an addition to the menu and overall change of eating arrangements after fall break. Elon University Dining Services and Auxiliary Services launched a salad and soup bar, which has taken the space once occupied by a bar counter. This addition joins the existing soup and salad bars at 1889 Grill Room and Croutons in the Colonnades neighborhood.

"Elon Dining saw a need for a retail salad bar on that side of campus," said Kate Nelson, Dining Services marketing manager. "In an effort to add a convenient, healthy salad bar option to that side of campus we chose to make that addition to Varsity

Sports Grill."

The idea of the bar has been in the works since the past spring semester and was developed in the summer, according to Gerald Whittington, senior vice-president for business, finance and technology. Whittington, like Nelson, said the salad and soup bar is convenient for students who spend most of their time near the retail location.

"After the successful introduction of the salad bar of 1889 in Colonnades, we decided we needed a salad bar on this end of campus," he said. "For those who want that option, this would be a good choice for this side of campus."

Sophomore Conor Collins, who spends most of his time in the historic neighborhood and Academic Village, said he has enjoyed the additions to

Varsity Sports Grill.

"The salad bar is really convenient for people who have to eat quickly, especially during lunch," Collins said. "I've eaten here twice, both lunch times. They have salad and fruit, so it's a good variety and I think it's good that it's only one meal swipe."

While students have all-you-can-eat access to various salad components and toppings through the meal swipe, soup isn't included. Faculty members also have the same access to this meal option like at other residential and retail dining locations on campus, said Whittington.

The salad bar will be a permanent addition to the eatery's menu and location and is part of Dining Services' commitment to accommodating students' dietary needs, Nelson

said. Whittington said the bar is just another way of Elon responding to students' suggestions.

"We always look to create new options like this as student needs and requests change, we try to change with time," he said.

Dining Services gets local produce for the salad bar, depending on what's in season, Nelson said. For Collins, the various produce is excellent because it allows him to select what he wants on his meal, he said.

"I usually get spinach and lettuce both and ham, cheese and eggs," Collins said. "Then I go up after to get some fruit. The salad bar is really convenient because that's where people can come in and get what they want instead of having someone get it for them like at downstairs Colonnades."

the Swing

Watch The Swing at <http://bit.ly/theswing2>

'Hair' Cast Interview

Copy Editor Rebecca Iannucci gives us the scoop on Elon's production of the Broadway hit Hair.

Sports Commentary

Assistant sports editor Zachary Homer talks about the Jamal Shuman Twitter incident and the big picture reflection it makes on the football team.

Proposed GST Changes

Senior reporter Grace Elkus talks about controversial proposed changes to GST courses at Elon.

What to do this weekend

Multimedia Editor Elizabeth Nerich shares the coolest events happening on and around campus this weekend.

Ballroom Dancing at Midnight Meals

Multimedia Editor Katie Pullman reports on what happens when the club dance takes over Midnight Meals.

University instructors design early childhood education major, minor

Ashley Fahey
Features Editor

For the past two years, the early childhood education program at Elon has been developing, but hasn't gotten off the ground until this semester. Many different departments and instructors were involved in the design and creation of the program, which offers both a major and a minor in early childhood education.

"We did some interest surveys during the design and development," said Heidi Hollingsworth, assistant professor of education and coordinator of the new program. "We heard from admissions when they got calls about Elon's programs and up until this point, we haven't had it to offer."

The students who complete the major will receive a B-K, or birth-Kindergarten, license that indicates they are specially trained to work with children younger than kindergarteners, according to Hollingsworth.

"It's a much earlier focus," she said. "Because of that, it has a lot of focus on family and the social and cultural context rather than just the school context. Graduates will be able to teach in the public school system, but they could also teach in a variety of other places."

One of the main objectives of the program is to encourage stimulation and growth at a very young age.

"Children are so much more capable than what people used to think," said Mary Knight-McKenna, associate professor of education, who has helped coordinate the new program. "With the right stimulation, with the right language, they can start to develop math, science and other skills early."

Prevention is always superior to remediation, she said.

"My hope, personally, is to see the development of reading skills early on," she said. "The research on this is very exciting. Intervening early holds all kind of promise."

While some classes early childhood development majors and minors take are similar to other education programs,

the program is structured to encourage more than just students pursuing a career in teaching.

"For anyone who is interested in working with kids, it wouldn't be hard to pick up the minor," Knight-McKenna said.

Alyssa Kendall, a sophomore psychology major, wants to pursue early childhood education as a minor because it will supplement her psychology education.

"I want to be able to understand childhood development through this minor in order to apply the knowledge to my major," she said. "I am interested in childhood development and elementary school psychology, so gaining an understanding of how children develop leading up to the elementary age is important."

A recent N.C. ruling may increase funding for at-risk 4-year-olds by \$300 million per year over the next four years. The increased funding would directly help the community centers and schools where Elon students would work.

"It will hopefully increase funding in programs in the community and familiarize resources in the community," Hollingsworth said.

Working within the community is one of the main differences between the early childhood education program and other education programs, as all candidates pursuing the major or minor work directly in the immediate community. The increased state funding would help benefit the children Elon students would work with in daycare centers and schools.

Local centers often struggle financially, as well.

"There was a point in which the Alamance Partnership for Children, who works here in Burlington, was wondering if they would have to close their doors," McKenna-Knight said.

Increased funding will start to remediate the financial problem, and the Elon early education program will make connections with programs like the Alamance Partnership for Children.

"We are looking forward to developing relationships with other communities," Hollingsworth said. "There will be challenges, but we want our candidates to see high-quality, inclusive programs working right there with students who have special needs."

Knight-McKenna said she hopes to see early childhood development students spend a semester in Costa Rica, where they would work directly in settings not found in the United States that could give them a unique experience.

"Students would learn Spanish through immersion," she said. "In coming back to the Burlington community, they would have a higher degree of proficiency in working with Hispanic families. It's about connecting various cultures and backgrounds."

Freshman Ciera Martinez said she is interested in the early childhood education program because majoring in it would allow her to fulfill a career goal.

"Being a bilingual daycare owner and coordinator is my goal at the moment, and it will not only benefit me, but my students," she said. "I hope that Elon can give me the experience needed in order to successfully fulfill that goal."



FILE PHOTO BY MERISSA BLITZ
Mackenzie Paul, 5, a student at Nathanael Greene Elementary in Greensboro, plays outside in a park.



ELIZABETH EVERETT | Staff Photographer
Burlington will receive more than \$1 million from the Powell Bill funds for road repairs, an increase of more than \$50,000 from last year.

Old funding supports new projects in Elon

Nick Zanetti
Senior Reporter

This year, the city of Burlington will receive an additional \$50,000 from Powell Bill funds, a North Carolina Department of Transportation program that is distributing \$138 million this year to more than 500 North Carolina municipalities for purposes of local road maintenance. NCDOT distributed the first half of the money at the beginning of October and Burlington's funds will total \$1.4 million.

"Funding provided by the Powell Bill helps cities and towns cover the costs of construction, maintenance and needed repairs for the streets and sidewalks they maintain," said North Carolina Transportation Secretary Gene Conti in a press release. "With the budget situation many of these communities face, this is a way to provide valuable assistance so they can maintain and improve the safety and condition of their transportation systems."

The money for Powell Bills comes from revenue generated from gas tax and highway user fees. Seventy-five percent of funds are allocated based on population and 25 percent is based on mileage of non-state roads maintained in a given area. The money is then allocated to municipalities to use at their discretion and is not for specific projects.

"Powell Bill funds are something we get every year for general maintenance," said Nolan Kirkman, Burlington public works director. "We always plan to receive the money."

The amount allocated to Burlington increased by almost \$50,000 from last year. The money is meant exclusively for local road maintenance, as state roads are maintained through separate financing, according to Kirkman.

There are no specified plans as of yet, but the new repairs cannot come soon enough for some Burlington residents. Marjorie Loy said she has noticed some city roads have been in disrepair.

"I hope they use some of the money to fix part of Southern High School Road," she said. "I've seen potholes all over that thing."

Although there are many road projects currently underway in Burlington, the Powell Bill funds will go mostly toward future projects and repairs, according to Kirkman.

Burlington is among 21 cities that received more than \$1 million. The biggest recipients of funds this year were Charlotte (\$18.6 million), Raleigh (\$9.8 million) and Greensboro (\$7 million).

"It's something I think we could use," Loy said. "I hope they spend that money wisely."

New ABSS initiative goal: Create tech-savvy critical thinkers

Nick Zanetti
Senior Reporter

The Alamance-Burlington School System will soon stop being an orange.

ABSS has adopted the Common Core and Essential Standards, an initiative that attempts to level the playing field among its own schools and those around the country so a more accurate comparison can finally be made.

"Before, when we've compared ourselves to other states, it's been like comparing apples to oranges," said Rhonda Schuhler, director of professional development and recruitment for ABSS. "The Common Core standards are intended to get us to more of an apples to apples comparison to other schools."

The standards are intended to get students to use more conceptual and critical thinking rather than just memorizing facts. The initiative also seeks to create more congruency between national and North Carolina educational standards.

"We want our students to be able to analyze and synthesize information to make connections, not just learn basic facts and information," Schuhler said. "It's intended to help students think at higher levels."

Literacy is one of the key areas emphasized in the standards. Educators want students to use literacy skills not just in language arts, but also in other subjects. They want students to develop

into good readers, writers and speakers in all subjects, according to Schuhler.

The Common Core categorizes ways of learning into different levels. Basic levels of learning are things like remembering, while more complex levels involve creating and analyzing, according to the North Carolina Department of Instruction's website.

"Instead of, for example, simply memorizing and repeating information, we want students to be able to apply it to a new situation," said Molly Ellington, a third grade teacher at Alexander Wilson Elementary School in Graham and 2008 alumna of Elon's master's of education program.

The new standards will attempt to teach students how to critically evaluate sources of information in an Internet age, where information floods in from everywhere.

The standards have been adopted by 48 states, according to Schuhler, and the uniformity of the plan allows for more accurate comparison among states.

The Common Core also attempts to help educators in various states collaborate more freely. Since the curricula among schools will be more similar, they can more easily share new ideas.

"It gives us an opportunity to share resources and best practices, as well as an opportunity to connect and collaborate with other schools," Schuhler said. "Common Core has created a national conversation between educators that

didn't exist before."

The new standards will challenge teachers, as well as students, as they will have to adapt some of their methods toward accomplishing the goals of the new standards.

"It also involves an adjustment from teachers," Ellington said. "We will have to shift some of our thinking about the way

that we teach."

While administrators want teachers to adapt to the new method, they don't want them to feel too restricted in the classroom.

"We still want teachers to have a certain amount of instructional freedom so they can adjust to the students that they have in their classroom," Schuhler said.



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From Iraq to Elon, Blacknall fights various battles

Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

On a Tuesday morning in September, hundreds more people than usual gathered at College Coffee in a visible movement against discrimination. They wore black stickers that read “Not on our Campus” and stood silently as President Leo Lambert addressed the crowd, vowing to make Elon University a safe and comfortable place for every member of its community.



CANDACE BLACKNALL

It wasn't the first time the Elon community was addressed about discrimination, and it certainly was not about to be the last. Senior Candice Blacknall made sure of it.

“Now what?” she shouted, part of a bigger group of students wearing white T-shirts to stand out.

Lambert offered to take one more question and Blacknall's group pelted him, rapid-fire, with a hailstorm of rhetorical inquiries about the institution's plans to prevent future incidents of racist behavior.

Now what?

Just days earlier, two black students had reported to Campus Safety and Police they had been on the receiving end of racial slurs. The two incidents were separate and occurred on different evenings, but many other students have since publicly stated they or their friends have also been victims, and that the intentions of some in the Elon community are not always as beautiful as the well-kept grounds inside the tidy brick walls may seem to imply.

