



## TAKING A PEAK BACKSTAGE

Applicants to Elon's BFA programs discuss their journey to the stage.

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## HOOP DREAMS END IN ASHEVILLE

Men's and women's basketball teams fall in the SoCon Tournament.

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# THE PENDULUM

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In Professor Michael Strickland's Garden Studio class, students gain a hands-on learning experience in home-scale gardening and food production by working in the Elon Community Garden on campus. Sophomore Tyre Bigbie (left) and senior Abbey Keifer prepare the garden behind Powell House.

## Students help tackle the 'Impossible' at nearby restaurant

Grace Elkus  
News Editor

When Elon University students were offered the opportunity to join the "Restaurant: Impossible" crew as they re-modeled University Grill, appreciation and excitement came from both ends.

Students who participated in the effort had the chance to go behind the scenes of the popular Food Network show, in which chef Robert Irvine has two days and \$10,000 to transform a failing restaurant.

"I literally was watching them create a show, which is what I want to do," said junior Julie Morse, a broadcast journalism major and a self-proclaimed addict of the series. "That's real life studying. It was cool to see the parts they filmed and then cut together."

But it wasn't just the Elon students that were thankful for the unique opportunity. For the first time in the show's history, the crew was able to renovate the exterior of a restaurant, thanks to the long hours put in by the students.

"By working with the university, we didn't have to pay money to have them come help our designer (Lynn Kegan)," said Jodi Goren-Rode, the producer of "Restaurant: Impossible." "(Kegan) didn't have to stop what he was doing, so we could work in tandem, in unison. And look at the results."

The result was a colorful, intricately designed mural painted on the brick wall of University Grill, which is located on West Webb Avenue. Before the transformation, which took place on Feb. 29 and March 1, the building appeared run-down and abandoned, prompting Irvine's decision to add life to the fading brick and attract people to stop and eat, according to Goren-Rode.

"This mural wall is just to me so amazing," she said. "This building had no identity and the Elon students have given it an identity."

The partnership between the network and the university began when Nicholas Smalarz, the associate producer of "Restaurant Impossible," contacted Michael Fels, chair of Elon's art department, and asked if his students would be interested in submitting designs for a mural. After the designs went through city council for approval, Fels and some of his students sketched the design onto the brick wall before beginning to paint on

## Garden class grows self-productivity

Course teaches students skills needed to eat from own backyards

Kyra Gemberling  
Design Editor

Instead of picking up fast food for lunch, students in a new Garden Studio class can make their own meal — literally.

Michael Strickland, professor in English and environmental studies, decided to start the class two years ago as a way of teaching students of any major how to properly plant and maintain a home-scale garden and harvest their own food.

"It's really about producing good food in small amounts of land in the most efficient manner," Strickland said. "I also wanted students to learn techniques that will connect back to the land and will supplement life skills later on."

The idea for the class came from a student who created the Elon Community Garden behind Powell House for her senior thesis project. Strickland was on the student's thesis committee, and he immediately got his students involved with the project.

"There was a lot of student interest, and if we were going to run the garden in a coherent fashion, it had to be more



Students in the Garden Studio class learn to harvest their own food and prepare their own meals.

than just a club or organization," he said.

This new project project spawned into two classes of 35 students, divided into labor groups to focus on a particular aspect of preparing the

garden. Junior Kileigh Browning is part of the infrastructure group, which is in charge of making an archway and paths for the garden.

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## Elon applicants, current students aim to impress during Fellows Weekend

Kristen Olsen  
Senior Reporter

The applicants aren't the only ones competing Fellows Weekend.

While Fellows Weekend provides Elon faculty with the opportunity to assess perspective students, the weekend also enables the faculty and current students to impress fellows applicants.

This year's annual Fellows Weekend hosted the largest number of potential fellows students in the university's history. For the 2012-2013 academic

year, a total of 1,634 perspective students applied to the seven fellows programs, and 602 were invited back this weekend, 10 percent more than last year.

Scott Buechler, interim dean of the School of Business, said that of the 90 Business Fellows who were invited to come this weekend, 90 percent are already committed.

"We are looking for students with intellectual curiosity and leadership potential" said Buechler.

While those in the program certainly

value the quality of each individual, the number of applicants alone indicates the amount of growth the program experienced, Buechler said.

Every year, Elon hosts a weekend for potential fellows who are interviewing and applying for one of 205 spots in the program. The weekend begins with information sessions about the five Elon experiences, campus tours and program receptions and ends with 20-minute interviews for each prospective student and a panel of Fellows alumni.

This year yielded the highest

number of applicants and the highest GPA and grade averages, according to Greg Zaiser, the co-chair of the fellows committee.

"We are looking for students with passion, real interest, the ability to articulate and an awareness for the world around them," he said.

The average GPA of the applicants this year is 4.5, and the average SAT scores is 1250, the highest it has ever been.

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# Awareness of higher learning starts early

## Elon Academy Ambassadors reach out to Alamance County youth

Mary Kate Brogan  
Senior Reporter

College seems like a distant future for the North Graham Elementary School fifth graders, but Elon Academy Ambassadors recently introduced them to the possibility of continued learning.

"Is college something you have to do?" asked John Pickett, assistant director of Elon Academy and director of the ambassadors program.

"No," students said.

"What is college?" Pickett said. "It's a — I heard somebody say it — it's an option, a choice."

North Graham students took a break from the ordinary on the morning of March 1. Third, fourth and fifth graders attended a college fair at the school library where nine high school sophomores from Alamance County presented information about nine different colleges in North Carolina. Additionally, Pickett talked to students about what they had learned that day.

Elon Academy brings rising sophomores in high school to Elon University's campus for the summer after being accepted to the program. These high school students assume the role of Elon Academy Ambassadors, ensuring students who aren't in the academy still receive some of the benefits of the program.

"Really, if you want to promote positive feelings and attitudes toward college with families that have no history of college, (freshman year of high school) is too late to start," Pickett said. "So our approach is to address these issues as early as possible."

Elon Academy debuted its new Elon Academy Ambassadors program at North Graham Elementary this month. The new program targets younger

students to foster positive attitudes about college and begin the dialogue about higher education early.

"Some people may think that talking about college with a kindergarten class is not really a good use of time," Pickett said. "But we feel that if you come from a family with a history of college attendance, before that child is even born, there are attitudes about 'yes, this child's going to college.'"

The college fair was one of the last events in a month-long partnership with the Elon Academy Ambassadors, said Tracy Perkins, curriculum facilitator at North Graham Elementary. The partnership with the Elon Academy Ambassadors program has been a positive one, she said.

"College and career awareness begins in kindergarten because if those teachers at the K-2 levels don't lay a foundation, they're never going to be ready," Perkins said. "We look at it as a team effort to get our children ready, and by providing information early on is just a stepping stone."

The students involved in Elon Academy recognize how important it was to share what they've learned through Elon Academy with younger students.

"It's pretty awesome," said Khalil Poole, an Elon Academy Ambassador and sophomore at Graham High School. "It gives you a chance to learn more about college and at the same time, you get to teach younger people about it, and I think the most exciting part is the fact that they ask questions and they ask questions that you don't even expect little kids their age to know."

Pickett said he hopes the ambassadors will take what they've learned from this first experience and apply it to their upcoming visit to Graham Middle School.



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer  
A group of North Graham Elementary students crowd around John Pickett, assistant director of scholar support for Elon Academy, to have their questions answered about college.

"Our scholars are going in here and they're motivating the elementary school students because some of our scholars have even been to some of the elementary schools that we are

visiting," Pickett said. "So they're kind of living proof that you can go to this school and you can go to middle school and high school and go to college."



GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer  
Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler, professor of psychology, speaks with an honors fellow applicant and parent at the honors fellows reception in Koury Center March 2.

## Elon sets to impress potential fellows

### FELLOWS from PAGE 1

Naemah Clark, director of the communication fellows and chair of the fellows committee, organizes the communications fellows events and said she had high expectations for the weekend's perspective students.

"We want excellence, and the students give us excellence" she said. "There is a better pool of applicants this year of students with higher GPAs and impressive work."

In addition to a welcoming reception and mixer for the students, Clark planned a panel of seven communications students and two faculty members, followed by one-on-one interviews.

"We are looking for students with a serious interest in Communications as their career path, who are passionate, have good writing skills, is a good communicator and is willing to take chances," Clark said.

Michael Carginan, assistant director of the honors program, said more than 1,000 students applied to be an honors fellow, and 302 of those students have been invited back, which like the total number of fellows applicants, is 10 percent more

than previous years.

"I am always impressed with how many students want to get in the fellows program," he said. "It seems to get bigger every year."

Carginan said that during his past 10 years as assistant director he has observed that even those students who do not make it into the program generally come to Elon anyway after attending fellows weekend.

"The students come to fellows weekend scared, but leave having had a good experience," Zaiser said.

FELLOWS WEEKEND

SPOTS AVAILABLE:

**205** in the

**7** Fellows programs

**1,634**

applicants to the Fellows program.

INVITATIONS:

**602** sent to Fellows program candidates.

Information courtesy of Greg Zaiser

# the Swing

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This Thursday on The Swing...

## Hungry?

Check out a feature on downtown Elon's newest eateries, Pandora's Pies and Smitty's Homemade Ice Cream.

## Book v. E-book Debate

Senior Lecturer Randy Piland discusses the latest technology and how you can get more for your money with e-textbooks.

## Restaurant: Impossible

Junior Aaron Petrik talks about painting the new mural at University Grill, for an upcoming episode of "Restaurant: Impossible."

## The 60-Second Newsdesk

Don't have time to read the whole paper? Kassondra Cloos, producer of The Swing, runs through this week's paper in under a minute.

## Students, Food Network revive local eatery

RESTAURANT  
from PAGE 1

day two of the remodeling.

"I think they wanted to leave part of the old brick so it had a sense of the original building, but they wanted something to pop off the building," Fels said. "The theme of the image was lively, and as you come off of Haggard, you can see it."

But students from the art department weren't the only students who were involved in the show. Irvine also visited Professor Lee Bush's Strategic Campaigns course in the School of Communications.

Students in the class offered Irvine feedback concerning the location and menu of University Grill, which was selected out of thousands of applicants to be featured on "Restaurant Impossible," according to Jill Littman, the supervising producer of the show. Restaurants first apply online before being called for a pre-interview and asked to send photographs. If producers determine there are enough layers to the story and there are good characters, a scout is sent to the location to determine if the restaurant will provide content for a strong enough show. If the proposed show meets all the criteria, it is presented to the network.

Goren-Rode was drawn to University Grill because of the friendly ownership and family dynamic.

"It's a great family," she said. "Three kids that want to help their parents. It's a really nice story. And we try to help them achieve their goal and save their business."

She was also inspired to help the restaurant attract more college students because of its



"Restaurant Impossible" renovated the exterior of University Grill with the help of students and faculty from Elon's art department. In the past, the show focused only on the interior.

close proximity to Elon's campus.

"It's so close (to the university), and they are sort of missing the boat," Goren-Rode said. "They really want to be a family restaurant as well as attract college students, and they want it to be comfortable for everyone. They don't want it to be a drinking hangout, but they want it to be a place where everyone can come and be comfortable and enjoy a great meal and have a great atmosphere and get great food."

Elon senior art majors Paige Geffen, Laura Brentrup and Lauren Stellato spent all afternoon on the set helping with the mural. When they finished painting, they stuck around to watch Irvine reveal the new restaurant to the owners. All three were excited about the new menu and look forward to visiting the restaurant more frequently.

"It's University Grill, and Elon students really don't come here," Geffen said. "Having us work on it was a great way to advertise."

Brentrup agreed that if the food is good, students will



Robert Irvine and the crew led an interactive lesson in Lee Bush's Strategic Campaigns class March 1.

come.

"Immediately, I'm sure everyone will want it to come, and it will depend on how good it is whether it will stay popular," she said. "Because it is so close to all the housing in this area as opposed to the other side of campus, it will be nice for those people, too."

While University Grill experienced a permanent transformation, Goren-Rode said she hopes Elon students will cherish the experience.

"Everyone has been welcoming, warm, cooperative — really gone above and beyond our expectations," she said. "They've been working nonstop to reach this goal, and I think they're proud of it. For me, the goal was to have it be a great learning experience and enjoyable thing for them and to have a lasting impression of their work."

## Biscuitville attracts students hungry for business challenge

Natalie Allison  
Managing Editor

The combination of a \$5,000 prize and a create-your-own menu item at Biscuitville calls to students' imaginations. Elon University students made up more than half of the entries in the Brand Your Biscuit product development challenge, a contest open to students at seven universities in the Greensboro area.

The challenge is one part of the Greensboro Collegiate Biscuitville Bowl, a series of events and competitions sponsored by Opportunity Greensboro, a consortium of local businesses and university leaders and an initiative of Action Greensboro.