A passion for respect

To take the financial burden of private college tuition off her single mother, 21-year-old Blacknall joined the military at the age of 17 and deployed to Iraq in 2009. Since then, she has gotten married, finished all of her homework for the semester and credits her time in uniform with honing the leadership skills that resulted in taking charge of Not on our Campus.

“It's important to be proactive and not reactive, and that's what we really want to encourage the university to understand,” Blacknall said. “Elon is not a closed campus and President Lambert himself has admitted there are people around us who don't necessarily respect the diversity initiative Elon is pushing.”

But that initiative to increase diversity is part of the problem when it comes to equality and respect for differences, she said, and she is working to blur the lines and remove the stigmas that have formed around the definitions of “diverse” and “not-diverse.” The way Elon characterizes diversity is limiting, she said, and perpetuates the constant problem of “non-diverse” students participating

in “diversity” events.

Instead, diversity should be defined as the differences between people's ideas and thought processes.

“I heard people say all the time, ‘Well, I'm going to support the movement even though I'm not diverse,’” Blacknall said. “That was odd to me because I was like, ‘You're not diverse, so you mean everything you're thinking right now, I'm going to agree with? We're going to see eye to eye 100 percent on everything. To say that you're not diverse — don't let people tell you that. Diversity is who you are, it's what you are, regardless if you want to be or not, no one, no two people in the world are going to have the exact same perspective on everything and that is your diversity.’”

Blacknall is a part of S.M.A.R.T. — Student Mentors Advising Rising Talent — at the Multicultural Center, meaning she acts as a personal resource and guide to specific incoming freshmen that have been identified as minority students. She currently has three mentees and her leadership has not gone unnoticed. She is one of the strongest S.M.A.R.T. mentors in the Multicultural Center, according to Melissa Jordan, assistant director. Jordan leads the S.M.A.R.T. program and has worked closely with Blacknall for years.

“She has a natural type of leadership ability to lead by example, speak up when needed and really encourage others if they have concerns or questions or don't understand something,” she said. “She's been a blessing to the program, she's been a blessing to the mentees.”

Life lessons from overseas

Blacknall's passion for respect — and her ability to lead others in demonstrating passion — is rooted in her experience with the military. She deployed to Iraq in 2009 and has not been the same since.

Had Blacknall stayed at Elon and graduated after four years of being in ROTC, she would have missed out on deploying, which was an experience Blacknall wanted to have in order to make her a more seasoned and respected officer later down the line.

“I decided that as a leader, I didn't want to become an officer and therefore a really big leader without having that experience,” she said. “I would be leading

soldiers that did have that experience and I can tell you as a lower-enlisted soldier, when I see you don't have a combat patch, your words are very light for me. So I didn't want to be that officer.”

Blacknall's unit deployed for more than a year between 2009 and 2010, and she began preparing to go overseas during the fall semester of her sophomore year. Her exact departure date was unknown, but she refused to not complete a semester. She worked with her professors to complete her coursework months ahead of her classmates. She was able to finish the semester before heading to Iraq, where she learned countless other lessons.

“Iraq was not hard,” she said “It was uncomfortable. You definitely had to be a lot more aware of your surroundings. More than anything I learned, I just learned to really appreciate the things we have here. And just live each day.”

There, she acted as a medic, where she lost her first patient. There, she decided to never again take for granted the luxury of time. There, she vowed never to procrastinate the important missions that needed to get done right. Before she had deployed, in the last cold-feet moments and the weeks of anxiety leading up to leaving, she was told she would always remember one lost patient in particular, for no apparent reason, and sure enough, clear as day, she did.

“He was supposed to get married,” she said. “He was 19 and he came over to Iraq and he said, ‘I'm not going to get married because we're young. Let's just wait, we have time. My parents wouldn't necessarily agree with me getting married young, so let's just wait until we get older.’”

But time didn't work out in his favor, and Blacknall has promised

herself not to make the same mistakes.

The night is young

“I feel like when you're young, you're like ‘I have plenty of time,’” she said. “When I came home, I didn't have that understanding anymore. That changed that for me. I realized that if you want to be something, if you want to leave a legacy behind, you need to do it now. It's not guaranteed, especially if you're a service member. That's something you just don't think about.”

Despite the trials and tribulations of being 21 and hitched, despite the wisecracks and frequent assumptions she willingly ball-and-chained herself, Blacknall couldn't be happier as a married woman.

“He's my best friend, we hang out, we laugh, we go to dinner,” she said. “We probably make more mischief than necessary together. He's also my partner in crime so it's always fun to break that barrier to get people to know marriage isn't always as stuffy as people make it seem, it's actually fun.”

But even though she goes home to Burlington every night and works several days a week at the American Eagle in Alamance Crossing, Blacknall still finds a way to spend time on campus to stay involved as a S.M.A.R.T. mentor and continue working with the Not on our Campus movement, which she says is not over yet. She doesn't consider herself an activist, but Jordan begs to differ and said she can see her being a well-known figure in the future.

“She definitely has an activist spirit, she has an activist thought process,” Jordan said. “I think she is a person that will not sit down and she will speak up when others do not feel comfortable or do not have the words to say what they need to say.”



Blacknall (front right) deployed to Iraq in 2009 for more than a year, where she served as a medical supply specialist and infection control representative. Blacknall is still serving in the army as a healthcare specialist.

New general studies program requirements fail to gain university faculty approval

GST from PAGE 1

the energy into the changes that it would have required, but we really saw an opportunity for great change at Elon and it didn't happen. I think that there is a lot of division across the faculty about it.”

Fred Ruback, chair of the performing arts department, participated in Friday's discussion and voted on the proposal. Like Moore, he recognizes the disagreement among faculty.

“I cared very much about the issues surrounding the proposal, as did my colleagues in the department,” he said. “Clearly there was enough strong opinion to move a

majority of the group to vote as they did for all their various reasons. I know that we all want what is best for our students. In this instance I guess we just did not all agree on what this should be.”

Some faculty expressed concern over the format of the meeting and the quality of the discussion. Schwind was surprised that the motion of voting separately on the seven parts of the proposal was not discussed; instead, the faculty voted on the proposal as a whole. She noted that the UCC meeting, where the seven parts were each voted on individually, allowed for a more constructive conversation than the full faculty meeting.

“We had a very good discussion of the proposal at the UCC meeting,” she said. “We discussed it in detail. We discussed reservations and people responded to things we were worried about. It was very thoughtful, it was very careful, it was very considerate. Thoughtfulness and careful consideration were in short supply on Friday.”

Kristin Ringelberg, an Art History professor, was also surprised when the motion to vote on the entire proposal was brought up for the first time at the meeting. Ringelberg had made a suggestion per Academic Council recommendations that all amendments be submitted in advance so the council

could discuss them prior to the meeting. But only one amendment was submitted.

“Some of the things that were brought forward at the meeting were brand new to most in the room, and I don't think we had the time and forum to discuss them adequately and vote in a truly informed manner,” she said.

The meeting, which was led by Academic Council, was held in Whitley Auditorium from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. Faculty were told that the meeting would end at 5:30 p.m. regardless of the state of discussion at the point, which concerned those who recognized the irony in rushing the meeting after spending a considerable amount of time

working on and learning about the proposal.

“I think a decision of this magnitude should not be driven in part by the urge to have a shorter meeting,” Ringelberg said. “The proposal was quite different by the end than it was at the beginning of the meeting, and to then rush our consideration of it seems foolhardy.”

Mould and Haskell are hopeful that some parts of the proposal will be re-considered and potentially end up in a future version of Elon's General Studies curriculum. For now, Moore sums up the sentiment felt by much of the faculty. “It's definitely a disappointing day at Elon,” she said.

Cultural events complement themes learned in class, student attendance often required

Hannah DeLaCourt
Senior Reporter

Attending cultural events is a part of being an Elon University student, especially for first year students taking a Global Experience class.

In many of these classes, professors require students to attend a certain number of cultural events. But if professors did not require students to attend these events, would they have the same attendance numbers?

Freshman Eric Halperin said although he is required to attend events for class, he usually chooses to go to events he finds interesting and enjoys attending them.

"It's cool because almost all of them are things I would never get to experience in high school," he said. "For that reason I think it's OK that professors require them because many of them provide unique outlooks on topics that you may not see other places."

He also said while the events he has attended this year have been full and he enjoyed them, he thinks they are full mainly because students are required to attend. But even if they weren't required, he said he still would probably attend them because the events interest him beyond what is discussed in class, and he enjoys the different perspectives on issues he hears at panels Elon brings to campus.

"Since part of Elon's goal is about encouraging globalization, exploring different cultures through some of these cultural events, whether they are required or not, is beneficial," said

sophomore
Scott Balerno.

The number of events needed per class varies with each Global Experience professor.

Many require their students to go to events because they connect with global themes discussed in class. Laurin Kier, assistant professor of sociology, said she requires attendance at events for two reasons.

"One is that I want students to know and understand the breadth of cultural opportunities available at Elon and, hopefully, by going to some they'll appreciate the value of the cultural events to their lives," she said. "Secondly, the Global Experience curriculum has common themes that all GST 110 classes revolve around, and I want my student to see the universality of these themes."

For the past two years, the Office of Cultural and Special Programs has been working to draw more students to events. Jeff Clark, executive director of Cultural and Special Programs, said the first two events this semester, which were the Second City shows put on in collaboration with the Student Union Board, were both sold out and the majority of tickets went to students.



Brian Williams speaks at Elon University's spring convocation for honors on April 7 2011. FILE PHOTO BY HEATHER CASSANO



"The Many Sides of Justice" Panel, hosted by Phi Alpha Delta and Pi Sigma Alpha, spoke at LaRose Digital Theatre to discuss the legal field. FILE PHOTO BY MERISSA BLITZ

Bringing speakers and events that supplement what students are learning in the classroom has become a main focus for the office, Clark said.

"I think it's a good thing if the event is relevant to the class," he said. "Something we have worked on is finding events and speakers that are relevant to the classes. We are also doing more listening as to what students want to see and what they might want to attend."

The Office of Cultural Programs has begun going through Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, for events like Convocation for Honors to try

to reach out to more students, as well. Posters around campus and advertisements on the digital sign boards in Moseley Center are used to make students aware of what is happening on campus.

Attendance at cultural events last year increased by 54 percent, and right now, Clark said, the office is on track to surpass that number.

"A year and a half to two years ago there were a lot of empty seats, but through the efforts I've talked about we have reached out to more students," he said. "We've really made an effort to engage the students more, and we'll continue to do that."

Thank you: 'The two words no one says nearly enough'

Event planned for campus community to recognize donors

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

From Nov. 8-10, at various locations around campus, students, faculty and staff will be able to write thank you notes to donors to the university, with the goal of reaching 1,000.

"It's the two words that no one says nearly enough but everyone wants to hear," said Amanda Zamzes, program assistant for donor relations, who has been instrumental in planning the event. "We're just providing a venue so that those who want to say thank you have the ability to do so."

Student volunteers will man the tables, which will include blank cards, a fish bowl full of names to draw from and a thermometer filled with acorns marking the progress of the event. Those who wish to thank a specific donor, rather than drawing a random

name, will have the opportunity to do so.

"It's a very wide variety of donors, not just major ones," Zamzes said. "It's the professor teaching you in class that makes the donation every year. It's the person in Physical Plant who takes care of this campus and believes in it enough to give back a part of their earnings to keep the university running."

Students who receive scholarships are typically encouraged to write notes of thanks to their donors. Students who have not done so already can write specific thank you notes, according to Sara Peterson, director of donor relations. The event, she said, reflects one facet of Elon's institutional priorities.

"From our vantage point, that means making people aware of what has been done for them, many times, without much fanfare," she said. "Part of that is

sharing the stories that go into making Elon the great place it is. Building the culture of philanthropy means knowing those stories and appreciating it and letting people who've made sacrifices know they're appreciated."

Last year, the university held Elon Thank You Day for a few hours at a table in Moseley Center. The event was considered a success, Zamzes said, despite the lack of substantial publicity.