Each participant submitted an idea for a new Biscuitville menu item, and the restaurant will feature the winning product for a limited time. The creator of the winning product will receive \$5,000 to go to a campus organization of his or her choice and a breakfast with Burney Jennings, Biscuitville's CEO, an Elon trustee and Class of 1987 alumnus.

Of the 80 students who entered the contest, 41 students were from Elon University.

"The idea (for the Biscuitville Bowl) came about in discussion about how we bring students together locally," said Cecelia Thompson, director of projects for Action Greensboro. "There are 50,000 students in Greensboro, but there isn't an opportunity for them to get together socially or for academic purposes."

In addition to Brand Your Own Biscuit, the Biscuitville Bowl includes Scratch-Made Success Week, the week of April 16, during which Opportunity Greensboro encourages universities to have a speaker or special programming to encourage entrepreneurship.

The week will culminate with the 7 Campus Scramble, a relay race through Center City Park in Greensboro featuring biscuit-themed obstacles. Among the

obstacles, Thompson said, are the flour shower, powered by industrial fans; grit tires, a high-knee challenge through tires full of grits; the buttermilk slipping slide, a 27-foot slope with artificial buttermilk; and the jelly belly crawl, an army crawl through artificial strawberry jelly.

The relay race perked senior Jordan Lee's interest about the Biscuitville Bowl. Lee entered her deep-fried bacon and sausage biscuits idea into the contest after seeing a display about the contest at College Coffee.

A member of the track team, Lee said if she won she would give the money to her team. Though the exercise science major wouldn't recommend frequently eating at Biscuitville — or eating a deep-fried bacon biscuit — Lee said the contest was an entertaining way to encourage participation.

"(My idea) was really contradictory with what I want to do with my life, but it's fun," Lee said. "It's a fun concept and I'm a competitive person. It's so much more fun to design a biscuit than, say, a book."

Kimberly Gersh, a freshman business major, also entered the competition. Having studied entrepreneurship, Gersh said the real world, hands-on experience of these competitions is helpful for learning about business innovation.

"Sure, you can learn a lot in a classroom, but it's not until you actually get to try something you've learned that you can really know if you one, enjoy the topic, and two, really understand what you've learned and can apply it," Gersh said.

The deadline for the Brand Your Biscuit contest was March 2. Thompson said three to five semifinalists per university will be announced by March 16. Those students will submit videos promoting their products via YouTube, and then one student will be selected from each school to give a formal presentation to the executive staff of Biscuitville.

## Internet study speculates about cognitive skills of younger generation

Katherine Blunt  
Senior Reporter

Generation gaps are not a foreign concept. Many adults question the effect of digital technology on the younger generation, a new survey shows.

Janna Anderson, associate professor of communications and director of Elon University's Imagining the Internet Center, and Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, conducted a survey that explored the increasing prevalence of digital technology and its potential consequences come 2020.

More than 1,000 Internet experts and users provided predictions about the overall consequences of hyper-connectivity. Participants were initially asked to agree with one of two hypothetical scenarios that presented the positive and negative consequences associated with increased technological experience. Participants were later allowed to submit a personal opinion in response to the two scenarios.

In the study released February, the responses, then submitted by leaders in various technology-centric industries and university programs, ranged from positive to negative, but most often suggested ambivalence.

In the hyper-connected community of Elon, most

students are all too familiar with the practice of multitasking. An ever-increasing amount of digital and social media poses a constant threat to distraction.

"Twitter and Facebook are probably the biggest distractions for me while I'm working on schoolwork," said senior Jacquie Adams, who responded to the survey in Anderson's Future of the Internet course. "If I need a break, I'll check Facebook and easily waste up to 30 minutes on it. I think I've gotten so used to being connected to everything all the time, I almost feel like I have to check Facebook constantly."

Other students find such distractions manageable and even beneficial. Sophomore Joe Bruno, who also completed the survey, said he multitasks constantly, both on and offline.

"I'm constantly plugged in and wouldn't want it any other way," Bruno said. "Multitasking has become so incorporated into my life. Digital technology

immensely affects my concentration when faced with schoolwork, but I don't see this as a problem. I don't buy into the argument that people cannot effectively multitask."

Nevertheless, how students and young adults choose to divide their time, rather than if they chose to do so, is more indicative of digital efficiency,

and the Internet, acknowledges our limited knowledge with respect to the web.

"It is important to keep in mind that the Internet is rather in its infancy," Hogan said. "We really don't know its long-term benefits. There are studies that suggest that being connected all the time can affect concentration and focus, but there are also studies that indicate that (the Internet) is rewiring our brains to have greater visual and spatial intelligence and to deal with all sorts of information at one time."

Survey participants disagreed on the pervasiveness of digital technology and its ability to foster change in cognitive and behavioral patterns. The survey results showed the true feasibility of multitasking is contested, as are its consequences. Nevertheless, Anderson said she believes the Internet contributes to people's ability to multitask.

"Some people try to say that (multitasking) doesn't exist, but it has been proven that people can juggle tasks," Anderson said. "Some people may be more capable (of multitasking) than others, but these are skills that

can be learned."

But these skills are not innate for the younger generation, she said.

"I think that older people assume that every young person is a digital native," Anderson said. "That's absolutely not true. All (young people) have different skills based on how much they have immersed themselves in (technology). We absolutely want young people to realize how much more power they hold when they use digital tools the right way."

In some ways, the digital capability of the younger generation rests in the hands of the older generation, Hogan said.

"We do have the responsibility to teach children digital fluency, and that includes when and how to use digital technology effectively," Hogan said. "It's also important (to teach them) what information is important online, because there is so much out there."

But ultimately, the reality of either hypothetical situation proposed in the study will be determined by the self-control and the prudence of a generation largely accustomed to constant communication and instant gratification, Anderson said.

"A lot of it comes down to the whole idea of self-discipline and time management," Anderson said.

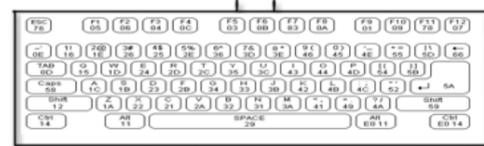
In 2020, the brains of multitasking teens and young adults will be "wired" differently than those over the age of 35.

55% believe this will yield positive results

42% believe this will yield negative results

3% of participants did not respond

Source: Imagining the Internet Center



LEAH CHANNAS | Graphics Editor

Anderson said. An underlying concern that the younger generation often use the Internet and other digital tools to pursue superficial interests can be found in many survey responses.

Yet, Amy Hogan, assistant professor of psychology who teaches a course titled Psychology

# Faculty find outreach resources grounded within university

Melissa Kansky  
News Editor

It started with lunch and a simple conversation. April Post, senior lecturer in Spanish, attributes the Brown Bag Lunch Session to the genesis of the Amigos Club, a program that partners Elon students with Spanish speaking students at Broadview Middle School. At a lunch session, Post met Glenda Crawford, professor of education, and Carlos Oliveira, an ESL teacher at Broadview Middle School.

"(The lunch session) was our brainstorming session, and from that one conversation, the ideas were born into place," Post said.

The Brown Bag Lunch Session provides an opportunity for professors to discuss how to implement a service-learning component into their courses and curriculum. Pam Kiser, professor of human resources, developed the program in collaboration with the Kernodle Center.

Kiser designed the program in 2004 while serving as the inaugural service learning faculty development fellow. Monthly Brown Bag Lunch Sessions provide an atmosphere where faculty can discuss how to implement a service-learning component into their courses and curriculum.

"It was built on the knowledge and belief that there was expertise already here among the faculty, and we need to make it possible for faculty to learn from one another," Kiser said.

The lunch sessions provide programming for faculty in a cost-effective manner, Kiser said. Nevertheless, she acknowledged that such an approach would not be possible if the university did not already have faculty knowledgeable in the their fields.

Faculty members experienced in

service learning present ideas and methods regarding how to incorporate service learning into each department, Kiser said.

"For me, in general, it's been an opportunity to come together with colleagues who have similar philosophies and we share ideas with one another and provide support for one another," Post said.

On average, each lunch session attracts a dozen participants, according to Kiser. Faculty members from a variety of disciplines attend the lunch.

"It's much easier to tell you the departments that have not done service-learning than the ones that have," Kiser said.

Each semester, Brown Bag Lunch Sessions have also invited members from local agencies to participate and interact with faculty. Such programs establish relationships between university faculty members and individuals in the community, Kiser said.

The Amigos program represents a product of faculty and community collaboration. Post, Crawford and Oliveira developed a program that benefits each of their students, Post said. Post's Spanish-speaking students practice verbal skills by translating for Crawford's education students who are partnered with Spanish-speaking middle school students in need of a mentor.

Since the creation of the Brown Bag Lunch Program, the number of service-learning courses offered has grown from 12 to more than 50 courses each semester. According to Kiser, at a university where community service has become a hallmark of the institution, it is important to provide a platform for faculty to learn from one another and bridge service and academic opportunities.

Post said she learned how to grade reflection papers, ways to guide



Alexa Darby, academic service-learning scholar, gave a presentation titled "Student and Faculty Motivation in Academic Service-Learning" during the Feb. 29 Brown Bag Lunch.

classroom conversation regarding service-learning experiences and about other professors' research regarding service learning.

Amanda Sturgill, professor of communications, said she is also attracted to the Brown Bag Lunch Sessions because of the learning opportunities offered for faculty members.

"It's a chance to learn from others and get ideas for your own teaching," she said. "I sometimes come away with specific things I can use in this semester's classes and sometimes just with bigger ideas about teaching that are more generally applicable."

The most recent lunch session featured Ryan Kirk, assistant professor of geography and environmental studies, and his work on agricultural history in

Southern Appalachia.

Although Derek Lackaff, assistant professor of communications, is not currently teaching a service-learning course, he said he hoped to learn more about the program after attending the Brown Bag Lunch Session Feb. 29.

"While the topic of this lunch (sounded) interesting, I initially signed up to learn more about service-learning courses," Lackaff said.

The lunch sessions help foster programs geared toward cross-cultural experiences for students, Sturgill said.

"It's very much voluntary," Kiser said. "We want to create an environment where any faculty member that is interested knows that the supports are there if they want to pursue (developing a service learning component)."

## SGA executive president-elect examines passions in, out of office

Katherine Blunt  
Senior Reporter

In short, he's a voice. When he speaks, people typically listen. And he doesn't just speak for himself.



DARIEN FLOWERS

His love of political discussion and debate grew stronger as he became older, and come April, he will be the voice of unheard students.

"The craft of language and the effective use of it is a skill not many have," Flowers said. "It can impact the world and our country. Healthy discourse is something every community needs."

Flowers entered the scholastic political arena in high school and served as freshman and junior class president and student body vice-president during his four years at The Wellington School in

Columbus, Ohio. He prepared himself to enter collegiate politics even before arriving at Elon and began campaigning for freshman class Senator during his first week on campus, eventually securing the position.

"I think I met (Flowers) the first or second day he became involved in the SGA," said Jana Lynn Patterson, assistant vice president for Student Life. "I immediately found him to be very motivated, very energetic and very inquisitive."

Flowers ran for SGA office again during his sophomore year, and although he received a bid for sophomore class president, he lost the race to Becca Tynes, who he said remains a close friend. Instead, he served as the Academic Council liaison that year.

"My job was to be the avenue of communication between the academic council and the executive council as well as the deans of all the undergraduate schools," Flowers said. "I was able to develop good working relationships with all the deans as well as see how the executive council worked."

During Winter Term of that year, Flowers served as chairman of an ad-hoc committee organized to review the

SGA constitution and bylaws. He helped draft the judicial manual and created the assistant secretary position.

In the spring, Flowers became speaker pro tempore for Sam Warren, former executive vice president and current executive president.

At the start of his junior year, Flowers was double majoring in political science and international studies, which he has since changed to a minor. As part of his international studies requirement, he spent the fall semester abroad in London and simultaneously served as junior class Senator.

"I was still involved and had regular communication with other members of the Senate," Flowers said.

He decided to run for the executive presidency upon his return to the United States, a position he will assume April 1.

"My past in itself set me apart from the other candidates because I had the longest consecutive tenure in the SGA," Flowers said. "I tried to be as visible as possible and make sure people remembered my name."

Flowers said, first and foremost he is a student, and then a student-politician. He is an avid musician and has been playing percussion instruments since the fifth

grade. For the past two years, he has been a member of Elon's wind ensemble.

"Classical music is one of my passions," Flowers said. "I've been fortunate enough to continue (playing) during my time at Elon."

But when Flowers assumes the executive presidency next month, he said the needs of the student body will take priority.

"(Flowers) seems very committed to finding out the student issues on campus," Patterson said. "He's also very deferential to the other Senators and tries to engage them and get their opinion on things."

Flowers said he hopes to foster a cooperative and communicative environment within the SGA and the Elon community as a whole. Despite his presidential title, he said he recognizes the limitations of his power within the SGA.