"We wanted to step up and say, 'let's make this an Elon tradition and spread it out over a few days' and give a goal that is quantifiable and people understand," she said. "It's unlike anything we've ever done before, but something that we should be doing."

This year, Zamzes said the event will be advertised through Facebook, table tents and notes on whiteboards. College Coffee will officially kick off the three-day event earlier that week.

NEWS BRIEFS

Death of Trustee Emeriti

Melvin "Mel" Parker, a longtime member of Elon's Board of Trustees died Oct. 28 after a lengthy illness, according to an email from Jeff Stein, special assistant to the president.

Parker served as a minister of the United Church of Christ for many decades and was the first president of the Southern Conference of the UCC. He earned the Elon Medallion in 1998 and was a close adviser to former Elon President Fred Young and current President Leo Lambert.

Cushman overturns on West Haggard Avenue after collision

Daniel Phillips, a gardener at Elon University, was driving a Cushman westbound on West Haggard Avenue when junior Samantha Davis, driving northbound on Manning Avenue, pulled out in front of him around 1 p.m. Oct. 28, according to Thom Deleuw, master police officer for the town of Elon.

Phillips struck the back of Davis' vehicle, causing the Cushman to overturn. Phillips sustained a laceration under the eye, Deleuw said, and was taken to Cone Health in Greensboro.

Davis was not injured and will be charged for failing to yield right of way.

Debut of new admissions video

A shortened version of the new admissions video for Elon University, created by two alumni and students, recently debuted during halftime of the Oct. 22 broadcast of the homecoming football game.

The full-length video, totaling nine minutes, can only be viewed on campus. Involved in the production were Tim Johnson, class of 2009, and Max Cantor, class of 2010.

Colin Firth to visit Alamance County for film shoot

Colin Firth, the Academy Award winning actor who starred in last year's hit "The King's Speech" will be in Alamance County a few days this month shooting for his next film "Arthur Newman, Golf Pro".

According to a recent story from The Times-News, Firth will be in the Wilmington and Triad regions, along with co-star Emily Blunt.

Request for Cook Road speed reduction denied by NCDOT

The North Carolina Department of Transportation has denied a request by mayor of Burlington Lenny Williams to temporarily reduce the speed limit on Cook Road during construction. The reduction would have affected the portion of the road between Burlington Avenue, N.C. 100 and Driftwood Drive.

Williams went door-to-door asking residents for their support and found most community members wanted to see a lowered speed limit, according to a recent story in The Times-News.

The current speed limit is 35 mph and although it will not be changed during construction, pedestrian crossing signs will be installed along intersections on the road.

Call for Burst the Bubble Classes

Proposals are currently being accepted from students interested in teaching a Burst the Bubble class during Winter Term. Small amounts of funding are available for materials and applications are due Nov. 17.

Nov. 2 - Nov. 8

Nov. 2

- The Fund for American Studies Information Session: 5 p.m., Lindner Hall

Nov. 3

- "Remembering Nov. 3: The Greensboro Truth Process:" 7:30 p.m., LaRose Digital Theatre
- Sunshine Center workshop: 2 - 4:30 p.m., Mendenhall 211 at East Carolina University

Nov. 4

- "Repairing a Mortgage Crisis:" 1:30 p.m., Koury Business Center 145
- Parents' Night Out: 6 - 10 p.m.
- Comedian Tracey Ashley: 8 p.m., Irazu

Nov. 5

- North Carolina Student Leadership Conference: Register at <http://www.ncaie.org/ncicl.html>

Nov. 6

- North Carolina Student Leadership Conference: Register at <http://www.ncaie.org/ncicl.html>

Nov. 7

- "The Power of Neuronal Populations:" 7:30 p.m., McCrary Theatre

Nov. 8

- Tech Talks@2: 2 - 2:30 p.m., online
- Senior Photo Day: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Hearth Lounge

For more dates and information about campus events, visit the calendar on the Elon website.

International

'Self-inflicted wounds' point to France's immigrant problems

Madelyn Smith
Copy Editor

Azouz Begag's family moved from its home in Algeria in the 1960s to seek the French version of the American Dream. After arriving in France in a town outside of Lyon, Begag's parents said they would eventually go home.

"It soon became the 'myth of return home,'" Begag said. "It was tomorrows after tomorrows, and before we knew it 50 years had passed and we hadn't left France."

Begag is a French author, sociologist and politician who once worked as the minister for equal opportunities under Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin. He spoke alongside Alec Hargreaves, a specialist on post-colonial French politics, culture and media and professor at Florida State University, in a talk titled "Contemporary France, Changing France" Oct. 27.

The two friends have collaborated on several books and articles relating to French government's stance on immigration and the place of Islam in France. They discussed the difficult plight of the millions of North African immigrants who live in France today and the unstated pressure for them to fully integrate into French society.

Begag said the radio was his primary means of entertainment as a child, and his father would encourage him to listen to as many radio programs as possible to improve his French.

"He basically said the only way to integrate into French society is to speak

better than the French themselves," said Begag. "I adopted the idea that the way you present yourself to the French is a major factor to your acceptance into the society."

But Begag's parents didn't necessarily live out the advice they gave to their children. Neither one learned French in their more than 50 years in the country.

Begag's story is not far off from the millions of other North African immigrant families who have lived in the country since the 1960s.

Algeria became independent from France in 1962, and Hargreaves said this caused a spike in the number of North Africans who moved to France. Most of these immigrant populations were met with hostility, and Hargreaves said the negative stigma toward them still exists today.

Hargreaves said many North Africans in France — it is estimated there are more than 5 million — still live in the same areas their families moved to when they first immigrated to France in the 1960s.

"They live in disadvantaged districts called banlieues, and these areas are largely neglected," he said. "But they were publicized in the riots of 2005."

The 2005 riots that took place in cities across France were by groups of immigrant youth who were tired of mistreatment by the French government.

"These are groups of people who felt their hopes and expectations had all but been crushed," Hargreaves said. "Young people became gradually

more hostile and felt victimized over time. They sought out symbols of state who had failed to protect them from discrimination."

Begag said the young North Africans have a right to feel offended and said they represent "self-inflicted wounds" of French society.

"I'm a frustrated man," he said. "You would think there would have been more progress, but not the case. Out of 577 deputies in the French National Assembly, none is of Arab descent. Out of the millions of Arab people, barely any vote. This is the challenge today."

Hargreaves stressed that French youth should continue to put pressure on the French government and politicians, because historically that has given them the answers they're looking for. But currently, there is a major portion of French society that isn't voting.

"Right now, with politicians and the immigrant voters, there's a widespread view that there's no point," he said.

An audience member asked Begag and Hargreaves if the recent elections in Tunisia would potentially inspire those of North African descent in France to vote.

"It can inspire them to go and ask about their rights, definitely," Begag said. "The best way to increase voting, I think, would be to make voting obligatory, but that's not realistic. For now, they should want to say, 'this is my privilege' and participate in democracy. We must continue to work for the better. We can be optimistic for the future."

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

US cuts UNESCO funding after move to admit Palestine

The United States State Department announced it would cease funding the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, following the organization's vote to include Palestine as a full member.

Legal requirements mandate the U.S. to cut financial ties with any organization that recognizes Palestine as a sovereign nation. A current UN resolution proposes to give Palestine full membership rather than its current observer status, and many other member states have voiced support for Palestine's proposal for recognition.

The U.S. has been clear it will veto the resolution should it pass the Security Council.

NATO ends Libyan military mission

After seven months on the ground in Libya, NATO declared Monday it will terminate the military endeavor it started March 31.

NATO originally planned to enforce a no-fly zone, conduct air raids and maintain an arms embargo as mandated by the United Nations and carried out almost 10,000 strikes, destroying nearly 6,000 military targets.

NATO's decision to retract its forces comes in spite of Libyan requests for the organization to stay in-country until the end of the year.

Chinese spacecraft launches, marks mission to assemble space station

The Chinese spacecraft Shenzhou-8, unmanned, launched early Tuesday from the remote Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, located in the Gansu province.

China has plans to establish a permanent space station within a decade and has scheduled two visits for astronauts next year.

World population reaches 7 billion

The world population reached at least seven billion people Monday according to an estimate by the United Nations. Newborns around the world seen as symbols of the milestone were celebrated as seven-billionth babies.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a press conference Monday the world's newest babies have been born into a world of terrible contradictions, where there is plenty of food yet one billion people continue to go hungry.

"I am one of seven billion," he said. "You are also one of seven billion. Together, we can be seven billion strong, by working in solidarity for a better world for all."

Greece to hold referendum on new debt deal with European Union

For the first time, Greek citizens will be able to vote on austerity measures intended to solve the country's debt problems.

Cuts to Greece's social programs the government has claimed are necessary to absolve the small country's multi-billion dollar debt have fueled fiery riots and violent protests for months. Many citizens have been upset by their government's willingness to allow the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and European Union (EU) to dictate the recourse needed to secure a bailout.

Prime Minister George Papandreu announced the referendum Monday.

Correspondent's Corner

Glenn Scott
International Reporter

Glenn Scott is an associate professor of communications at Elon University. He is on leave this year as a Fulbright visiting lecturer at the University of Ryukyus in Okinawa.

Assigning students to groups of three, I had in mind the usual cautionary moves learned as a classroom instructor at Elon.

The situation was new. Instead of life amid the oaks and fall colors of manicured Elon, I was adapting to the banyans and island breezes at the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa, Japan. Instead of emphasizing the theory and practice of mass communications, I was mostly teaching a foreign language: English.

But I was hoping that some things don't change. Despite the usual distractions, college students still want to learn, and some methods, when properly managed, seem to help. Pardon the big words, but I was aiming for some intercultural applicability.

So standing in front of a class of 20 students at the University of the Ryukyus, I explained that we would break into small learning groups to promote thinking and discussion, just like at Elon.

My Japanese students looked up and nodded.

Small groups. In my experiences, most students relish small groups. If you query Elon students on how they learn best, you'll often hear that chorus. One-way lectures bore. Student presentations waste time and force illicit texting. Response papers are just so inky when the printers give out on deadline, which is nearly always. But small groups are built on that promising pedagogical term: chat.

You learn by talking.

That's what I wanted from my Okinawa class. Talk a lot, but do it



Glenn Scott's students learn English at the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa, Japan.

in English. First we would watch the video segment from "60 Minutes" with Anderson Cooper interviewing "the sharkman," a South African fellow who thinks great whites are pleasant and curious and not lusty, finned predators at all. Except sometimes.

I would hand out some questions, and students would talk them out. This would test their listening comprehension and sharpen their speaking. Good plan.

As the students shifted locations, they brought their electronic dictionaries, their question sheets and their small, portable boxes or bags of extra mechanical pencils and pens, maybe some lead refills and of course their rectangular white erasers. In Japan, most people don't cross out or write over their mistakes. They erase. And they print the words again until the sentence is exactly correct and almost painstakingly, artistically perfect.

My Japanese students knew how to take notes and how to concentrate. They worked through the 14 questions one phrase at a time, underlining key verbs, tapping the tiny keys of their dictionaries, constructing sentences fully worthy of a public reading.

The hard part was initiating the chat. It's hard to say much in a second

language when you're staring at your list of 14 questions. Or erasing and writing a slightly better response. Or waiting for another person in your group to add the first description of the sharkman's intentions because she might have better deciphered his South African dialect.

I never once had to prod a group to slow down or dig deeper. Never did a student bring up Saturday's menu of musical events. When I raised my camera to shoot some photos — this is what new professors do in cross-cultural settings — not a single student objected or hid a face or mugged for the lens.

Know why? They were concentrating. They weren't even noticing the camera. Much of the time, they were looking down, thinking back to the video and wondering what their awkward foreign professor really expected of them.

Six questions would have been plenty. Four might have been right.

I admired the whole, quiet experience. Sure, the students did talk, but softly, and never louder than the next group.

I may never see small-group teaching the same way. Makes me want to try new things at Elon. Just bring your pencils, class. Don't forget erasers.