"It's a common misconception that all the power lies with me," Flowers said. "The power lies within the Senate. It's my job to steer the Senate down a path of conversation and let the Senate come to its own conclusion. The Senate doesn't work with me — rather, I work with the Senate."

## SGA allocates funds to 86 student organizations despite budget decrease

Katherine Blunt  
Senior Reporter

The Student Government Association approved funding for 86 campus organizations, with money remaining in the organization budget.

More money was requested from the SGA by student organizations for 2012-2013 than last year, but approved allocations for the upcoming year total slightly less compared to the past year.

At the culmination of budget hearings March 1, allocations for student organizations totaled \$484,293.40, and a remainder of \$20,990.60 will be allocated to the 26 SGA-recognized campus organizations that did not yet submit budget applications.

"We (trimmed) the fat off

the budget this year," said Nick Livengood, current executive treasurer. "We hope that with the increase in students next year, we can put a bit more money back into our terminal fund for special allocations."

The SGA also retains a 5 percent contingency fund that is used for executive allocations, special allocations and funding for student trips and off-campus events.

The expected increase in students next year combined with an increased demand for organizational funding stretched the 2012-2013 student activity budget slightly thinner than in previous years. But Scott Bishopric, executive treasurer-elect, said he believes student organizations will continue to thrive.

"We have a larger class, but

the same budget, and we have some constraints that we need to deal with," Bishopric said. "But we are dealing with a campus full of student leaders that can make up for the extended ambitions that they have with extended creativity."

Bishopric said more student organizations had plans for self-funding during the upcoming year than in previous years.

"We had brand-new organizations that said (during budget hearings) that this was the only time they would apply for funding," Bishopric said. "They created for themselves a self-sustaining model."

Overall, Bishopric said he is pleased with the budget allocations for 2012-2013 and said he hopes to contribute to worthwhile efforts on campus as treasurer next year.

"The SGA has given money to some great causes this year," he said. "The (special) allocations that I will propose to make will be based on the merit of the requests I receive."

After assuming office in April, Bishopric plans to schedule make-up budget hearings immediately, rather than in the fall like last year. He also plans to include the SGA organizational council in the budget hearing process, a movement that is pending legislation.

"My past two years in the SGA have been spent on the organizations council, and I've realized it's an incredibly powerful tool that needs to be utilized to a greater extent," Bishopric said. "I think that bringing the organization into the budget hearing

process really improves the SGA's ability to serve the student body on a person-to-person level."

BY THE NUMBERS:

ALLOCATIONS:  
**\$484,293.40**  
for all student organizations

REMAINDER:  
**\$20,990.60** to be distributed to 26 organizations that did not submit budget applications

SGA BUDGET

# Elon Poll projects people's voice into public light

*Elon's partnership with statewide media organizations assists collection of opinion, data*

Mary Kate Brogan  
Senior Reporter

Elon students reach into the community and out to the public with the Elon Poll. The increased use of social media and partnership with North Carolina media organizations contributed to the political dialogue that characterizes the Elon Poll.

The Elon Poll, held from Feb. 26 through March 1, covered such topics as the approval and disapproval rates for President Obama, the economy, the governor's race and the national GOP race, among other things, said John Robinson, director of communications for the Elon Poll. The poll is conducted by phone with North Carolina residents.

"The Elon Poll's purpose is to promote citizen engagement," said Mileah Kromer, assistant director of the Elon Poll. "President Lambert wants students to be engaged citizens. This is (an opportunity) for them to exemplify that message through engaging citizens in public discourse."

Robinson encouraged a greater push toward connecting with citizens through social media in the Elon Poll this year, he said. Robinson, former editor of The Greensboro News & Record, has a strong social media background.

"The idea of the Elon Poll is to give all North Carolina citizens a voice," Robinson said. "I do think that there's a public service value to polling and letting (North Carolina citizens) know what their peers around the state are thinking. We wanted to use social media and blogs to raise visibility and allow citizens to interact with the poll."

Elon University Poll on Facebook and @elonpoll on Twitter have posted several links related to politics and the poll itself, even posting links from competing polls

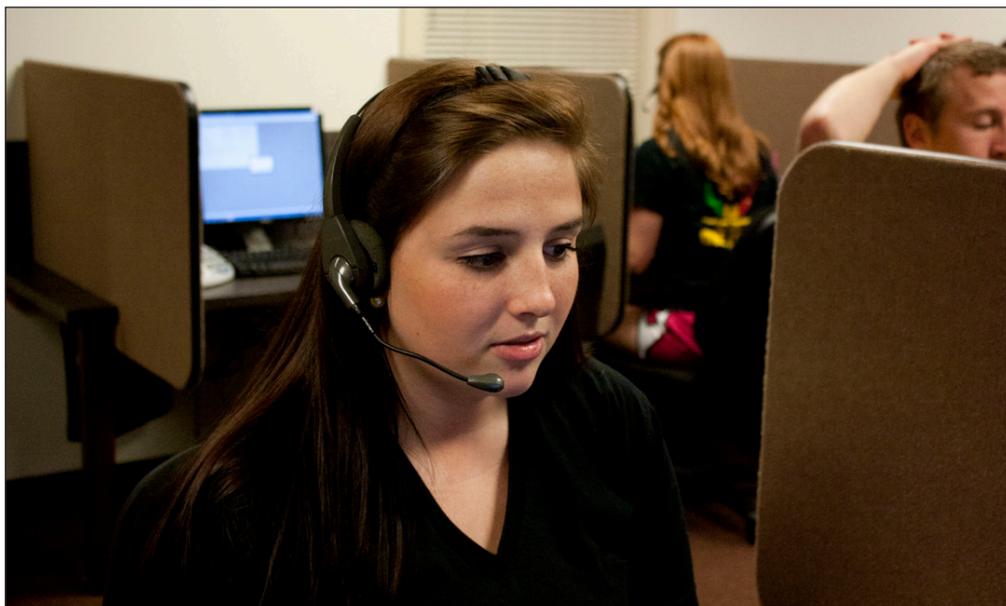
to ensure the poll is a curator for political media.

"There's a lot of information out there that people gather, not just in the Elon Poll but in other polls," Robinson said. "It would be cool to have a polling site that curates that kind of information, so ultimately our goal as the Elon Poll site is between our Facebook page our Twitter and our blog, which is not up yet, it could be a one-stop shop. (People) could come to one of the Elon Poll sites and find the interesting issues of the day and find out what people around North Carolina and (around the U.S.) think about them."

Kromer said the members of the Poll are thankful to be a part of the public discourse in the state of North Carolina.

The partnership with the media organizations produced a positive experience as well, according to Eric Townsend, director of Elon University News Bureau.

The most recent Elon Poll has partnered with five media organizations throughout the state of North Carolina. News & Observer, Charlotte Observer, WTVD Television, WCNC Television and News14 Carolina received the results March 1 when the results were compiled. Traditionally with the Elon Poll, the numbers have been run, crunched and



Junior Emily Ward volunteers with the Elon Poll, which collects state opinions regarding a variety of national issues. SARA HUDAK | Staff Photographer

released immediately, but the publically delayed release provides the media organizations with time to do their own stories surrounding the data before the poll results are released to the public on March 9, according to Robinson.

"This is an opportunity (for the poll) to work with some of the most recognizable media in the state," Townsend said. "Everything just came together at the right time for everyone involved. The other media organizations have been talking amongst themselves about doing some polling on issues of importance to North Carolinians. At the same time, the Elon University Poll has been always open to helping media out, and we saw this as an opportunity to perhaps join with a group

that was already in place and ask some of the questions that they were looking at."

The media partnership, while it is currently a one-time partnership, may continue in the future, he said.

"We're certainly happy that we were able to work with these organizations to ask questions that they thought would be of interest to their readers," Townsend said. "We've always thought would be of interest to the citizens of North Carolina."

#### Poll Welcomes New Leadership

Ken Fernandez and Jason Husser will begin work with the Elon Poll in June and August, respectively.

## New director's reporting experience advances Elon Poll communication



John Robinson, director of communications for the Elon Poll, aims to use social media to increase the Poll's visibility. He was editor of the Greensboro News and Record prior to coming to Elon. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

John Robinson, former editor of the Greensboro News and Record, has recently been named the director of communications for the Elon Poll. Robinson will oversee the Elon Poll's presence on social media platforms and will also analyze poll results for the media. He has 37 years of experience in the newspaper businesses, 27 of which were with the News and Record, and has worked as a reporter, city editor, editorial page editor, team management coach and editor. Robinson is also serving as an adjust instructor in the School of Communications.

*Q: What is your interest in the Elon Poll?*

If you Google me and Google my name and polls, you'll find a series of blog posts on polls going back for some years where I make fun of polls. And what I really make fun of is the horse race polls, where everyday you know exactly what the approval rating for the president is, who is leading the GOP race, and it's not really relevant to peoples' daily lives. So when they talked to me about this poll and I started looking at what the Elon Poll did, I was impressed. I was impressed with how they asked questions and try to propose things that interest North Carolinians. It's not horse race driven. It's much more focused on what people are interested in. It's issue driven.

*Q: During your journalism career, you were noted to be one of the first editors to blog and emphasize social media. How do you plan on using that experience here at Elon and using social media with the Elon Poll?*

My experience with blogs, Facebook and Twitter is that the successful people doing it are the ones who are interesting. They have a voice of some sort whether it's humor or egregiousness or snark. They have a voice. And they try to be interesting. And they engage and respond to you. They don't always broadcast their own poll results or opinions. And they have information. They have value. My sense is that the poll is the same way. My sense is there is a lot of information out there that people gather, and not just the Elon Poll, but other polls. If you are

interested in politics and some of the issues in North Carolina or nationwide then it would be cool to have a polling site that curates that kind of information. So ultimately my goal, our goal, is that between Facebook, Twitter and the blog, which is not up yet, it can be a one-stop shop. If you're interested in that kind of thing and come to the Elon Poll site and find interesting stuff there about the issues of the day that are in North Carolina and nationwide.

*Q: Describe your new position with the Elon Poll and how it differs from the director of the Elon Poll?*

Eventually, it may not. Eventually, they may not need me. To a great extent we'll see. I've met Mileah (Kromer, assistant director of the Elon Poll,) but she is leaving. The new director and his assistant will do the polling, but neither of them are from North Carolina. They don't know North Carolina issues and they don't know the sense of history. And I do. So, really, my job is to help them figure out some of the significance of the poll results. Presumably, I would help with some of the questions, but still fiddling with that, and help with the interpretations of the poll results. And I know a lot of the media people out there so I am really here to help raise the visibility of the poll.

*Q: If there is one thing you want Elon students and the greater Elon community to know, what would it be?*

Well first it's to follow Elon Poll on Twitter and "like" the Elon Poll page on Facebook. And I think it's being aware of what the Elon Poll is. Other than Elon sports, the Elon Poll is one of the highest profile things the university does outside of the campus environment. And I would hope students would be engaged with it, either by following it and being interested in singular issues or telling me things. Engage with the page and help us. It's an academic institution and we are all here to better ourselves and the same thing is true for the poll.

Compiled by Anna Johnson, Senior Reporter

~shoes~handbags~accessories~

# Best Foot Forward

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Jack Rogers

# Bringing the farm home: Agricultural campaign produces local partnership

Ben Donahue  
Senior Reporter

Local farmers have a hand in Dining Services. Elon University adopted the 10 Percent Campaign, a state-wide initiative establishes trade agreements between local farmers and businesses.

Businesses involved in the program pledge to purchase a minimum of 10 percent of all food locally, which largely determines from where and from whom the university purchases produce.

Fresh produce is an important aspect of Elon Dining Service's involvement in the 10 Percent movement, according to Kate Nelson, marketing manager for Elon Dining Services.

"You not only get a closer relationship with those growing your food, but you get to know about how that food is produced and the values that the farmer lives by," said Michelle Ferrier, associate professor of communications and the creator of locallygrownnews.com, a site devoted to sharing and promoting local food experiences.

The relationships between local farmers and the university produce environmental benefits as well, according to Ferrier. The 10 Percent Campaign reduces food transportation, effectively decreasing gas emissions and



Elon Dining Services recently joined the 10 Percent Campaign to incorporate more products from local farms and businesses into campus meals.

the need for pesticides and preservatives.

"Food is also healthier as it is quickly brought to local markets, versus trucked from miles away, thereby reducing your carbon footprint," Ferrier said. "So you lose fewer nutrients and get fewer

pesticides, hormones and other unwanted additions to your produce."

Each dining area offers a variety of local options, Nelson said.

A leaf shaped logo indicates locally grown items. Nelson referenced the pastries and

muffins in Acorn Coffee Shop as examples of locally sourced products that have the logo on their price tag.

"We also do various events throughout the year where we give out North Carolina 10 Percent Campaign T-shirts to promote and increase

awareness of the campaign," she said.

Information concerning the North Carolina 10 Percent Campaign is available via ads on the Dining Services Website, Dining Facebook page and various digital screens throughout campus.

## Students experience others' struggles with poverty simulation

Natalie Allison  
Managing Editor

At Elon University, to experience is to learn — and studying the issue of poverty is no exception. For 10 years, religious studies and human services classes at Elon have participated in poverty simulations, hour-long events during which students are presented with the problems and decisions people living in poverty face on a daily basis.

Participants in the program are broken into fictitious families, ranging from single adults to families of five. Each person becomes a member of the family, and a packet details each family member's name, age and role.

Groups learn about what life would be like for that family for a month by having to pay bills, work or find jobs, find childcare and make decisions during four 15-minute sessions

during the simulation.

"It's one thing to learn about poverty and another thing to experience it. When people go through the simulation, they get a more developed, more intimate understanding of the struggle and choices people (in poverty) have to make."

"When people go through the simulation, they get a more developed, more intimate understanding of the struggle and choices people (in poverty) have to make."

Toddie Peters, associate professor of religious studies,

introduced the simulation to Elon approximately a decade ago with her Winter Term class that year.

Though the university initially brought in a consultant to lead the activity, Elon now owns a copy of the simulation for itself.

"When people go through the simulation, they get a more developed, more intimate understanding of the struggle and choices people (in poverty) have to make and the questions they have to juggle," Peters said. "I can't pay this bill because I have to pay that."

Senior Evan Peleaux participated in the simulation earlier this semester as a part

of Peters' Christianity and Social Justice class. Peleaux served as the father of a family of five who struggled to meet their basic needs.

"I felt very hopeless as each week passed, getting behind on our bills and having to choose between putting food on the table or fending off the collection agencies," Peleaux said. "Tough choices needed to be made every week as to how we were going to survive. Living in that kind of fear was overwhelming and paralyzing at some times."

Peleaux said after engaging in the simulation, his perspective of impoverished people was broadened, and he learned that even some who work full-time jobs are still stuck in the cycle of poverty.

"Before the simulation, I was under the assumption that people living below the poverty line were just not putting enough effort into getting

themselves to a sustainable lifestyle," he said. "After the simulation, I realized how little time there was to possibly go back to school or find a job or apply for government aid."

On Thursday March 8, several classes of The Global Experience will participate in the poverty simulation. Peters said the program is set up to handle up to 85 participants, in addition to the 15 or 20 people who serve as community members, such as a teacher, bank employee or pawn shop owner with whom participants must interact.

"(As a participant), I am having to make a decision about whether I'm going to leave my child alone to go to a job or just not go to my job and risk losing it," Kiser said. "I think that you never forget it's a simulation, but you also realize that, yes — I am thinking about doing things I never would have thought about doing before."

## Supreme Court to rule whether race plays role in college entry

Anna Johnson  
Senior Reporter

The Supreme Court will examine the significance of race during the college admission process for the second time this decade. During the case Fisher v. University of Texas, which will be heard by the end of spring 2012, the judicial system will determine to what extent universities and colleges may take race into account when admitting students. The results could potentially impact all public higher education institutions and some private institutions.

As a private school, Elon doesn't have the same constraints, said Robert Parrish, assistant professor of law at Elon's School of Law.

"But Elon does receive some federal funding and, depending on the types of federal funding received, it may impact recruiting and admitting minority students," he said.

The education model in Texas differs from that in North Carolina. In Texas, the top 10 percent of students are automatically admitted into the public higher education system. It's only after this 10 percent is admitted that race is allowed to be calculated into the admissions process. Without measures like these, the number of racially-diverse students will decrease, Parrish said.

The plaintiff, Abigail Fisher, just missed the 10 percent mark and she claims she was not admitted into the University of Texas because she is white.

Cindy Barr, assistant dean of admissions, said she is not sure how the court's decision will impact Elon, but she said the school would be able to adjust without much change.

But for public schools, the number of black and Hispanic students is likely to decrease.

When admitting students, Elon focuses on the academic courses and the

rigor of those courses, Barr said.

"So the academic piece is the rigor of coursework and how well you have done on your test scores," she said. "If I had to approximate it, that is about 75 percent of how we base our decisions. The rest comes from the heart of the student: how you spent your time outside of the classroom, leadership, service, your admissions essay and your counselor recommendation."

Under Elon's strategic plan, The Elon Commitment, the university has focused on increasing diversity on campus. This includes diversity of religion, race, geography, ethnicity and thought, Barr said. When looking at prospective students, all of these aspects are taken into consideration in the same way a legacy student is considered or an athlete or a performer.

Elon is looking at the entire student and not filling quotas or filling a particular number, Barr said.

The Office of Admissions does have a director of multicultural recruitment and the department ensures the admissions team that travels to speak to students does reach out diverse students, Barr said. That means traveling to diverse locations and being present at college fairs that target minorities, she said.

Since The Elon Commitment was implemented, the number of students who are considered racially diverse has increased, and the freshman class is 15 percent racially diverse, referring to students that are not white.

In 2003, the Supreme Court ruled 5-to-4 in Grutter v. Bollinger that public colleges and universities could not use a point system or quota to increase the number of minority schools, but could instead take race into account in smaller ways to ensure academic diversity. Since then, the makeup of the Supreme Court has changed and the bench is considered more conservative.

## Distinguished visiting professor champions passion as life's guide

Ben Donahue  
Senior Reporter

Judith Jamison, dancer and choreographer, addressed a fully-seated auditorium with an informal speaking style, advising the primarily student-based audience to live passionately.

Passion has been her guideline to success as a leader, she said.

"The people that make a difference are not always visionaries, but people that passionately and vehemently believe in what they are doing," Jamison said.

Too often people are fixed on goals they are not truly passionate about, she said.

"I know it looks good on paper, but how does it really feel?" she asked. "Sometimes, you need to be quiet and listen. It is very important in your lives to listen to others and learn what you can from them. Take leaps of faith. Prepare and then proceed."

Elon's Center for Leadership selected Jamison as this year's Isabella Cannon Distinguished Visiting Professor of Leadership and invited her to speak March 5 in Whitley Auditorium.

Jamison gained international recognition through her involvement in the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater. She started dancing for the organization in 1965 and later succeeded its namesake, Alvin Ailey, as artistic director.

Nevertheless, she said her passion for dance is rooted in early childhood experiences.

She spoke of her upbringing in Philadelphia, where she was required to attend church every Sunday. Jamison attributes her church experiences to her initial interest in dance. She described the rhythm and subtle choreography of a church procession, referring to the way the ushers moved and the different choirs

as dancelike.

Jamison also identified the relationship between her parents as an influential contribution to her current character.

"My father said, 'do good,'" she said. "It sounds simple, but it just hit me to my core because it's so simple and so true."

Jamison described coming home to her parents dancing around the living room radio. Although her father worked multiple jobs to support the family, he always had time to indulge in some art, Jamison said.

"With those calloused fingers that he had, he would come home and play Rachmaninoff," Jamison said. "I remember his beautiful, baritone voice. He had studied opera."

During her earliest foray into dance, Jamison said her family and early dance mentor supported her endeavors. Jamison began dancing at the age of six in a dance studio presided over by her first dance instructor. Despite relocating the dance studio several times because of racial prejudice-fueled complaints, Jamison said she and her fellow dancers always admired their teacher. Jamison stayed with that teacher from the age of six to 17.

"She was a fearless leader and we followed her without any doubt," Jamison said.

Jamison said she has aspired to her first instructor's determination and leadership for the rest of her life.

At the age of 21, Jamison participated in what she described as her first and last audition. Jamison saw Alvin Ailey dancing in 1963 and said she instantly wanted to join his dance company. Although she said she failed her audition, Jamison received a call from Ailey the following day, asking if she was interested in dancing for his theatre company.

"If the door doesn't open for you, build a door," she said. "Don't tell me



Judith Jamison, Isabella Cannon Distinguished Visiting Professor of Leadership, encouraged a primarily student-based audience to let passion guide their life endeavors March 5.

MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer

I can't be something. I will come back and do it so well that you will never forget."

Jamison served as artistic director for the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater for the following 21 years, a time when Jamison and others transformed the theatre from an organization that had once had a million dollar debt, to one that has an over \$50 million endowment and one of the largest dance complexes in the United States. Jamison also formed her own dance company called the Jamison Project.

### MORE ONLINE

Hear clips from Jamison's speech and reactions to her visit.

<http://pend.lu/jamison>

EMILY HARING | Multimedia Reporter

## Communication, teaching tools part of Moodle's package

Hannah DelaCourt  
Senior Reporter

A dependency on the Internet transcends generations on Elon's campus. The transition to Moodle, a learning management system, provides faculty with a new set of online learning tools to utilize in their courses.

Starting in June, Blackboard will be a platform of the past, and the university will completely switch to Moodle.

"Moodle has allowed us to introduce faculty to the full capability of our instructional technologies to let them think about what they want to do in their course and then how to do that," said Roger Gant, an academic support specialist.

The moving process has taken about two years, according to Gant. The switch has given Teaching and Learning Technologies a chance to have more focused training for faculty and staff, he said.

Scott Hildebrand, assistant director of teaching and learning technologies training and development, said half the faculty have gone through training and the online faculty are currently learning as well.

Randy Piland, a senior communications lecturer, went to the very first Moodle training last summer. Now, Piland offers training as well, and his course is used as an example for other faculty members.

For his photojournalism classes, Piland introduced a Twitter feed on his Moodle page that was geared toward the course. He said he finds two or three things through Twitter that he can share in the class each week.

"It's perfect for photojournalism,"

Piland said. "If there are people you are following on Twitter, you have that right there. I follow about 20 people who are vital to the communications field so if students follow that, they can learn a lot."

Piland said he tries to parallel a lot of the similarities between Blackboard and Moodle so faculty members do not feel like they have lost something.

"What I even encourage in some of the training I offer is for people to almost consider it a revamp," he said. "People should really think about creating from new."

Piland said he thinks the main challenge for faculty is familiarizing themselves with new editing tools. If members were to just sit down and tries to figure out Moodle, it would be difficult, he said, which is why he recommends the training sessions.

Faculty also expressed concern regarding students' understanding of Moodle, Piland said.

"Do students need training? No," he said. "If (professors) do it right and do it well, students will get it."

Moodle's functionality will rely on professors to take advantage of Moodle because it is a tool, and any tool is only as functional as the tool user, Gant said. Still, he said the feedback he has gotten so far has been positive.

"The feedback from faculty is that Moodle seems more intuitive, a simpler interface and an easier to use interface," Gant said. "And if something is easier to use, it tends to be used more."

Training will be available throughout the spring semester, Hildebrand said.

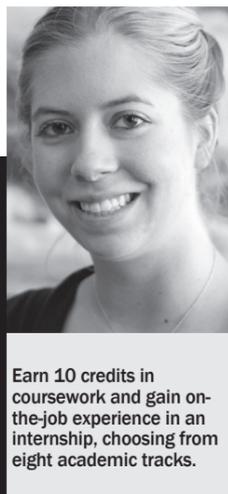
There are also walk in-trainings on Fridays for those who cannot make the scheduled sessions.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

**Dennis Franks selected as Director of Campus Safety and Police**

Dennis Franks will join the Elon community March 26 as the new director of Campus Safety and Police. Franks will replace Chuck Gantos after he retires May 31.

Franks joined the police department of Pekin, Ill. in 1998 as a patrol officer. Currently the deputy chief for special services, Franks manages the department's budget, records and investigations divisions and other internal affairs.

Franks earned master's and bachelor's degrees in law enforcement and justice administration from Western Illinois University. He graduated from Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command, and he trained at the Executive Institute of the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board.

Prior to the announcement of Franks' selection, students raised concerns regarding Dan Ingle as candidate for director of campus safety and police candidates provided his voting history in response to LGBTQ issues. Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, responded to the students with thanks and appreciation for the concern.

**Elon School of Law invites students to interact with legal community**

The Elon School of Law is holding a reception for preceptors, lawyers and other members of the legal community 5-6 p.m. March 8 in the Cemala Commons on the second floor of the law school.

James Hardin, Jr., the North Carolina Superior Court Judge of Durham, will speak at the event.

All students and faculty are invited to attend.

**Elon alumnus featured in the touring production of "Shrek the Musical"**

Elon alumnus Ian Frazier, Class of 2006, belongs to the cast of the touring production of "Shrek the Musical." Frazier serves as the assistant company manager and a "swing," which is an understudy able to perform multiple roles.

**Faculty members invited to summer teaching renewal retreat**

Mid-career and late-career faculty members are encouraged to join professors and faculty members of Wake Forest University, North Carolina A&T, UNC Greensboro and other regional institutions for a four-day program of workshops, discussion groups and personal reflection. The retreat provides professors with the opportunity to meet other educators through North Carolina and explore teaching methods and personal goals.

Applications are due March 12 for summer teaching renewal retreat at Graylyn International Conference Center in Winston Salem early this summer.