Editorial

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

So much more than ink on pages

The Pendulum launches webshow, revamps approach to multimedia

It's easy to see copies of The Pendulum in classrooms and red newsstands across campus and think that's the only way to read it. But in today's media landscape, a newspaper has to be so much more than ink on a page.

In recent years, The Pendulum has shifted its mindset from that of a newspaper to one of a news organization. Our predecessors launched its first website in 2002 with a major redesign including blogs and videos in 2009. A Facebook page and Twitter account were also created to help share stories, videos and photos with the online masses.

The idea that The Pendulum was a static print product that came out once a week was shattered. The in-depth reporting expected from The Pendulum only continued with online breaking news, consistent daily content and award-winning multimedia.

But we're still not satisfied.

As technology changes, so must our organization. It would be a disservice to the readers to do anything else.

It is for this reason we

are proud to announce the creation of The Swing, a weekly webcast highlighting the top stories from The Pendulum in video format. In 10 minutes or less, viewers get a different look at the front page story, see features about Elon students and witness multimedia packages, like this week's episode where Katie Pullman watches the Ballroom Dance Club salsa their way through Midnight Meals.

This webshow is not meant to compete with Phoenix14 News, Elon's student broadcast news show. Rather, The Swing will serve as a complement to The Pendulum's coverage of events and people on and around campus.

The show will also serve as another opportunity for student journalists interested in joining an organization with a heavy emphasis in print, Web and now, broadcast.

To inform the Elon

community about this newest addition to The Pendulum's repertoire of online outlets, the organization will launch a social media campaign to continue for the rest of the year. It's all well and good to have important online content, but if our community is not being reached, our efforts are in vain.

A newly restructured online department will

spearhead this increased focus on the Web. Our positions will include an online managing editor, multimedia editor, interactive

projects editor, social media editor, executive producer of The Swing and a team of multimedia reporters.

These positions are not just aimed at journalism majors. We hope that students studying public relations, marketing, computer science, media arts and entertainment and any other field who have a passion for journalism and the Web will find these

positions appealing and want to bring their talents to The Pendulum.

Through our website, videos and social media sites, these members will work collectively to create new means of communication between the readers and our news organization. Social media is, in many ways, not a new concept. It's reminiscent of the early days of newspapers when the last page of the paper was dedicated to reader comments, and the news was a forum for discussion and debate, not just a one-sided recitation of events. We're excited to celebrate the exchange between those to whom we report and those who do the reporting.

It's not enough for us to just push news out. We want to create open dialogue, with you: the reader, the listener, the viewer and the participant.

We aren't the first news organization to take steps like these, and we certainly won't be the last. But we are the first group on campus to approach news so broadly and convergently, and we can't wait to see the results.

As technology changes, so must our organization. It would be a disservice to the profession to do anything else.

"The Swing takes the journalism we produce in our weekly print edition and brings it to you in an entirely new way that you won't find anywhere else."

Caitlin O'Donnell
NEWS EDITOR

"Working for The Swing is exciting because every episode will be unique. It's great being able to share students' opinions with the entire Elon community."

Julia Boyd
REPORTER

What is... the **Swing**?

"I enjoyed reporting for The Swing because I got to take a different approach to the story and be more creative with video."

Al Drago
COHOST & PHOTOGRAPHER

"The Swing is a fast, easy and entertaining way to catch up on all the latest news at Elon."

Emily Haring
COHOST

"Every Wednesday, there will now be an online web show that mixes coverage of the paper's biggest stories with original features and commentary."

Christopher Bosak
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

NOW HIRING

Think The Swing sounds interesting? We're doing all sorts of Web-oriented activities at The Pendulum and we're currently looking for new hires for 2012. Check out the new positions we're looking to fill with motivated, technologically-savvy students looking to bring their talents and interests to our organization.

Online Managing Editor - Manages the online staff and maintains team cohesion and unity

Executive Producer of The Swing - Develop and manage content for weekly video webcast

Multimedia Editor - Create unique videos and packages for The Pendulum's website

Interactive Projects Editor - Develop new web innovations for The Pendulum Online

Social Media Editor - Distribute online content through Facebook and Twitter and interact with users

Multimedia Reporter - Tell stories through video, photo, audio and interactive mediums

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is published each Wednesday of the academic year. The advertising and editorial copy deadline is 5 p.m. the Friday before publication. Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed and emailed with a telephone number for verification. Submissions are accepted as Word documents. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned. You can reach The Pendulum by email at pendulum@elon.edu. If you have questions or concerns about an article, contact a section editor. Please do not respond to reporters directly.

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No reason to show dictator's mutilated corpse



Dan Quackenbush
Columnist

The repeatedly broadcast images of his beaten and bloodied corpse say it all: Muammar al-Gaddafi is dead. And whether or not you were there, the world has witnessed his death countless times, largely thanks to the power of the global media. Images of al-Gaddafi's death have been emblazoned across TV screens, newspapers and websites for the past week, reiterating the same message that has already been made clear: al-Gaddafi died a squalid death in the gutter at the hands of an enraged mob. Whether further proof surrounding al-Gaddafi's death is found, the message remains unchanged: the world is now rid of one more oppressive dictator. But if the message isn't going to change, then why is the proof still being replayed, regurgitated hourly like some sort of grisly highlight reel? What point is the media trying to make by repeatedly showing al-Gaddafi's brutal demise, flaunting his battered torso like a hunting trophy? Whatever the reason, this man's death has been deemed newsworthy enough to abandon all previous standards of what is considered "appropriate" content. A time-tested rule of journalism is that "if it bleeds, it leads." And yet, the mainstream media's hesitance toward publicizing and broadcasting images of the dead seems contradictory to the rights granted to them in the First Amendment. Newspapers and broadcast networks routinely engage in the practice of self-censorship, choosing to relay only highly packaged and ethically sound content to avoid possible controversy. But if it is legally defensible to show such graphic depictions of death through other pop culture

media (e.g. the Internet, music, film, etc.), then why are news networks hesitant to convey them through journalism? Clearly, the public has no outstanding aversion to the concept of death when it is conveyed through other mediums of entertainment, so why should journalism be considered the black sheep of spreading this type of information? It appears that images of the dead played on network news, or splashed across the margins of page one, seem to invoke more of a feeling of discomfort than most people are prepared to tolerate. Seeing the image of a dying man, woman or child is already inherently unpleasant, but with longstanding social and economic issues already dividing our society, it seems that showing overly graphic content on the evening news is like pouring salt into an open wound. And yet, al-Gaddafi's bloodied corpse remains the focal point of countless media outlets. The media have effectively portrayed al-Gaddafi as the devil, the (supposed) clear and unmistakable enemy of democracy and personal freedom, ideals upon which our society is built. His death at the hands of those whom he oppressed for more than four decades should mark a significant achievement confirming the power of the people over a tyrant. There is nothing logical for us to celebrate about in this case. We haven't actually achieved anything. Achievement would include holding al-Gaddafi accountable for his crimes against humanity, by making an example of him through the process



After the death of Libyan leader Muammar al-Gaddafi, images depicting his grisly corpse were shown all over the world. COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS

of law. Instead, the media have been dedicated to parading the latest slaughter around for all the world to see, stripping the late dictator of any dignity that should be afforded to a human being, regardless of their past. The images are clear, the point resolved: Muammar al-Gaddafi is dead. And yet, the mainstream media have seen fit to remind the world of this man's brutal end frequently in the days following, but the purpose remains unclear. Is there still some question as to whether the images are authentic? If not, then why has it continued? It seems today the media hold the ultimate power in determining who is entitled to an honorable demise.

Students, return to the present, do what you love



Ashley Fahey
Columnist

It's already the beginning of November, which means Elon students are applying for summer internships, planning next semester's courses, working on end-of-semester projects and panicking about the job market after graduation. It's been said that people should live in the present and enjoy what surrounds them instead of dwelling on the past or fretting about the future. But is that mindset possible for college students?

At most colleges, students are naturally more focused on their futures, especially since the job market is so dismal. We are constantly encouraged to attend seminars or take classes that center around graduate school, what to do in our college careers to ensure a successful future and the age-old "how to get a job after graduation" sessions. It's great that Elon offers these resources and that we are not in the dark about what to do after graduation. But sometimes, it's easy to lose sight of what is currently going on, and to simply take a step back and appreciate the present, instead of six months or two years down the road. Four years go by quicker than most people realize and in college, most students pack their schedules with the maximum number of credit hours, multiple extracurricular activities, a job (sometimes two) and a vibrant social life, leaving little to no time to simply take it all in and enjoy being young and in college. It's great to be busy, and important to take advantage of every opportunity that comes our way as college students, but it's just as vital to make sure we actually appreciate these four years. If we're packing every minute of our schedules with activities we believe will help us get ahead in the world after graduation, the value of our college years will be diluted. Students should definitely partake in activities that will jump-start the job search following commencement, but students need to remember that it's OK to take a few moments, to breathe and look around. For many people, there is only one opportunity to experience the four years of college life. To look back and only see a blur of what went on, remembering only the stresses of internship hunting or too many extracurricular activities, would be a shame. Another important mindset many students forget about is to do what they love. College students concentrate so much on what needs to happen following graduation and many feel the need to do extracurricular activities they think will be impressive to employers or join every honor society they are invited to so they can boost their resume. Again, these measures are important, but why not join an organization just because you are interested in it? Or, take a Winter Term class that may have nothing to do with your triple majors or double minors, but is something you've always wanted to study. Doing these things is important, and can help offset those impeding stresses felt about the future. And, who knows, these off-the-beaten-path roads could wind up helping in the long run. So, quite simply, stop panicking so much about the future and take some time to relax and enjoy the present. It's not going to stick around for very long.

'Schweddy Balls' takes unnecessary beating

New Ben & Jerry's flavor has some parents needlessly concerned



Mary Kate Brogan
Guest Columnist

Most hardcore "Saturday Night Live" fans know the classic SNL sketch about two unwitting NPR radio show hosts who interview local baker Pete Schweddy about his irresistible Schweddy balls. The sketch is so famous that it has led to merchandise, including everything from mugs to golf balls to T-shirts. Most recently, Ben & Jerry's whipped out — I mean, up — a batch of "Schweddy Balls" ice cream in tribute to the sketch featuring malted milk balls and fudge-covered rum balls. Unfortunately, consumers may not be able to find this delicious dish in stores because it has been taken off many shelves because backlash from several conservative groups who wish to censor the "R-rated" product. A spokesperson for One Million Moms stated, "The vulgar new flavor has turned something as innocent as ice cream into something repulsive. Not exactly what you want a child asking for at the supermarket." What on Earth are these parents so scared of? If a child is under the age of nine, there is a high probability he doesn't even understand what's so funny about "balls." I sure didn't when I was nine. I finally found out when I misused "balls" in a Mad Lib in which the phrase read "Please raise your

(plural noun)." You can imagine my embarrassment when I was ridiculed for several weeks after reading it aloud to my fourth grade class because I didn't know I had said a "dirty word." Trying to prevent a child from hearing a curse word by ridding the world of its commercial use takes far too much time and effort and will only delay the inevitable. Kids will learn dirty words. And the product wasn't really marketed to kids to begin with. Yes, it's ice cream, but most children aren't going to get the pop culture reference B&J's is making anyway, so they won't really be tempted to buy it. B&J's is probably trying to widen their market and gain more adult buyers, and what adult can resist Schweddy Balls? It has definitely worked, too. People are tweeting store locations selling the flavor followed

by #helpmefindschweddyballs. You couldn't ask for a better marketing strategy than to let the buyers advertise for you. Where is everyone's sense of humor? Come on, it's an ice cream with malted milk balls. So it's called "Schweddy Balls," is that really reason for people to go nuts? The reason the "SNL" sketch was so perfect is precisely the reason the ice cream was put on shelves in the first place: the characters don't seem to know they're making jokes with a sexual connotation, the same way the kids who ask their parents for this ice cream don't know they're making a sexually charged joke. Don't kill the humor. It's one of the simple joys of parenthood. If I were a parent and my kid asked me for that ice cream, I'd simply chuckle about my child's adorable innocence and grab myself a pint of Schweddy Balls.



HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

Style



Elon's production of 'Hair' remains evocative, powerful until final note

Rebecca Iannucci
Reviewer

How dare they try to end this beauty.

Such is the message sung by the cast of "Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical," which will complete its run Nov. 5 in McCrary Theatre. That's when the beauty of the live show will end, but its message will resonate long after the final curtain call.

"Hair" revolves around a tribe of hippies living in New York City, who spend their days actively protesting the Vietnam War. Conflict strikes the tribe when its leader, Claude, played by senior Matt Meigs, receives a draft card and faces an intense struggle with his identity. The tribe also fights back against many social injustices, among them racism, sexism and religious intolerance.

The heavy themes in "Hair" require the actors to be uninhibited from start to finish. They do this unflinchingly, with a fearlessness present in every line, spoken or sung. The actors are not actors, but a deeply convincing tribe whose opposition of the war spreads from posters and signs to a symbolic shedding of clothing onstage.

Such commitment to the piece comes in all forms and is even shown in the characters' wardrobe. Costume designer Jack Smith, associate professor of performing arts, transformed the students into bona fide hippies, from their afros and bandanas to their bellbottom jeans.

The scenic design also contributes to a large part of the production's believability. The stage has temporarily become a New York City rooftop, complete with ladders and scaffolding. Here, the tribe displays a distinct feeling of safety and comfort, free to be themselves no matter who's watching.

This production is still undoubtedly risky, not because of its material, but because of a possible disconnect between the audience and that material. Many audience members are college-aged, and although there is a similarly controversial war going on right now, the social impact of the Vietnam War has the potential to be lost on those who did not live through it.

But the cast and crew of "Hair" try to bridge this gap as much as possible. Research and photos about the Vietnam War line the walls of the Center for the Arts, which the actors studied for the last several months in order to better understand the songs they are singing.

The audience also becomes part of the experience, as the actors interact with them before, during and after the show. Opening the door to McCrary Theatre is like stepping into an entirely different era, filled from the start with color and warmth.

The ability of the cast to make audience members believe in their tribe is what makes Elon's production of "Hair" so convincingly poignant. This is a group of men and women who are unafraid to express their beliefs, regardless of how many people agree with them.

Seniors Kennedy Caughell and Adam Kaplan, who play Sheila Franklin and George Berger, respectively, possess a vibrant passion that is shared by the entire tribe. Their energy is transcendent, continuing from the opening bars of "Aquarius" to the goosebump-inducing final number, "Let the Sunshine In."

The underlying messages in this production are transcendent, as well. Today's generation is burdened with many of the same issues as in the 1960s. "Hair," while endlessly positive, is also sobering and real, forcing the audience to take a closer look at the injustices facing society.



"Hair" tells the story of the Yavapai tribe, a group of hippies and drop outs that confront war, racism, sexism and other topics. BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Meet the Cast



Claude Hooper Bukowski
Actor: Matt Meigs
Year: Senior
Hometown: Huntsville, Ala.
Elon Credits: *It's Only Life*, *Sweeney Todd* (Ensemble), *Stay* (Windy City Singer), *110 in the Shade*, *I.D.* (Swing)
Professional Credits: *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Singin' in the Rain* (The Munny), *RENT* (Angel)



Neil Woof Donavan (Woof)
Actor: Ethan Andersen
Year: Sophomore
Hometown: New Orleans
Elon Credits: *Grand Night*, *Collage*, *Godspell* (Assistant Music Director/Accompanist), *Elon Cares* (AMD/Accompanist)
Professional Credits: Season Music Director/Accompanist, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway* (Hoss)

Hudson Banks Johnson (Hud)
Actor: Patrick Clanton
Year: Sophomore
Hometown: Garner, N.C.
Elon Credits: *Children of Eden* (Father), *RENT* (Tom Collins), *Ajax* (Chorus), *Collage*, *Grand Night*
Professional Credits: *Hairspray* (Gilbert), *Once On This Island* (Storyteller), *The King & I* (Royal Child)



George Berger
Actor: Adam Kaplan
Year: Senior
Hometown: Westport, Conn.
Elon Credits: *Kiss Me*, *Kate* (Gangster), *110 in the Shade* (Jimmy u/s), *I.D.* (Sidney), *It's Only Life*
Professional Credits: *Hairspray* (Link Larkin), *Once On This Island* (Daniel), *Rocky Horror* (Brad)



Sheila Kate Franklin
Actress: Kennedy Caughell
Year: Senior
Hometown: Bartlesville, Okla.
Elon Credits: *It's Only Life*, *Children of Eden* (Wasteland Soloist), *110 in the Shade* (Lizzie u/s/Ensemble), *Elon Cares '08-'11*, *Grand Night '08-'11*
Professional Credits: *Guys and Dolls* (Sarah Brown), *Chicago* (June), *Into the Woods* (Little Red)



Dionne Laurell Johnson
Actress: Nasia Thomas
Year: Freshman
Hometown: Chesapeake, Va.
Elon Credits: *Collage*
Professional Credits: *Civil War* (Harriet), *Holiday Melody* (Featured Soloist), *Holiday Melody: The Second Edition* (Featured Soloist)
Other Credits: *Pippin* (Leading Player), *Into the Woods* (The Witch), *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Rona Lisa Perretti)

CHECK IT OUT

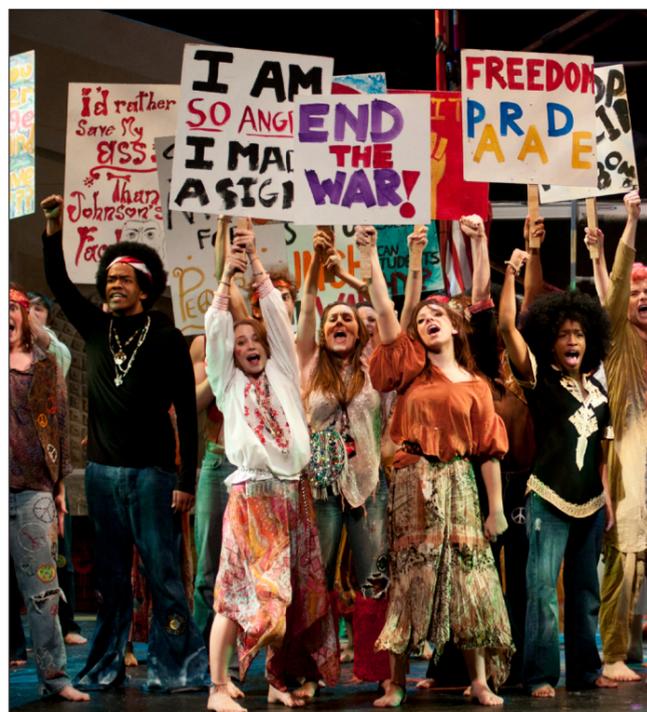
"Hair" runs at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 3-5 in McCrary Theatre.

Get tickets at the Center for the Arts Box Office.

the Swing

An interview with cast members and reporter Rebecca Iannucci.

<http://bit.ly/theswing2>



CLAIRE ESPARROS | Staff Photographer
The tribe protests the Vietnam War in the song "I Believe In Love."

Elon lore adds freaky fun to trail

Stephanie Butzer
Senior Reporter

Elon's Campus Recreation took students on a thrilling adventure around South Campus, telling the sometimes scary stories hidden in the university's past. The Phoenix Fear event held Oct. 26 and 27 included a short video, a trail around south campus and an option to make s'mores with S'mores Outdoors.

Groups were organized outside Harden Clubhouse. While groups waited to be called, students sat around a fire with members of S'mores Outdoors and ate the treats.

The event began with a brief video and pictures about Elon's past. It included mysteries that many students said they were not familiar with, including the tale of Mary, a student who is said to have died in West dormitory during the fire of 1923.

"With this story we have incorporated Elon University facts including Elon Homes for Children, which was an orphanage located where South Campus is today, to help tell the story of Phoenix Fear," said sophomore Derrick Joshua.

The secret history of Elon made the frightening trip more real for some students.

"The story was really cool, I didn't know it all," said sophomore Chiara Posati.

After the presentation, groups were led on a trail through the cross country course where the the story continued.

"(It was an) interactive story given by tour guides that correlates to the dark, spooky and terrifying experience that is called Phoenix Fear," Joshua said.

Screams echoed across the fields as the tours crept along the trail.

"I thought it was scary,"

said freshman Jenn Baulieu. "There were some parts that we just walked so we got to calm down between it."

The most popular part of the experience seemed to be when people popped out unexpectedly. At one point during the trail, the ghostly Mary came back to life.

"She was just laying there and all of a sudden she popped up," said freshman Samantha Anderson. "She didn't scream, but she did this weird noise and it was creepy and she kind of hunched back. I was scared."

Campus Rec's Event Management Team, Campus Rec's Facilities team, Resident Student Association, and support from Student Government Association's Fun Fund made this event possible.

"It's great event that is perfect to get into the Halloween spirit," Joshua said.



A scarecrow jumps out to scare students. Campus Recreation held a haunted trail Wednesday, Oct. 26 and Thursday, Oct. 27, around Elon Homes Lake on South Campus. While waiting to take the path, students snacked on s'mores.

AL DRAGO | Photographer



Senior Aaron Summers, left, looks at a haunted gardener. The trail featured stories of Elon's history, including Mary's ghost, rumored to haunt West Dormitory.

AL DRAGO | Photographer

Elon community glows for Diwali, Hindu festival of lights

Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

The Isabella Cannon Room was aglow last week as Elon University held its first Diwali celebration to mark the last day in the Hindu calendar. Diwali is also known as the festival of lights and while festivities vary from family to family, often involves singing, music, treats, colorful lanterns and fireworks. It was celebrated on campus Oct. 27.

This year is the first year Elon has celebrated Diwali, according to Phil Smith, associate chaplain and director of Religious Life.

"I'd call this a first effort," Smith said. "We're helping people to understand another culture and for students of Hindi backgrounds to share with the community."

Jalebi, a sugary, syrupy coil of fried orange-colored gelatin and gajar halwa, a bright orange pudding rich with nuts and dried fruits, were the two desserts served to students who attended the celebration.

Sophomores Opal Patel and Priyanka Sundaram spoke briefly at the celebration about their family's traditions, which differ slightly, and answered questions from students curious about their customs.

"In India it's a big, big deal," Patel said. "At night, there are a

bunch of fireworks going on.

The day starts off where a lot of people will go to the temple and pay their respects and thank God. Diwali is the last day of the Hindu year so people will thank God for having a really good year and ask for blessings for the upcoming year."

Traditions vary from family to family based on which region of India they are from, Patel said, and while her family does not give presents on Diwali, Sundaram's does.

"My parents usually do a whole ceremony thing and then at night have a huge party and it's a lot of fun," Sundaram said. "I think of Diwali as like the Indian Christmas, which is cool because I celebrate Christmas, too, so I get two Christmases."

Diwali is always celebrated on the day of the new moon as a way to get rid of the darkness, and so people will decorate the inside and outside of their homes with lights and candles. The night before Diwali, people use colored sands or paint to create colorful patterns on their doorsteps to welcome God into their homes.

Diwali is celebrated during a period of a few days and each day is dedicated to something different. The dates vary from year to year because of the lunar calendar.



University Chaplain, Jan Fuller, celebrates Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights with freshman Elizabeth Kelly in the Isabella Cannon Room on Oct. 27. Elon's first-ever Diwali celebration was sponsored by the Truitt Center.

HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

"In my family, the big thing we do is we have a very big prayer ceremony, where my mom cooks all these different kinds of food," Patel said. "I don't know how she does it. She usually spends the whole day cooking. So we'll have our close family and friends over and we'll have the prayer ceremony. The big thing about Diwali is the sweets and to have a good time."