**Piedmont Triad organizations promote regional sustainability**

Organizations through the Piedmont Triad planned a forum to discuss how planning concentrated on jobs, transportation and housing can strengthen the region. The Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation and the Piedmont Triad Regional Council will spearhead the discussion and aim to gather community input on regional projects.

The Alamance County Civic Forum will be held 6-8 p.m. March 12 in McKinnon Hall.

**Students invited to Prometheus Group information session**

The Prometheus Group, an international software and IT company, will speak with students majoring in computer science, computer information systems, information science and engineering about internship and career opportunities.

The information session will be held at noon March 12 in the first-floor conference room in Duke.



David Blanchflower, professor of economics at Dartmouth College, discussed the current economic policies in Europe and their future implications.

## Guest speaker condemns economic policies prevalent throughout Europe

Nathan Dean  
Reporter

David Blanchflower, professor of economics at Dartmouth College, explored the issue of economic austerity, a policy reducing government spending, in Europe, and presented alternative methods to address deficit.

He criticized the current economic policies prevalent in Europe in which reduced government spending is often used to pay off national debts and in turn, reduce the deficit, but generally leads to an increase in tax rates or a decrease in the supply of public services.

The event was co-sponsored by Sigma Phi Epsilon. Blanchflower provided information to students, faculty and staff regarding the effects of political and economic decisions currently employed throughout Europe. Blanchflower described the current decisions as common, but perhaps impractical Feb. 29 in LaRose Digital Theatre.

The quickest way out of a recession is through policies encouraging national economic growth rather than unduly focusing on deficit reduction, Blanchflower said.

"Dealing with the deficit is a 15 - 20 year issue," he said. "Trying to resolve it too soon prevents growth."

Growth will prevent business anxiety and thus hold unemployment at a reasonable level, according to Blanchflower.

"Unemployment rates in Greece are at 21 percent and in Spain reaching 23 percent because of their lack of a strategy for growth," he said.

Blanchflower explained the results of business anxiety and hinted at the concept of a self-fulfilling prophecy within European culture.

"When governments cut spending in an attempt to reduce their deficit, businesses become anxious over the

national economy," he said. "When businesses become anxious, job cuts are inevitable. When unemployment increases, labor anxiety lowers public spending and therefore creates an elongated, 'double-dip recession.'"

This fundamental principle perpetuates the Eurozone crisis, Blanchflower said.

Nevertheless, Blanchflower said some economies have dealt with the recent recession efficiently. He identified France as a prime example, having entered the recession later and left earlier than most comparable nations. But, as many European countries are locked into the European Central Bank, and thus have no national currency to oversee, a snowball effect transpires.

"If one EU nation has poor quarterly growth rates, as Greece, Ireland and many others have, this considerably affects rates in Germany and France," he said.

Blanchflower said Greece's failing economy is no new issue. They have been in default for 200 of the last 250 years and were ranked 99th in the World Bank's 'Doing Business Ratings,' a global ratings committee that ranks economies on their ease of doing business. A low rating, as seen with Greece, suggests their economic environment is less conducive to the starting and operation of local firms.

Blanchflower attributes failures in Greece to the "lack of an operational tax collection system and required reform of essentially all labor markets," and, more importantly, to their devotion to austerity and not growth.

In 2010 the British government experimented with austerity measures, according to Blanchflower.

"They cut spending and raised taxes, therefore banks aren't lending, and no small firms can get credit," he said. "The cuts depreciated national GDP."

Blanchflower's presentation challenged their beliefs regarding

economic policy, according to freshman Sean Cogan.

"While I was aware that many European nations were attempting austerity, I presumed that expansionary fiscal contraction (major reduction in government spending), would create an environment for growth," Cogan said. "Dr. Blanchflower's comments were certainly interesting."

The failures in Europe motivated the United States to select a different path, according to Blanchflower. The United States government backed strategies for growth and is now exhibiting moderate, but positive economic expansion.

"The United States deferred paying off the deficit and is unsurprisingly enjoying reasonable growth," he said.

Although the United States may still be enduring difficult economic times, according to Blanchflower, in comparison to our European counterparts, America is unquestionably comfortable.

For junior Diana Davis, Blanchflower's lecture provided insight into the United States' president's economic policies.

"Dr. Blanchflower's comments on the U.S. were surprisingly accurate and offer a strong message to those who question Obama's economic policies," Davis said. "Compared to the majority of the world, he's done OK."

Nevertheless, Blanchflower said the contrast between the United States and European nations demonstrates that the Eurozone crisis is not nearly close to an end.

Blanchflower was a member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee from 2006 to 2009, and The Guardian newspaper named Blanchflower the Bank of England's biggest dissenter. He was named "Business Person of the Year" in 2008 by the Daily Telegraph Great Britons of 2008 awards and was made a Commander of the British Empire in 2009.

## Mar. 7 - Mar. 14

**Mar. 7**

- "Reality Pedagogy: Teaching and Learning from the Students' Standpoint:" 7:30 p.m., Whitley Auditorium
- The Tournees Festival: New French Films on Campus: 6:30 p.m., McEwen 011

**Mar. 8**

- Winter Term 2013 Study Abroad Fair: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., McKinnon Hall
- Vital Signs performs at Midnight Meals: 11 p.m., McKinnon Hall

**Mar. 9**

- Department of Music Chamber Ensembles Concert: 7:30 p.m., Whitley Auditorium
- Battle of the Bands: 8 p.m., McKinnon Hall

**Mar. 10**

- Sweet Signatures hosts Acappalooza: 7:30 p.m., Whitley Auditorium
- DanceWorks Student Choreography Concert: 4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Black Box Theatre

**Mar. 11**

- DanceWorks Student Choreography Concert: 4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Black Box Theatre

**Mar. 12**

- David Eagleman, Incognito: The Brains Behind the Mind: 7:30 p.m., McCrary Theatre
- Jelena Berenc, "Analytic Mark" opening reception: 5:30 p.m., Yeager Recital Hall

**Mar. 13**

- "Spitting Game: College Hook-Up Culture:" 7 p.m., McEwen 011
- Destination New York City: 7 p.m., LaRose Digital Theatre

**Mar. 14**

- Ander Monson, nonfiction reading: 7 p.m., Yeager Recital Hall
- Elon University Wind Ensemble: 7:30 p.m., McCrary Theatre

# International

## Costa Rican enjoys economic stability

Wesley Rose  
International Reporter

In Latin America, many regard the United States as somewhat of a colossus to the North. Symbols of red, white and blue have long contrasted with cultural and political ideals south of the border due to heritage and customs.

Today, if nations are to effectively collaborate, it is most often on the waves of an economic current.

This idea is no less true in Costa Rica, the small Central American nation ranked No. 1 in 2009 on the Happy Planet Index for the highest life satisfaction in the world and the second highest average life expectancy of the Americas (second only to Canada).

Among economic super powers such as Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan, Costa Rica may appear as a blip on the radar of the economic wow-factor. Nonetheless, many of the coffee, bananas and pineapples imported to the United States come from Costa Rican shores.

Perhaps more than anything, Costa Rica thrives today on its unequaled tradition in Central America of political, social and economic stability. It has had no standing army since 1948. Twenty-six percent of its land is comprised of natural reserves and park systems that help to safeguard an estimated 4-6 percent of the world's biodiversity and a whopping \$1.92 billion ecotourism industry.

As the nation continues to grow, it also discovers the larger problems of statehood in a world of very rapidly increasing demand for a share of resources and territorial prowess.

Nearly half of Costa Rica's exports, imports and tourism are sustained by U.S. consumption.

Victor Moreda, a host grandparent in Costa Rica, shared a history of the two nations' ties.

"Communism was what brought Yankee interest down south and along with it, a heap of cultural effects that changed the face of this country," he said.

Rural workers were once held in great esteem, but the idea of city success transferred to Costa Rica. Campesinos,



A view of the rolling Costa Rican hills taken during an Elon Winter Term program to Costa Rica.

or farmers, became a mockery for the rising urban sector.

"The migration of campesinos was a result of ideals of industrialization inherited from the U.S." said Moreda. "Costa Ricans can't say it's good or bad—it's modern."

But there have been recent problems with relations between the United States and Costa Rica. During the last 10 years, an estimated 2,000 percent increase in trade with China has given Costa Rica the image of being China's gateway to Latin America in terms of trade and political influence. A beacon of this development is the national soccer stadium in the capital, erected in early 2011. As a gift for their recent trade agreements, the Chinese government spent an estimated \$100 million on its construction, the largest and most modern event venue ever constructed in Costa Rican history.

What stands out about Costa Rica, through all of its international and domestic dynamics, is the widespread cultural embrace of values that are reflected from its economic activity. It's the idea that a culture can thrive

on commercial interests and seeking a profit can align with a society's integral value-system on a moral and practical level.

Although coffee production has dropped almost 45 percent over the last 10 years, an esteemed coffee-culture flourishes there yet. Most Costa Ricans would rather sit in their home to chat and have a cup of coffee than go out to a streamlined, Starbucks-like coffee shop.

Carlos Morales, a restaurant owner in San Jose said, "(I am as) content and grateful as a Costa Rican in Costa Rica."

This is an example of how pleased and proud people are with their way of life, and it also expresses a culture that is in touch with its environment.

When was the last time someone in the United States remarked that a commercial interest was aligned with a cultural interest, and ultimately the well being of society in full view? There is much to be learned from this tropical, Central American paradise, full of unique economic proportions paralleled only by the rarity of a people just as satisfied with their own culture.

## Fresh, local food common to Costa Rican natives

Leslie Gilman  
International Reporter

In the United States, food is equivalent to social time, cultural events and celebrations. In order to eat fresh, healthy foods in the United States, it costs significantly more. The overly processed, high sugar concentrations and levels of fat and sodium are cheap, easy to make and taste good. There is a desire for instant gratification and convenience that often outweighs common sense about eating healthy. Food is rarely viewed as fuel, and people would rather live to eat than eat to live. The themes of rising obesity rates and the popularity of crash dieting is quite concerning for this generation.

In Costa Rica, there are many cultural values that are different from those in the United States. It is

common to eat fresh, healthy foods at a reasonable cost and is less popular and a lot more expensive to buy processed fast foods. It's also common to go to the supermarket every two or three days to get the food needed for a few meals. Food expires quickly because it is so fresh, so portion sizes tend to be much smaller. Places that sell things in bulk, like Sam's Club and BJ's, do not exist.

Most Costa Ricans eat both breakfast and dinner at home.

"It has only been the last few years that people have eaten lunch outside of (the) home," said Kathia Carmona, a host mom to an Elon student currently studying in San Jose.

People used to come home in the middle of the day to eat with their families. Costa Rica is much more of a collectivist culture than individualist. The values of families and the common community are often considered before promoting individual interests. People tend to value strong relationships above personal growth, wealth and success.

Elon students studying in Costa Rica have already been to both a coffee and banana plantation. Coffee and banana plantations are the most important. The bananas are hand-picked from the individual trees and begin the process they go through to reach the rest of the world.

"According to my host mom, (drinking) coffee for every meal is very Costa Rican," said Elon student, Anthony Phillips Spencer. "My host family drinks a cup of coffee for every meal, even if it is with a glass of juice."

Coffee is essential to Costa Rican culture. The pure, perfected art of selecting, drying and assembling the

beans is an incredible phenomenon to witness. The roasting of coffee beans is what gives them flavor. It is common to ship their unroasted beans to companies like Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts, who roast them to their desired style.

Fresh fruits are readily available and not too expensive. Some of the most common are pineapple, bananas, strawberries, guanabana, guava, papaya and watermelon. It is not uncommon to pay more at a store or vendor with whom one has established a personal relationship. It is not about quantity or maximizing profit as much as the enjoyment and perfection of the goods provided and the maintenance of a relationship between the consumer and vendor.

But there is also a desire to be more like the United States. Costa Rica is beginning to adopt American ways of life learned from television and film, and there are fast food influences on certain Costa Rican businesses. In a small section of San Jose, there is a McDonald's, Hooters, Taco Bell and Applebee's.

"In the United States, we are so busy that we don't have time to sit down and eat together," said Elon sophomore Erika West.

There is something to be said for taking the time to eat a meal with family members or friends. In an attempt to fit more things in the day, Americans skip out on quality time as well as quality food.

But globalization is occurring whether we like it or not. And before that happens, it seems there is a lot the United States can learn from Costa Rica.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS  
Workers sort coffee beans in Costa Rica.

### INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

#### Russia passes new anti-gay law

St. Petersburg legislatures approved a law Feb. 29 that prohibits homosexual propaganda.

Gay rights groups have expressed the fear that they will not be able to pursue their agendas as they have been allowed to in the past. This is the beginning of a crackdown on homosexual propaganda across Russia, and other cities are looking to adopt the same policy. This law is said to be a reaction to the increasingly vocal efforts of gay rights groups.

#### North Korea agrees to halt testing of nuclear weapons in exchange for aid

The United States and North Korea came to an agreement Feb. 29 that said North Korea would halt their nuclear activities. This agreement came two months after the death of Kim Jong-il, who ruled North Korea aggressively for years.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said this was a "modest first step" even though "the world is transforming around us." North Korea has been testing missiles and other nuclear weapons since 2006, but in exchange of them stopping all activities, the United States will give them 240,000 metric tons of food aid.

#### Arsonists burn Nigerian schools

Over the last week, arsonists burned down seven schools in Nigeria. No casualties have been reported, but thousands of children are now left without schools in the middle of the term.

Officials are blaming Boko Haram, an Islamic sect modeled after the Taliban. Boko Haram is trying to instigate a low-level uprising against the government.

#### Abandoned village up for auction

The auction date has been set for May 21 to sell an abandoned French village called Courbefy. When the previous owners of the hamlet stopped paying their mortgages, the village was handed over to the Credit Agricole bank earlier this month.

The asking price for Courbefy is 330,000 euros or \$440,000. The bank has received more than 100 calls from interested buyers as far away as China and the United States. The village once contained a luxury hotel and restaurant, but now the buildings are rundown and decrepit.

#### Date set for Egyptian election

The first Egyptian election since Hosni Mubarak's ousting has been set to occur May 23-24, and the new elected president will be announced June 21.

A 21-day election campaign period will begin April 30, and if no candidate wins 50 percent of the vote, the top two candidates will face each other in a runoff.

Mubarak was forced to leave office a year ago due to an 18-day protest that attracted hundreds of thousands of people to the streets. The military accepted control of the country until a new president was elected, but some fear their reign will turn into a military dictatorship.

#### American soldiers responsible for Koran burning in Afghanistan

A pile of Qurans was burned in Afghanistan last week, and it was discovered that five American soldiers participated in the event.

The burning of the Qurans started a week of protests that led to 30 Afghan deaths and six fatal attacks on American soldiers. U.S. officials claim the burning of the books was accidental and the names of the soldiers will not be released.

# Editorial

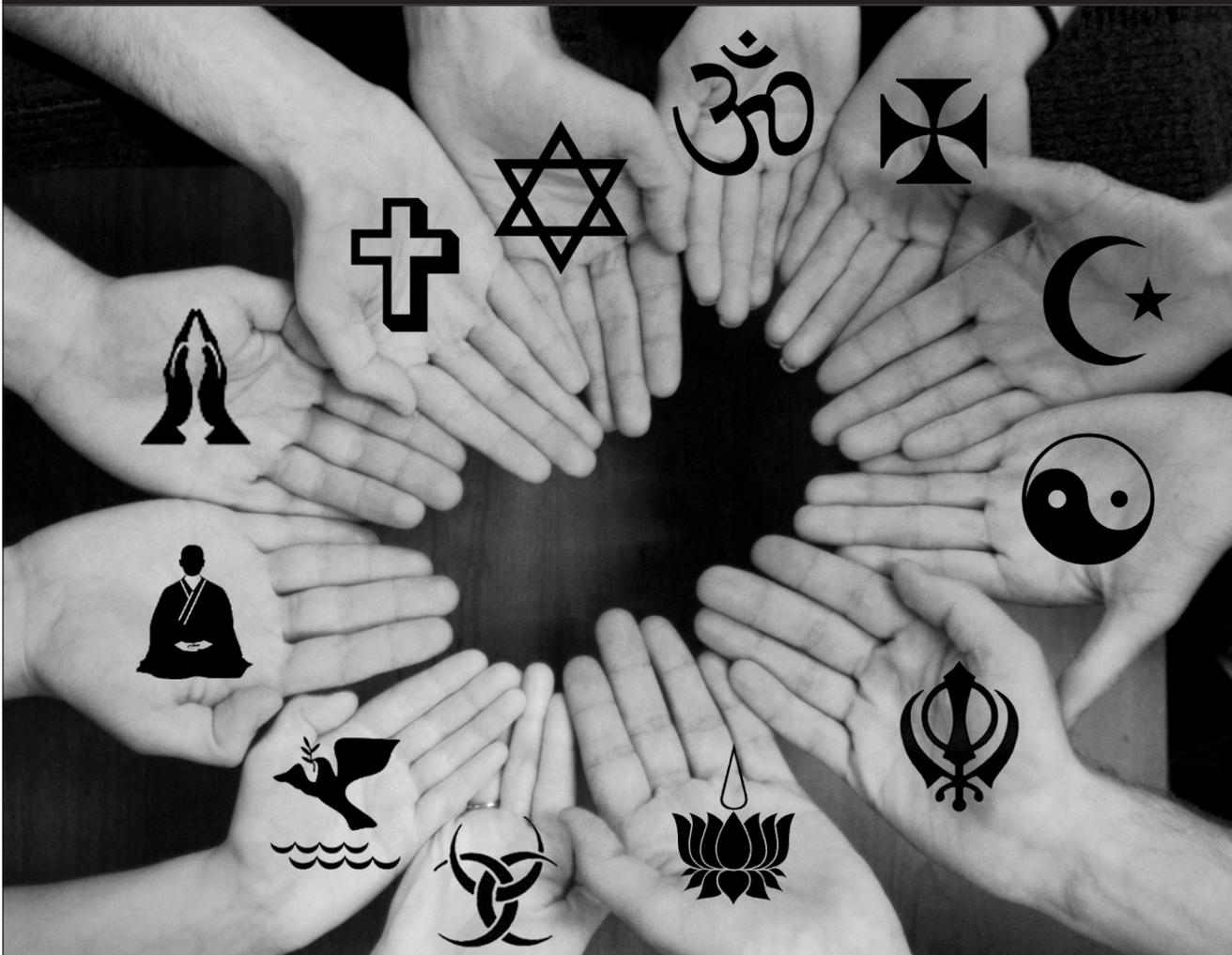


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AL DRAGO AND KRISTEN CASE

## Religious diversity remains a subject of student debate

Elon University was founded by the modern-day United Church of Christ in 1889. In the 1930s, our mascot was coined as the Fighting Christian. The Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life serves as the official home for spiritual life on campus, sponsoring the efforts of 15 different religious organizations.

And yet, despite Elon's revitalized efforts to promote diversity on campus, some students still remain skeptical as to whether the university's current atmosphere is an accurate reflection of its commitment to the cause.

According to the results of a recent interfaith survey taken by 261 Elon students, it seems the student body remains divided in its beliefs as to whether Elon can be considered a spiritually diverse institution.

The results indicated that Christian students, who represented the majority of the survey participants, ultimately perceive Elon's campus to be considerably more diverse than students who identify with other faiths or as non-religious.

In addition, students who identify themselves as non-religious indicated they felt significantly less accepted on campus in comparison to religious students.

With Elon having reaffirmed its commitment to promote all forms of diversity on campus in response to previous incidents of racial and social bigotry, it seems its awareness of prevailing student concerns regarding religious diversity has been somewhat lacking.

While the surveyed majority of students, who identify themselves as Christians, believe Elon to be a tolerant and diverse campus, it seems those students in the non-Christian minority feel differently.

And while Elon officially maintains a strict "no tolerance for intolerance" mindset, it

seems there must be something present in the Elon atmosphere to evoke such a mixed reaction about Elon's image as a diverse environment.

Students in the survey who identify themselves as non-religious indicated they were not nearly as comfortable expressing their personal beliefs in comparison to those who ascribe to a particular faith system.

But concerns have recently arisen regarding the university's implementation of prayer into formal university events, and whether Elon's tradition of saying prayers at university events could be considered stifling to those who do not ascribe to any particular faith.

Every year, traditional university events like convocation, graduation and the Turning 21 Dinner all begin with a prayer.

Despite being no longer officially affiliated with a specific religious faith, Elon still utilizes prayer to help commemorate university traditions.

And while a Christian organization played a fundamental role in Elon's founding, this practice now has the potential to cause considerable discomfort for Elon students.

Now we recognize that Elon's practice of incorporating prayers to help mark ceremonial campus events is a common habit, similar to the nation-wide tradition of integrating prayer into university events.

In an ideal world, the prayers are brief and non-specific. They are meant to be received by an audience of mature adults representing an assembly of higher education, consuming only a brief portion of the overall ceremony, one that is predominantly secular in nature.

The primary purpose of the prayer is not indoctrination of present listeners, but instead a recognition of the potential role of divine providence in the institution's recent achievements and realized goals.

And while Elon's practice of incorporating prayers into university events is merely a means of marking tradition, concerns still exist if Elon's future diversity proposals will prove to be more accommodating to those in the spiritual minority on campus. Particular concerns are being directed toward the creation of the new Multi-faith center, as some students fear that the building will not live up to its purpose.

With construction of the new Multi-faith center well underway, there is discussion among students and faculty related to the question of whether Elon's center will provide equal accommodations for non-religious students compared to those already present for religiously-affiliated students.

We believe that while these students' concerns need to be more openly addressed, the Truitt Center is already designated to provide opportunities for all interested students representing all belief systems, both spiritual and secular.

According to the Truitt Center's mission statement,

their "mission is to encourage students to honor the spiritual dimension of life, be vitally connected to a faith tradition, embrace the present responsibility and the future with hope, and live the principles they value."

It can be assumed that no matter what belief system to which a student ascribes to, they will be welcomed at the Truitt Center.

Having said this, students should not believe that it is solely the university's responsibility to proactively create opportunities for students of any belief system to congregate and foster discussion.

Rather, the responsibility should fall more in the hands of Elon students, as they are usually the impetus of most student-led campaigns and discussions on campus relating to religious matters.

Creating an authentic and diverse religious life at Elon is dependent upon the open minds of students and their willingness to accept and explore other faiths.

### MORE ONLINE

Check out the Opinions podcast:

<http://pend.lu/topics>

### TO COMMENT ...

We appreciate original responses to Pendulum articles. Feedback of 250 words or less can be sent in several ways.

Letters to the editor can be emailed to [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) or sent to 7012 Campus Box, Elon, N.C. 27244

Content will be edited for clarity, length and accuracy. All submissions must include a name and phone number.

A message board also accompanies each article online at [www.ElonPendulum.com](http://www.ElonPendulum.com) where commentary can be quickly posted.

### THE PENDULUM

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The Pendulum is published each Wednesday of the academic year. Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) 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.

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# Opinions

## Twittercide: How 140 characters can ruin your life

It's no secret: We live in a digital age.

Walk anywhere on campus and try spotting even a handful of students not connected to their iPhone or some other piece of newfangled technology. It won't be easy. Try to find somebody with no presence on Facebook, Foursquare or LinkedIn.

If that person exists, he or she is probably too busy planning her wedding on Pinterest to be bothered with more conventional forms of social networking.

For the rest of us, there's nothing better than being able to market ourselves to a clearly adoring public. And no better platform exists for accomplishing that than Twitter.

As easy as it is to connect with loyal followers in a positive matter, it's just as simple to have your image torn to shreds for a mere 140-character lapse in judgment. And the more popular you are, the harder you seem to fall.

Anthony Weiner learned that the hard way. After spending 12 years representing New York's 9th congressional district for the United States House of Representatives, Weiner — married in 2010 — was forced to resign his post last June after tweeting an explicit photo to a female follower.

Jeremy Lin's rise to stardom as a point guard for the New York Knicks made his presence felt in various media outlets everywhere. With that came name puns, the most notorious of them being "Linsanity."

But eventually, the media shifted its attention from simply playing the name game to making light of his Taiwanese heritage.

The New York Post might have kicked this theme off when they put Lin on the back page under the headline "Amasian."

But Jason Whitlock of Fox Sports took things to new extremes with an infamous tweet after Lin's Knicks beat the Lakers.

Whitlock tweeted: "Some lucky lady in NYC is gonna feel a couple inches of pain tonight." The comment offended many in the Asian community and Whitlock eventually apologized.

The digital age has rendered nobody anonymous. But the simple fact of the matter is some are less anonymous than others.

The politician representing one of the country's largest districts, or the big man on campus playing Division I football. Both possess a lot more power and influence than the cashier at the campus coffee shop.

With that power comes added responsibility. Even a private Twitter account can't hide from a savvy reader with the ability to capture a screenshot.

Post something stupid or criminal enough and people will take notice — for all the wrong reasons.



**Adam Lawson**  
Columnist

## College students put off work now, only to fall behind later

*Students who procrastinate end up regretting decision, refuse to kick habit despite added stress*

Perhaps it's the temptation to scrawl a witty inscription on a Belk Library study desk.

Maybe your favorite band came out with a new album today, or maybe you stumbled onto a fascinating new website that you just can't resist surfing.

Regardless of all this, it's college, we're busier than ever, we've got stuff to do and we'll do it — tomorrow.

Procrastination is the bane of any college student's existence. When overwhelmed with homework or commitments to an organization, overachievers get to work right away, setting aside plenty of time to complete everything that gets assigned.