Both of Patel's parents are Indian, but she was born in the United States and said she has not yet had an opportunity to

visit India. She said she hopes to go soon and spend a full year there to experience first-hand the customs and traditions she has been practicing from afar.

Patel's favorite part of Diwali is the fireworks, she said, but she also enjoys the emphasis on spending time with friends and family and finds it challenging to be away at college for the celebration.

The event was held in the Isabella Cannon Room in the Center for the Arts and so many students participated that many

of them had to sit on the floor. Patel said she was surprised by the showing and looks forward to continuing the tradition next year.

"I'm really happy that this happened," she said. "I'm really happy, because I know if this happened last year it would have been a great transition help. I'm definitely going to talk to Phil about helping plan it next year, maybe dance for it."





MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Twisted Measure performs in Whitley Auditorium as a part of Push the Music, a charity concert benefitting Pi Kappa Phi's national philanthropy, Push America, which assists people with disabilities.

Pushing for awareness, funds for disability cause

Cassie Grimm
Reporter

Students gathered in Whitley Auditorium to hear performances by Elon's a cappella groups and support a good cause Oct. 27. Push the Music, organized by Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, raised money for its national philanthropy, Push America.

Push America was founded by Pi Kappa Phi's national organization in the 1970s and helps those with disabilities through education, support and awareness, according to Push America's website.

"We do projects for the community, in a few weeks we are building a handicap ramp," said Pi Kappa Phi secretary Michael Gaytan. "We also have local meetings every week, we go play basketball with local high school students. It's a lot of fun."

Students paid a \$5 entrance fee at Push the Music. The proceeds will be donated to Push America.

Sweet Signatures, one of Elon's female a cappella groups, opened with "Dream On" by Aerosmith, followed with "Parachute" by Cheryl Cole. The group concluded its performance with the song "Wally" by Aslyn.

The next group to perform was Elon's only all-male a cappella group, Rip_Chord. It began with a mash-up of "My Girl" and "Ain't Too Proud To Beg" by The Temptations. Next, the men switched to a more soulful style with gospel song "Nothing But

the Water (I)" by Grace Potter and the Nocturnals. The group concluded the performance with the song "It Girl" by Jason Derulo, led by freshman CJ Moore.

Last to perform was co-ed group Twisted Measure, which first crooned "Set Fire to the Rain" by Adele, and then sang "Slumber," by Needtobreathe. Twisted Measure ended the evening with a powerful rendition of "All These Things That I've Done" by The Killers.

"I can't decide which performance was my favorite," said freshman Maddie Hooper. "I'm torn between 'It Girl' and 'Set Fire to the Rain.' I thought all three groups did a great job, though, and really connected with the audience."

Gaytan said he was proud of the way the event turned out.

"I think tonight went very well we had a great crowd and excellent performances," he said. "We raised a good amount of money too."

Gaytan said there will be further fundraisers during the rest of the year, and the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi will continue to do community service for those with disabilities.

"We host one event for Push America each month and have some of our largest events in the spring," said Jon Bolstridge, Pi Kappa Phi philanthropy chair.

Gaytan said these events will include a sorority football league and an empathy spaghetti dinner.



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Sweet Signatures performs pop and classic rock hits as part of Pi Kappa Phi's benefit concert.



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Left: Bert Brokaw performs with Rip_Chord as a part of the Push the Music fundraiser. Right: Rip_Chord performs mash-ups of 50s soul as well as gospel and popular R&B tunes.

Club Dance showcases classic moves at Midnight Meals

Audrey Horwitz
Reporter

Juniors Dane Barnett and Kayleigh Johnson sit next to each other in their non-experimental research methods class. One day, Johnson asked Barnett to come to Club Dance, Elon's ballroom dance club, with her and he has been coming back ever since.

"I really enjoy the non-academic outlet," Barnett said.

Johnson has made a habit of pulling friends into the club.

"I love dragging people here who wouldn't normally show up but find out they're good at it," she said.

In Oaks 212 the night of Oct. 27, students were immersed in a group of swinging, waltzing, ballroom-dancing Elon students.

Club Dance, Elon's ballroom dance organization, performed at Midnight Meals. Although Midnight Meals is usually held in Irazu, it was moved to The Oaks to give students plenty of room to show off their dance moves.

There was no dress code or formal agenda for the night. The purpose of each performance was to teach dance moves to anyone who wanted to learn and to enjoy one another's company.

"I love the sense of community when we come together every Friday night," said Phyllis Jarrell, club president. "It's that kind of connection where you don't have to talk."

It's the social aspect Jarrell described that draws Elon students to the club.

"It's a nice medley of people," said senior Ned Dibner. "We're all good

friends and we can always count on each other. It's also a fast way to get to know people, specifically girls."

Although some might consider ballroom dancing outdated in the 21st Century, certain strains of pop culture are bringing back a more formal style of dance. Shows like "Dancing with the Stars" are bringing dance styles such as ballroom more into pop culture.

"I think that our generation has lost the love of social dancing without it being more than just dancing," Jarrell said. "When people actually join our club they realize this kind of dancing is actually cool."

There is more than one type of ballroom dancing and Club Dance explores a variety of these styles. During its Friday practices in East Gym, the group rehearses salsa, cha-

cha, waltz, tango, rumba and foxtrot, among other dances. The club has about 50 members with varying experience. A group of advanced students also travels to other schools for competitions.

The majority of Club Dance members came in with no experience, making the group perfect for beginnings. They meet in at 7 p.m. each Friday in East Gym.

the **Swing**

Katie Pullman has the details on Club Dance's performance at Midnight Meals.

<http://bit.ly/theswing2>

Shaping up successfully: 100-pound-weight loss gives student newfound confidence, transformed lifestyle

Natalie Allison
Senior Reporter

When Chris Liotta returned to Elon for the fall semester of his sophomore year in 2009, his friends barely recognized him.

Having kept to himself for most of the summer, people from school didn't know that while Liotta was home in Chantilly, Va., he was spending every day of summer break trying to put his 285-pound body back into shape. Three months and 70 pounds later, Liotta had done more than change his body. He had taken control of looming health risks and, on the way to eventually being 100 pounds lighter, had gained more confidence than ever before.

Though Liotta, now a senior, struggled most of his life with maintaining a healthy weight, he played soccer for a traveling team until he was 18 years old. He began his freshman year at Elon weighing 260 pounds, which was more than the average 5-foot-10-inch soccer player, but he was still able to play the sport competitively.

"Playing at that weight is not easy," Liotta said. "Growing up, I was always overweight. No particular reason. I just ate too much."

Despite the challenges that obesity had presented to Liotta as an athlete, he did everything he wanted to do growing up. He played pickup basketball with his friends. He played in soccer tournaments in two foreign countries. He always had the endurance to keep up with other players during games.

"I wouldn't say I was fine with being overweight, but everyone just told me to be happy with who I was," Liotta said. "I didn't see any reason to change at that point."

He liked to lounge, and once he got to college, Liotta stopped playing soccer.

"If I hadn't been playing soccer those 12 years, God knows what my weight would have been at that point," he said. "When I decided not to continue playing, pretty much all hell broke loose."

Nicki Cartwright, who lived across the hall from Liotta when they were freshmen, said she remembered him being quite sedentary that year.



Chris Liotta, a senior, lost 100 pounds between his freshman and sophomore year. His massive weight loss changed him both physically and mentally.

"Chris was known on the hall as the guy with all the movies," Cartwright said. "And he had loads. I always saw him in the same spot of his couch watching TV, doing homework or playing video games."

Liotta's wakeup call came at the end of his freshman year. He hadn't stepped on a scale since he started college. Out of curiosity one day, he decided to check his weight. The display read 280 pounds.

"That was when it kind of hit me," Liotta said. "Over the past few years, my weight had gone up 20 pounds a year. I realized if I kept up the trend, I would be at 300 by that time the next year."

Liotta had a couple of friends at home who planned on spending the summer working out and building muscle. He asked if he could join, and Liotta soon became acquainted with an exercise routine that demanded his

effort seven days a week.

"The main thing that I wanted for Chris was the opportunity for him to be able to go out and do more activities with our friends, instead of wasting time indoors," said Josh Welt, one of the friends Liotta worked out with that summer.

And the first day was grueling. His two workout partners, including Welt, who played college tennis, had already finished running the loop around the neighborhood 15 minutes before Liotta made it to the end. They waited for him with a glass of water. Liotta got a short rest, and the three went inside and began lifting weights in Welt's home gym.

"The first day was like, throat burning, chest heaving — it was painful," he said. A few days later, when his friends were ready to start the workout, Liotta tried to get out of it.

"My friend came and said, 'Are you ready to go?' I told them I didn't know if I was going because I was refereeing soccer that day," he said.

Not taking "no" for an answer, Liotta's two friends banged on his window until he came out.

"I just kept going," Liotta said. "After about the first week, running wasn't nearly as bad, but I still wasn't able to keep up with them. It was kind of like I had to shake the rust off."

To keep from trailing behind the other two, Liotta began to run his own route. He fell into a groove, and instead of wasting hours of his day watching television and movies, committed his time to exercising vigorously.

"I would do a 2-3 mile run, then later in the day, if I felt like going again, I would," Liotta said. "Lifting was always after the first run. We did two back-to-back days of lifting with different muscle sets. Two days on, one day off. That's how it went for the whole summer."

Within the first week, Liotta had dropped 10 pounds. The next week, he dropped more weight.

"I was dropping 10 pounds, 10 pounds, 10 pounds," Liotta

said. "For the first two months, I honestly didn't feel like I had changed, appearance-wise. I knew the number was changing, but looking in the mirror, I didn't feel like I had done anything — which was frustrating."

Even though he couldn't see it, people around him had started noticing.

"A lot of people had been telling me I was looking good, but for some reason, I didn't let it register with me," Liotta said. "I thought if I got complacent, I'd probably stop or lose the hard work I had been doing. So I didn't let it sink in with me until later on."

Even while on vacation in the mountains of Wyoming for two weeks, Liotta managed to lose five pounds — without any workout equipment at all. That, he said, made him prouder than anything else he achieved that summer.

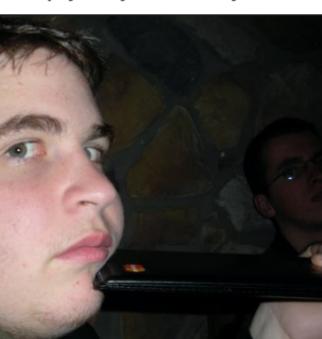
"Losing five pounds on vacation, with no access to equipment — that was probably the biggest accomplishment for me that summer, instead of the 60 pounds or 70 pounds," Liotta said. "You just have to want to do it."

When Liotta arrived back at Elon, he weighed 215 pounds. During the course of the fall semester, he lost 30 more pounds, putting the grand total to 100 pounds lost.

Not only had he made exercise a priority and a part of his everyday life, Liotta completely changed the kind of food he ate.

He replaced greasy chicken strips and fries with grilled chicken sandwiches and grapes. He stopped snacking on bags of chips and decided to try fruit. He started to eat breakfast, something he had neglected to do for most of his life.

All of the changes Liotta



Chris Liotta weighed 280 pounds his freshman year. Over the course of several months he worked hard to lose the weight,

made have allowed him to maintain the weight that he worked so hard to achieve — and the self-esteem that came as a result.

"I'm more confident," Liotta said. "Before, I wouldn't really talk to girls I liked. I have a girlfriend now and we've been dating 11 months. My first kiss ever was last year. I'm probably the happiest I've ever been in my life."

Friends said Liotta even became more sociable when he returned after that summer.

"His personality really came out after the weight loss," said Rob Anderson, who lived with Liotta freshman and junior year. "He used to be so quiet prior to it, but as he lost weight, he started being more of himself and people realized the type of guy he was."