This method works — especially if you actually use it—but it leaves no time for college students to socialize, participate in extracurricular activities or spend time developing themselves as individuals.

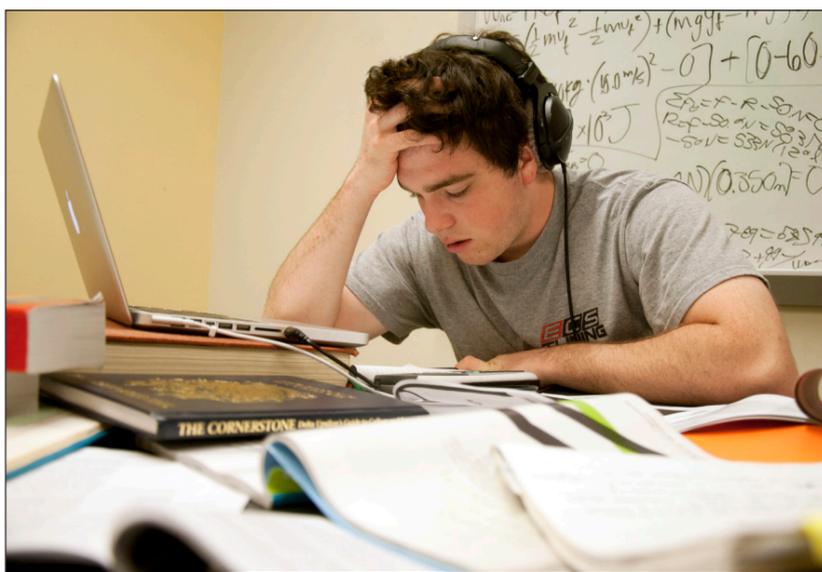
This causes students to push work farther and farther back so they can do what they want to instead of doing what must be done. But what must be done isn't what always piques the interest

of a typical college kid.

Scholarly articles are not found in Playboy, and research papers aren't exactly the next big thing either. Other than the content of college work, the quantity of it is staggering and additional commitments to on-campus organizations pile up quicker than dirty laundry. An article by Piers Steel in Psychological Bulletin states that, "Three out of four college students consider themselves procrastinators."

That means 75 percent of all college students are more likely to be found on Facebook and Twitter or out partying than with their head buried in a book or talking with a professor about the next assignment that's due.

Doing today what you could've done yesterday has its consequences, however alluring pulling an all-nighter hyped up on Red Bull and Skittles through dreary eyes and a tired mind might be.



FILE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CLAIRE ESPARROS | Photo Editor  
College students often engage in procrastination as a means of relieving stress from homework or extracurricular commitments, only to find that putting off their work invariably leads to more stress.

According to Psychology Today, procrastination can cause insomnia, a compromised immune system, gastrointestinal problems and resentment from others who have to pick up your slack to get things done on time.

Maybe we're all perfectionists and we're afraid of failure on an assignment, so we obsess over the smallest details making progress at a snail's pace, or maybe we simply don't even begin the task at hand.

Or, instead of beginning the task, we browse the Web for some "inspiration" that

turns into a two hour reward for 15 minutes of work. Either way, procrastination causes people to feel unhappy, less healthy and more stressed out — and it has to stop.

Before you procrastinate again, think of the consequences and reconsider. Put on an upbeat playlist that helps you jive on through the work. Drink ice cold water to wake yourself up and realize that you could have already done the thing you were thinking about doing if you would have just done it when you first started thinking about it.

Whatever you do, don't hit that StumbleUpon button.

## Students love technology, need to love people too

I love my laptop. I remember the day I got in at the end of my senior year of high school, ready to bring it to college. And I use it constantly every day.

MacBook Pros (and the occasional Windows PC, ha!) can be seen everywhere

on college campuses. We use Blackboard and Moodle to get our assignments for class, email to keep in constant contact with our professors and our bosses, and the Internet to look up the latest statistics for our paper for class. So I ask this in the most meaningful way possible: What in the world did we do before technology came into the classroom?

OK, that might be a bit extreme. But think about it—your life at Elon right now as a student. When was the last time you went to a class without your computer (if your professor didn't specifically prohibit them)?

According to Digg.com, 85 percent of U.S. schools have multimedia computers for student use and 64 percent of U.S. schools have Internet access. And check it out—according to the same information, the Kindle has been tested at seven



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS  
College professors and students now use technology to establish communication both in and outside the classroom.

universities as a textbook replacement. Mashable reported that while 27 percent of students say their laptop is the most important thing in their backpack, only 10 percent of students say their textbooks are the most important thing.

The access to Internet and online reading is a quicker, more effective way to give out information to large groups of people, such as a class. The Internet in schools also allows students to familiarize themselves with topics more easily, and let them connect with the university

community better.

But the technology world in schools is not perfect. Digg.com reports that 64 percent of teenage students used emoticons at some point in schoolwork and that two-thirds use informal abbreviations, such as Internet shortcuts. These could be found in actual formal writing pieces. Now, that's where I think there is a downfall. We are so used to letting the Internet do the work for us that we don't take the time to research and investigate a topic to a point where we can elaborate about

it intelligently.

Yeah, there are mixed reviews about this subject and definitely mixed opinions. As a communications student, of course I love the Internet. I take the majority of notes in class on my laptop and use my phone to look up information. I am definitely an avid technology user both in and outside of the classroom. But I think it's important to remember that there are actual people behind those emails, text messages and Blackboard updates and we should all try to talk to them once in a while.



**Kate Riley**  
Columnist

# BEHIND THE

By Rebecca Iannucci  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

## A look at perform



Darby Puckett from Virginia Beach, V.A., and Gray Miller from Norfolk, V.A., prepare for auditions. Photo by Brian Allenby, staff photographer.

### Revamping the audition process

The Department of Performing Arts has continued to expand through the years, and the audition process is changing with it. According to Fred Rubeck, chair of the Department of Performing Arts, there is no other option but to make the audition process thorough.

"This is the first step of us getting the people here who are going to make the program great," Rubeck said. "It's why we build a process that's really detailed and longer and cares more about people than just having them come in and show us something for 10 minutes."

The department's attention to detail has paved the way for a multi-step audition process. First, applicants must go to the department's website and fill out an application, which needs to be completed two weeks before the day they want to audition. After applications are received, auditions coordinator Kimberly Rippy compiles a schedule of tryouts.

Rippy said the online applications have streamlined the process, in contrast to the department's former snail mail system.

"They'd call me so that I'd have to mail the form to them," Rippy said. "They'd have to complete them and return them to me by a deadline. And inevitably, it'd get lost in the mail, or their dog ate it."

But despite the efficiency of the new system, an important component has been taken away: Rippy's relationship with the auditioners prior to their visit to Elon's campus.

"Now that we're on the online system, I don't physically get to handle their information as much, so I don't feel like I get that earlier connection," Rippy said. "Now that we have everything out there online, they don't have to really contact me as much."

The relationship the Department of Performing Arts forges with its students often sets the tone for the students' time at Elon. Rubeck and Rippy are able to tell countless stories of performing arts alumni who have kept in touch long after graduation, including a Class of 2011 graduate who sent her Save-the-Date wedding announcement to members of the department faculty.

"We don't lose touch with them when they leave," Rippy said. "I still keep in touch with students that graduated."

According to Rubeck, the student-faculty relationship can begin as early as the auditions.

"It's not just us getting to know the talent of the students and getting to know them as a person," Rubeck said. "We're getting to know each other, and that works both ways. I think that is the most successful when

they really fall in love with us, and we fall in love with them and we're all just a big, happy family."

The auditions for the BFA programs are an all-day process, and each prospective student must demonstrate endurance. After auditioners check in, they attend an information session for a specific major. They also have the opportunity to sit in on an actual performing arts class before they begin the audition itself.

Music theater auditioners, in particular, are broken into three groups. While members of Group A complete their singing audition in Yeager Recital Hall, Group B auditions for dance in Dance Studio A and Group C performs an acting monologue in Dance Studio C. The groups rotate twice before the night is through.

"We've developed this kind of three-ring circus where they're divided into groups, and each group moves through a room," Rubeck said. "It's about keeping as many people busy as continuously as we can, rather than one at a time and stringing it out."

The students' attitudes throughout long audition days make a difference as well, Rubeck said.

"We want someone who's going to be nice to work with for the time that they're at Elon," he said. "Someone who's going to work hard and be upfront and honest in who they are, not artificial."

Jacqueline Agrusa do  
"I was nervous," she say

Agrusa has just emerged from Yeager Recital Hall in Elon for the first of a three-part audition for Elon's Bachelor of Fine Arts in Performing Arts.

But even though Agrusa doesn't feel confident in her singing and acting and dance. She says she plans to prepare a bit more.

"I'll probably (prepare) a little bit for

Agrusa isn't the first one to feel this way. This particular audition of Performing Arts will hold for its three BFA programs — music theater, dance and acting. The department has held eight audition dates throughout the 2011-2012 school year to Elon's campus. But only about 20 students will be selected. The audition process frequently goes unmentioned. Each performer in the process is a student anxiously awaiting the call of his or her name.

### If at first you don't succeed...

Though many of the students auditioning for Elon's programs are high school seniors, some are not. Agrusa is currently a freshman at Wayne State University in Detroit, and will transfer schools in the fall.

In contrast, Corbin McConnell is already a freshman at Elon University and is auditioning for the BFA programs for the second time.

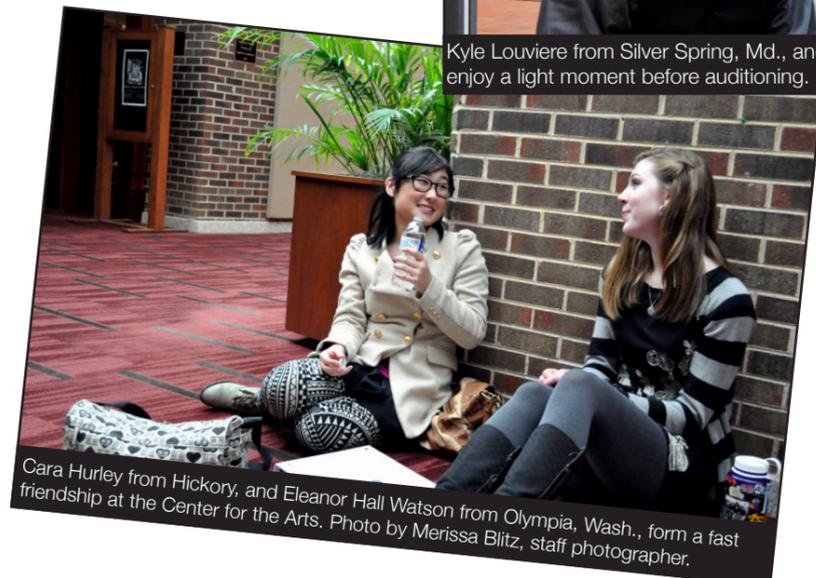
"I came to Elon to be a music theater major," McConnell said. "I auditioned to get into the program my freshman year, but unfortunately I didn't get in, which is totally reasonable. Hundreds upon hundreds of kids audition."

McConnell has not let rejection stop him, though. On the contrary, he said he has used his first year at Elon to develop his skills more thoroughly and find where his passion truly lies.

"It's not about the trivial stuff,"



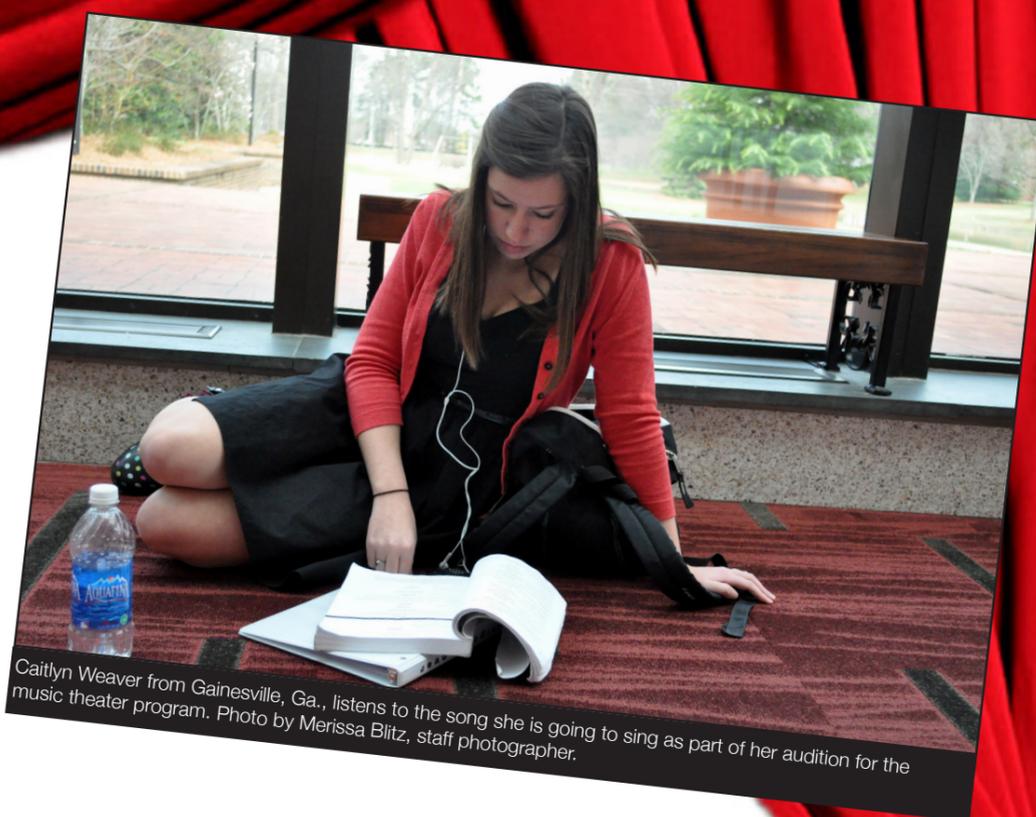
Kyle Louviere from Silver Spring, Md., and A... enjoy a light moment before auditioning. Ph...