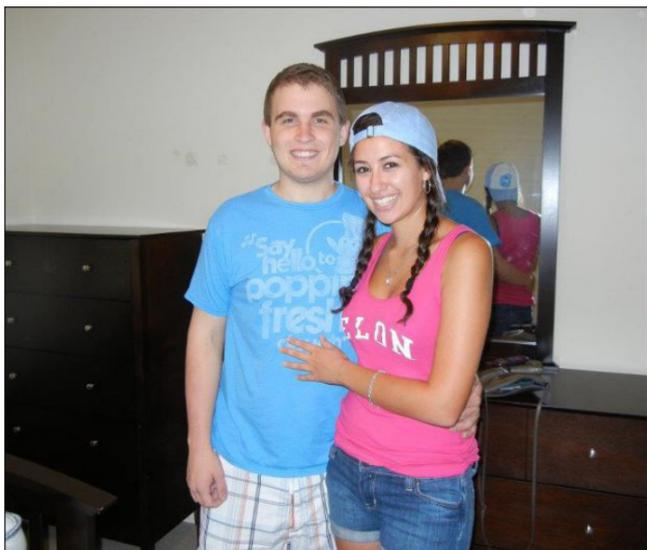
Liotta agreed. "Instead of being the funny fat guy, I'm just the funny guy now," he said.

But the results Liotta experienced didn't come easily. He knows that in order to maintain his weight loss, he has to keep working for it.

"It only works if you're committed to it," Liotta said. "You do it because you want to do it. Because it's hard. That's the hardest I've ever worked at anything in my life, how hard I worked that summer."

And though his methods have remained simple, Liotta has no plans to stop working hard to be the person he wants to be.

"It is a big deal," he said. "And I know it's a big deal. But it just kind of happened. One day I was just like, 'Let's do this.' And I haven't looked back."



Chris Liotta has dated Adriana Miano, right, for the past 11 months. Before losing weight, his insecurities restricted him from pursuing relationships.

Men's Soccer falls against UNCG during Senior Night

Kyle Maher
Reporter

A UNC Greensboro goal in the 81st minute proved to be the difference as the Spartans defeated the Elon University men's soccer team 1-0 in the final game at Rudd Field this season. In a less than perfect end to Senior Night, eight Phoenix seniors watched as UNCG celebrated the win and the



MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer
Elon University will start Southern Conference tournament play Nov. 5.

cinching of the regular season SoCon championship.

The Phoenix took on UNCG in its final home game Oct. 29 hoping to finish its Southern Conference regular season with a win before the first round of SoCon tournament play begins Nov. 5.

The Phoenix had many chances to score throughout the match but was unable to finish quality looks in front of the Spartans' goal. This inability to finish eventually cost the Phoenix, as they conceded the lone goal late in the second half.

"I thought we moved the ball well," said head coach Darren Powell. "I thought we created chances well. I thought we actually played very well tonight. We had significantly more shots than they did on the day. (We) created more opportunities. We were unable to put the final touch on it."

Elon dominated most of the game, as the Phoenix had 12 shots and four on goal while Greensboro had only five shots, with just the single goal on target.

"I think when you reflect on tonight's game and the chances we had, I'm sure several of those players would want those (scoring) chances back," Powell said. "So it's just a matter of in the key moments of the game putting that finishing touch on it."

The win improved the Spartans'



MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer
Senior defender Jahan Threeths and seven other seniors were honored Saturday at Rudd Field.

record to 8-7-1 overall and 5-1-1 in the SoCon. The Spartans also earned the No. 1 seed and a first round home game in the SoCon tournament. Elon's record dropped to 6-10-1 overall and finish the conference regular season with a record of 2-5.

"(UNC Greensboro) is a talented group, obviously," Powell said. "The league table at the end of the year has them on top it, but I don't think there's a massive gap between any of the teams in the league from top to bottom."

The Phoenix currently ranks No. 6

in the SoCon standings.

Powell said he isn't worried about his team's motivation heading into post-season play and is excited to start what he considers a "new season" this weekend.

"The guys are very motivated for the SoCon tournament," he said. "UNCG has navigated themselves through the regular season (to win the championship), but now Saturday a new season begins with the playoff season, so we're excited for that and we'll give it our best effort."

Women's soccer season ends with 3-0 loss to College of Charleston

Justin Veldhuis
Sports Editor

The Elon University women's soccer team couldn't advance past the first round of the Southern Conference tournament as a 3-0 loss to the College of Charleston on Oct. 30 ended the Phoenix's season.

Elon entered the tournament as the No. 6 seed and lost to No. 3 seeded Charleston, who hosted the game in Mt. Pleasant, S.C. Charleston defeated Elon 1-0 in Mt. Pleasant three weeks ago, but in the team's final game it was simply outplayed, said head coach Chris Neal.

"It was an extremely uncharacteristic performance from the level of effort from our team," Neal said. "We played the same team three weeks ago on the exact same field and it was a highly contested match that could have gone either way. When you get outplayed the way we got outplayed it's not just one thing."

Elon finished the year with an 8-8-4 overall record and was 6-3-2 in the SoCon, marking the team's

third straight winning season in conference play.

Neal said the team played well during the conference season and is happy with the results. The Phoenix finished the SoCon regular season with a four-game winning streak.

"I thought we had as good a chance as ever to win the conference tournament," Neal said. "We're a young group from top to bottom.

"We've got a really strong junior class that will be seniors, and I'm really not worried about our leadership."

We played a much tougher non-conference schedule. We really tested ourselves, but ultimately our team matured and we were able to win some tight games at the end of the year."

- Chris Neal
WOMEN'S SOCCER HEAD COACH

Senior midfielder Noell McCain and senior defender Andrea Keller end their Elon careers with 39 wins during four years, the most by an Elon senior class since the Phoenix joined the Division 1 level.

McCain said her final season as an Elon athlete was a successful one, as the Phoenix had a winning season and beat local rival UNC Greensboro for the first time in the seniors' career.

Competing in her last game as an Elon student athlete felt "weird" and "very emotional," said McCain.

"I'm definitely gonna miss the team," she said. "The team camaraderie and us being a family."

Neal also praised the two seniors for their efforts to help elevate the team's play during their four years.

"They've done a fantastic job building this program into a competitive Division 1 program," Neal said.

Despite the loss of two seniors, Neal said returning so many players will be an advantage for the Phoenix next season.

"That experience is going to help us in the future," he said. "We've got a really strong junior class that will be seniors and I'm not really worried about our leadership."



FILE PHOTO BY MERISSA BLITZ

The Phoenix finished the season with an 8-8-4 record.

Dancing toward a cure



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Mike Kennedy, head baseball coach, danced with his partner Meagan Chieppor, senior, at the Dancing with the Little Pink Stars event Oct. 29 at the Gibsonville Diamond Room. The event was a fundraiser for Little Pink Houses of Hope, an organization that raises money for breast cancer victims and their families. Kennedy and Chieppor were one of seven teams that competed to win the most votes and take home a trophy. Each vote cost \$10.

MORE ONLINE

Keep dancing and see more photos online.

<http://bit.ly/EPdance>

BRIAN ALLENBY
Staff Photographer

Football loses third straight game

Justin Veldhuis
Sports Editor

The Elon University football team is entering a bye weekend following three straight double-digit losses to Southern Conference opponents. The Phoenix lost 48-28 to then-ranked No. 9 Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C. Oct. 29.

Elon will play at Furman University Nov. 12 and then host No. 3 Appalachian State University Nov. 19 in the team's final game of the season.

"These young guys are going to get a lot of work (during the bye week)," head coach Jason Swepson said. "I told them team after the game, 'Let's get to 5-5, and put all our chips in against App.'"

The loss drops Elon's record below .500 for the first time this season at 4-5 overall and 2-4 in the SoCon.

The game against Wofford featured two very different offenses; one based heavily on the passing game and the other on the ground attack. Elon gained 363 total yards but got only 21 yards rushing from 24 carries. Junior quarterback Thomas Wilson was 27-35 passing for 342 yards and three touchdowns with one interception.

Junior wide receiver Aaron Mellette had nine receptions for 162 yards and two touchdowns.

On defense, the Phoenix struggled to stop Wofford's rushing game. Led by Walter Payton Award watch-list fullback Eric Breitenstein, the Terriers rushed for 465 yards and threw for only 13 yards. Breitenstein ran for 217 yards and four touchdowns on 28 carries and was named SoCon Offensive Player of the Week.

"They're a good football team," Swepson said. "They're strong up front. We didn't do a good job tackling. We stopped them but didn't wrap them up. We're still finding our way."

The Phoenix will use the bye week to try and correct some of those mistakes before their final two games.

"We're going to give them a couple days off, and really work on the basics: tackling, catching, running the football, blocking," Swepson said. "Just get back to



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO
Senior running back Jamal Shuman touched the ball just once in the team's 48-28 loss to Wofford College. Shuman then took to his Twitter page to vent his frustration about the season and slam the coaching staff.

the basics and really get the young kids a lot of work."

Underlying frustration from recent weeks is also starting to surface in the locker room. Following the loss to Wofford, senior running back Jamal Shuman went on a Twitter rant about his lack of playing

time and the coaching staff's decision making. Some of his comments even appeared on well-known sports website Deadspin.com.

Staff said that they are aware of

the tweets but have not yet decided if or how Shuman will be punished.

"I haven't read it yet," Swepson said. "I was working on the game film and all. I'll take a look at it this weekend. But whatever happens will be handled in house."

Southern Conference

	Conference Record	Overall Record
Georgia Southern	5-1	7-1
Appalachian State	4-1	6-2
Wofford	4-1	6-2
Furman	4-2	5-3
Samford	3-3	5-3
Citadel	2-4	4-4
Chattanooga	2-4	4-5
Elon	2-4	4-5
Western Carolina	0-6	1-7

New records, personal bests for cross country at SoCon



FILE PHOTO BY JULIA MURPHY
Senior Conor O'Brien ran a personal best of 25:43.36 in the 8-kilometer race.

Sam Calvert
Online Managing Editor

Eight of the nine athletes on the Elon University women's cross country team finished the Southern Conference meet with personal-best times. The men had four personal-best times in their sixth-place finish Oct. 29 in Charleston, S.C.

"It's really exciting anytime almost your entire team's best performance of their careers come on the same day," head coach Christine Engel said.

Freshman Luis Vargas and sophomore Allyson Oram both set school records during the SoCon meet. Vargas finished the 8-kilometer race with a time of 24:49.07, earning 10th place overall, while Oram ran the 5-kilometer race in 17:30.20, finishing ninth.

"I want to do everything I can for the team," Oram said. "I put my hardest out there, and I'm happy I could break the record for the school and help the program progress."

These two set the pace for the rest of the day, Engel said, where five times were added to the all-time performance list on the women's side, and two of the men's times were added to the Elon-best list.

Vargas was also named the SoCon Freshman of the Year, as well as All-SoCon Second Team and All-SoCon Freshman Team. Oram and junior Morgan Denecke were also named to

the All-SoCon Second Team, while Sean Magee and Haylee Dawe landed on the All-SoCon Freshman team.

"It's the culmination of working hard all season and the synergy this team had," Engel said. "They had such a motivation, and it was good to see them challenge for the title."

On the women's side, the entire top-7 will be returning in 2012, and 16 of the 18 women on the roster will be back. Meanwhile, the men will only graduate two of the 13 on the team.

And those returning have already proven they can be successful, Engel said.

"It elevates how we view our future goals," she said. "That brings high expectations for next year. Anytime you come away with such a great team performance, the goal is set higher."

This will not only transcend to next year's cross country season, but it will also help in the upcoming track and field season, where many of the women compete, Engel said. And she said she's expecting more after these results.

"I think it really sets the bar high," Oram said. "We're just really excited to see how the team will improve and progress."

Both the men and women will return to action at the NCAA Regional meet in Louisville, Ky. on Nov. 12.

Top 3 Male Times

Luis Vargas - 24:49.07
Sean Magee - 25:20.69
Conor O'Brien - 25:43.36

Top 3 Female Times

Allyson Oram - 17:30.20
Morgan Denecke - 17:43.70
Emily Tryon - 17:54.40

Tweets say more about coaching

Another sign that the U.S.S. Swepson is sinking this season appeared on the Internet Saturday.



Zachary Horner
Columnist

Senior running back Jamal Shuman took to Twitter to colorfully criticize football coaches, led by head coach Jason Swepson, for a lack of playing time.

One tweet read, "There goes another game of my f---- senior year and I don't touch the f---- field lik I ain't one of the best athletes on dis d--- squad." Another tweet said, "our coaches to f---- dumb to realize wat dey had but now da season is ova #owell."

Shuman (@JamalShuman) is not the first athlete to use the popular social media tool to express his frustrations. He apologized Monday in a long series of messages, tweeting, "i would truly like to apologize for my actions and to let everyone know they wont happened again...I will accept any punishment i receive."

What Shuman said on Twitter is embarrassing for Elon. And he recognizes that, tweeting, "i realize i was representing the alumni's, the people of Elon University, and our TEAM with those tweets and i am ashamed of myself."

But the story is bigger than just the tweets. What needs to be examined is the way Swepson has handled the team this year.

Swepson has said that the team is "coming together" multiple times and that they're still fighting for a winning season.

Shuman brought up the fact that he has not had much playing time. Against Wofford College, senior running backs Dontay Taylor and A.J. Harris had nine carries each for a total of 41 yards. Swepson has ridden Taylor and Harris for most of the season, which has led to a porous rushing game for the Phoenix. Shuman has only 22 carries in seven games.

Two years ago, Shuman led Elon and was fourth in the Southern Conference in rushing with 677 yards in 10 games and helped the Phoenix reach the FCS playoffs. However, last year he played in only three games due to an injury.

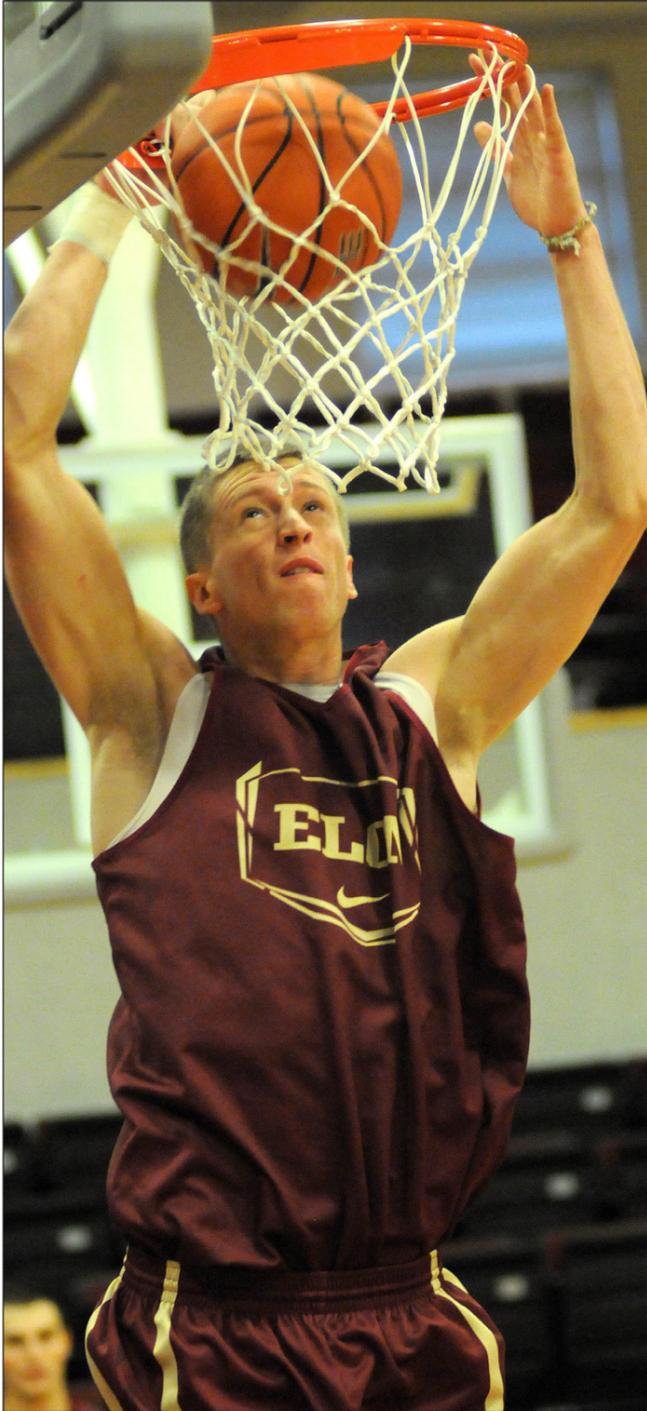
Does Shuman have a point? Yes. Harris is overused in his current role. Taylor has seven rushing touchdowns this year, but has not run for more than 75 yards in a game. Shuman has the ability to make plays, but Swepson has yet to allow him sufficient touches to do so.

It seems there is a troubled group in Alumni Fieldhouse. Shuman isn't the only player to tweet about the coaching staff. Senior wide receiver Darrius McQueen (@Ambitious_11) tweeted, "This year woulda went so much betta wit different coachin decisions #realtalk." After the Wofford game, freshman long snapper Michael Crispi (@EUKidCrispi47) messaged, "I hate losing.....idc if i play well, this s--- is frustratin me...glad we got this bye week comin up."

Former Elon wide receiver Sean Jeffcoat (@Sean_Jeffcoat) agreed, tweeting, "the whole staff trippin.. Still don't see why they aint playin you fam.."

Swepson says the team is coming together and straying away from finger-pointing. Twitter says otherwise. How long until the frustration in the locker room spreads to the athletic department?

Sports



STUART JONES | Photographer

Phoenix forward Lucas Troutman is one of several key Elon sophomores.

Men's basketball team composed of youth, excited about 2011-12 season

Zachary Horner
Assistant Sports Editor

They're a young team. One senior. A strong influx of sophomores. And a coach whose optimism and day-at-a-time outlook for the 2011-2012 season is leading the way.

Elon men's basketball returns for its 101st season of play, under the guidance of third-year head coach Matt Matheny and senior guard Drew Spradlin. Last year, the Phoenix went 14-17 and fell in the second round of the Southern Conference tournament.

The team lost starting guard Chris Long and forward Scott Grable to graduation. Long is now playing in Europe and left some huge shoes to fill.

With that significant loss, Spradlin, a preseason All-SoCon team pick and a co-captain last year, is being looked upon to play a major leadership role.

"I'm used to it because I was a captain last year," Spradlin said. "The best way to lead is to be yourself. I try to be vocal, but everyone has different styles."

Matheny said Spradlin has done well as a leader thus far and that the team needs more of that going forward.

"Drew Spradlin has been sensational so far with his leadership," Matheny said. "It's a very, very important part of this year's team because of our youth."

The roster has a few sophomores who earned valuable playing time last year. Players like sophomore guard Jack Isenbarger are being looked upon to provide quality minutes for the Phoenix, and even some of that leadership.

"It's tougher when you've

only got one senior, a little less experience and less guys talking out there," Isenbarger said. "Leadership is the biggest step I needed to take and the biggest thing I've been focusing on."

Along with Isenbarger, the sophomores include guard Sebastian Koch, whose shooting touch will be key to Elon's success on the court this year, and forward Lucas Troutman, who will patrol the paint area for the Phoenix. Matheny won't name a starting lineup yet, but he said Spradlin, Isenbarger and sophomore forward Ryley Beaumont have been "consistent."

One area in which the Phoenix can also excel is speed. Junior guard Josh Bonney and freshman guard Austin Hamilton will probably share time at the point position in replacing Long and have considerable speed.

"We feel like we're deeper," Matheny said. "We've got more guys that are ready to play for us right away. Because of that we feel like we can run the ball more."

The Phoenix will need that speed early in the year. After playing at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst to start the season Nov. 3, the team will take on the University of South Carolina in Alumni Gym Nov. 15. This is the first time a Bowl Championship Series conference team will play men's basketball in Elon.

"To have them in Alumni Gym says a lot about the evolution of our program," Matheny said. "We're fortunate to have that opportunity and we'll do all that we can with a great home crowd to take advantage of that opportunity."

Other highlight games include playing North Carolina

State University in historic Reynolds Coliseum Nov. 25, the day after Thanksgiving, the University of North Carolina Dec. 29 and San Diego State University Dec. 22.

"Having a tough non-conference schedule gets us ready for conference play," Hamilton said. "So when we play (UNC-Chapel Hill), (N.C. State University), we'll try to compete and get the most out of it and get ready for the SoCon."

Matheny refuses to look too far ahead.

"We have never talked about records since I've been here," Matheny said. "We've talked about how good we can be. The thing we want to focus on is how we can get better today."

For a team on the rise, this is necessary. Matheny said the SoCon is a one bid league in terms of the NCAA tournament and the team is focused on capturing that tournament championship in Asheville, in March.

"Over the last couple years, as coach has been here, we've gotten better every month of the season," Spradlin said. "We have to win the tournament. That's what's important and we want to be playing our best basketball at the end of the season."

MORE ONLINE

Listen to Sports Editor Justin Veldhuis and sophomore guard Jack Isenbarger on this week's Sports Jam.

Online Thursday

Talking Phoenix hoops with head coach Matt Matheny

Zachary Horner and
Justin Veldhuis
Executive Editors

We caught up with head coach Matt Matheny after the Phoenix Hoops Preview to get his take on the upcoming season, what fans should look forward to and playing UNC.

Q: You guys have a young team with only one senior and five juniors. How have you worked to mold these guys into a team and is the youth an advantage or a disadvantage?

A: The youth keeps it interesting, that's for sure. The trip (to Europe) in August was very good for us in terms of molding the team together not only in a basketball way with the practices and games but also as an opportunity to travel and be together for 10 days in foreign countries. It brought our guys as close as we've ever been since I've been here. The other thing would be leadership.

Q: What do you look forward to this season as far as the team's record? Do you look to get to .500 or further?

A: We've never talked about records since I've been here. If we can (get better) on a

daily basis, then we will be a dangerous, dangerous, talented team in March. That's where we want to be. If we're the best team in the Southern Conference in March, then we've got a chance to win the tournament and then the NCAA committee will take the automatic bid.

Q: Junior Josh Bonney and the freshmen guards looked pretty good at the hoops preview. Are you guys going to run more this year?

A: We want to run a little bit more. We feel like we're deeper. We feel like we've got more guys that are ready to play right away and because of that we feel like we can run more. There were times last year when we had to slow it down because our bench wasn't as deep. We want to run and we want to be able to do it the whole year. That's our plan.

Q: What should fans look forward to when they come to a game in Alumni Gym?

A: The buzz word right now is "excitement." That's the feeling our guys have, that our coaching staff has, that the community has. With a young team, there are going to be some really exciting times

and there are going to be some really challenging times.

Q: How does scheduling those non-conference games go? Do you contact teams like UNC and say "Hey, we'd like to play you?"

A: Scheduling is a very difficult part of college basketball right now for everybody. Will Roberson, one of our assistant coaches, is in charge of scheduling and it's almost like what I envision a stock broker

is like in terms of working the phones and trying to figure out who will play you. So yes, we call them. We're very proactive in our scheduling. Then we try to coordinate dates and how it works. So it's a major undertaking. We try to be proactive and we call almost everybody in the country.

Q: Do those teams pay you to come play in their gym?

A: Yes, they're called

guarantee games. The future of our program will be that we can get the marquee games that Butler (University) is now getting, that George Mason (University) got, or Gonzaga (University) got after they make the NCAA tournament runs. But as of right now, we want to play the best teams we can play and most of them are not willing to come here. As a result, you end up getting into situations where they are called guarantee games, so there is a financial component.



STUART JONES | Photographer

Head coach Matt Matheny is entering his third season coaching the Elon University men's basketball team.