Cara Hurley from Hickory, and Eleanor Hall Watson from Olympia, Wash., form a fast friendship at the Center for the Arts. Photo by Merissa Blitz, staff photographer.

# PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS' FIRST STEPS TO FAME

... does not look happy.  
... vs. "I had to go first."  
... n University's Center for the Arts, where she completed  
... ne Arts music theater program in the Department of  
... s March 2.  
... ing audition, she still has two more components to try:  
... for those auditions before they occur later in the day.  
... or acting," she says. "I'll be fine."  
... audition day is the last one of the year the Department  
... music theater, acting and dance. In total, the department  
... hool year, each one bringing more than 100 hopefuls  
... ted for each of Elon's BFA programs, and the audition  
... he department starts the same way: As a prospective  
... ne, eager and excited to audition on Elon's stage.



Caitlyn Weaver from Gainesville, Ga., listens to the song she is going to sing as part of her audition for the music theater program. Photo by Merissa Blitz, staff photographer.

## Calming the nerves

McConnell said. "It's not about your own self-gain. It's about creating something that for one moment in time, one two-hour period, is sincerely yours. And no one else can take that away from you."

McConnell's case is not uncommon, according to Rubeck.

"Any student may audition for any of the programs a maximum of two times," Rubeck said. "We must evaluate each candidate on their current skill level and consider how much time we will have to help them develop."

But McConnell said he recognizes his current skill level and wants nothing more than for Elon's faculty to help him grow.

"It's not because I want the name behind me," McConnell said. "It's because the training is so sincere and raw and beautiful, that it is going to make me into a performer that I can be proud to say I am."

Even current students in the BFA programs can remember how they felt during their auditions.

"I was extremely nervous for my audition," said senior BFA acting major Kat Nardizzi. "However, I used my nervous energy in my audition. That's usually how it goes for me. I get nervous, but I calm myself down physically through breathing and other relaxation exercises."

Others have found themselves on the opposite end of the spectrum. Patrick Clanton, a sophomore music theater major, felt relaxed about the process.

"I never feel too nervous about auditions," Clanton said. "I just have the mentality that if it's meant to happen, it will happen. Everyone was so nice on my audition day that it was almost impossible to be too nervous."

In fact, the laidback atmosphere of Elon's auditions is something on which the Department of Performing Arts prides itself.

"We're a pretty friendly bunch," Rubeck said. "We're sitting there hoping they're going to do well, not the opposite."

And this year's auditioners felt that support of faculty members and current students.

"Everyone seems to love it, and I think I love the fact that everyone just always uses the word 'family,'" said Shaun Nerney, a senior at Mater Dei Prep High School in Red Bank, N.J. "It's very highly regarded, and it just seems like it is a great place."

The tight-knit friendships found in the Department of Performing Arts are constant, and one of the aspects that most

distinguishes Elon from other universities, according to Rubeck.

"There's a lot of good schools, but we're distinctive and unique," Rubeck said. "We're up with the really impressive programs."

McConnell said he agreed the department is second to none in its support of the students, something he will believe regardless of whether he is accepted into a BFA program.

"They're not only friends who help each other," McConnell said. "They're friends who are pushing each other and really putting them toward a great, great pathway into a great career. The Department of Performing Arts really does not realize how beautiful they are."

## Meet the Auditioners



### Ashley Reese

North Ridgeville High School, Ohio

"I'm not that nervous. I don't treat it very differently than any other theatrical audition."



### Jacqueline Agrusa

Wayne State University, Michigan

"(My nerves were) bad because I had to go first."



### Corbin McConnell

Elon University, North Carolina

"This year, I'm not confident, but I feel that I've learned so much more."

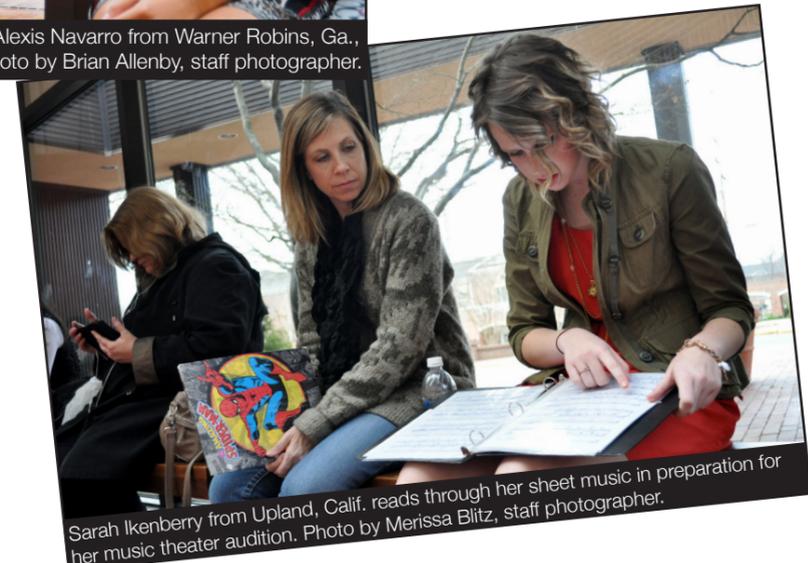
Check out an inside look into the lives of the auditioners and see the chaos of the audition process.

Video by Morgan Mayer | Multimedia Reporter

<http://pend.lu/bfa>



Alexis Navarro from Warner Robins, Ga., photo by Brian Allenby, staff photographer.



Sarah Ikenberry from Upland, Calif. reads through her sheet music in preparation for her music theater audition. Photo by Merissa Blitz, staff photographer.

# Garden Studio course recovers lost art form

## GARDEN from PAGE 1

"We had a lot of work to do when we first got here," Browning said. "You couldn't really tell that it was a garden in use, but my favorite part of all this has probably been seeing the garden change so drastically."

And these changes come all the result of work the students do when the class meets in the late afternoon, when students tend to have more free time. Strickland said it's a lot of physical labor that students may not have expected when they signed up for the class, such as making a fence to keep animals out. But they all seem to be fairly excited about it.

"It involves a lot of digging and hoeing to get the garden ready," he said. "They've done a lot of things they probably hadn't planned on."

But Browning said she doesn't mind the dirty work because of the connections she has developed with the environment through doing the hands-on project.

"I think it's really important for students to get their hands dirty and be able to interact with the environment instead of just sitting in class," Browning said. "Sometimes it doesn't feel like a class to me, it's more like playing."

Another benefit of maintaining the garden, Strickland said, is students can take the food they grow home with them, especially when students stay at Elon during the summer to take care of the garden as a summer intern.

"The garden is the most productive in summertime, so you get a lot of really good food," he said. "I've had

student interns talk about their food bills for the summer being (almost nonexistent) because they eat the food they grow."

Though he did not work as an intern, senior Phil Feldman stayed at Elon last summer and often ate food grown in the Elon Community garden and in his own garden at home.

"I would take vegetables home and make cabbage leek and potato soup, and I made tea out of different things," Feldman said. "I really like being able to grow things on my own."

The overarching concept of the class, though, is to focus on the art and craft of food production gardening in a traditional studio course more so than in a lab, which is why the class is called Garden Studio, according to Strickland. It's also about learning skills that used to be heavily relied on in the past that have been forgotten in recent years.

"This class is about taking a few square feet of your backyard and learning how to produce good, wholesome food for you and your family and friends," he said. "We're relearning those cultural skills that we lost over generations as time went on."

The class is offered in both spring and fall, with a different seasonal emphasis each semester. Contact Strickland at mstrickl@elon.edu if interested in becoming a summer garden intern.

Also, the class will hold a strawberry festival at the Elon Community Garden later in the spring, as well as a plant sale with a selection of herbs and vegetable seedlings.



(Left to right) Seniors Claire Wall, Maggie Castor, Claire Healy, Abbey Keifer and sophomore Tyre Bigbie gardening. GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer



Senior Claire Wall works in the Elon Community Garden on campus. Students in the course gain a hands-on learning experience in home-scale gardening. GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer



Sophomore Jessica Elizondo plants during the Garden Studio class. GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer

## Clothing drive swaps excess for consciousness of social issues

Melissa Kansky  
News Editor

They built their project on a simple fact. Elon students don't use nearly as much as they have.

"We have these huge closets and we feel the need to fill them up to the brim, but we wear about 30 items," said sophomore Meaghan Fabrycki, one of the coordinators of Elon University's service learning core.

This realization inspired the members of the service learning core, which constitutes the former residents of the service learning community, and residents of the service learning community to transform Oaks 212 into a thrift store Sunday, March 4.

Thrift stores attract the members of the service learning community because consumers are able to buy used clothing rather than support production where unethical labor practices could have been used, Fabrycki said.

Those in the service learning community included Elon students in their promotion of socially conscious consumer behavior.

Elon students were able to bring their clothes and accessories to the room and

exchange them for another item. Clothing not taken will be donated to Crossroads, a safe house for female victims of domestic violence.

While the clothing swap provided a tangible service to the women at Crossroads, the coordinators also recognized environmental and educational benefit to the service project.

"Obviously, there is the economical benefit because it's free, but you also have an environmental factor because you are recycling clothes and not buying brand new clothes, and human trafficking is addressed," said sophomore Samantha Italiano, a member of the service learning core. Italiano said she believes a large portion of the clothing Americans wear is produced from human trafficking slave labor.

The students' participation in the service learning community increased their consciousness regarding improper work conditions where a large percentage of clothing is produced, Fabrycki said.

"It's easy to ignore, but once it's pushed into your view, it's hard to push it away again," she said.

Nevertheless, members of the service learning core understand it's not enough for students to know statistics, according to Fabrycki.

"There is a person within each statistic," she said.

The clothing exchange contributed to the socially-conscious group's effort to increase awareness of human trafficking and reduce unknowing support for unethical work practices, Fabrycki said.

Providing students with an opportunity to become personally involved in the project reveals the human aspect of larger social issues, said Paige Ransbury, a coordinator for the service learning core.

"It's easy to attribute the problem to a system, but at the heart of it, there are still people there," Ransbury said. "When you make it more personal, you recognize it's not a big, overarching thing. On an individual level, people are being affected."

The exchange enables the students to engage in discussions concerning these social issues, supporting the mission of the service learning community, said senior Mary Yost, one of the coordinators.

"The mission of the SLC is

to really connect students to the community and find your passion for service," Yost said.

Nevertheless, the coordinators agreed the clothing swap bridges individuals on a variety of levels.

"It connects our small (service learning) community, but we're bringing in other students and then reaching out to the community around us, so it's connecting the community on three different levels," Ransbury said.



Sophomore Katie Hadobas (left) and junior Tara Corbett both found something to take home from the clothing swap on Saturday. Students could either donate or swap unwanted items from their closets, and anything left over was donated to Crossroads, a shelter for women victims of domestic violence. CLAIRE ESPARROS | Photo Editor

# T-shirt company designs better world

Zachary Horner  
Sports Editor

It's not often that T-shirts have a Clothing Facts box that resembles the Nutrition Facts label found on a box of snacks.

But TS Designs is not a normal clothing company.

Based in Burlington, TS Designs has taken on a commitment to sustainability. The company was founded by current CEO Tom Sineath in 1977 when it began printing shirts for big brands such as Nike, Tommy Hilfiger and The Gap until the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1993, when the companies went overseas.

The employee count went from about 100 to 14, which was when Sineath and current president Eric Henry found a new way of doing things.

"(Their friend Sam Moore) introduced the idea of a triple bottom line for a sustainable business model," Henry said. "Fortunately, we had the components already in place. For whatever reason, I can't tie it to one particular thing, but I've always been concerned, interested in minimizing our impact on the environment."

Known in shorthand as People, Planet and Profit, the "triple bottom line" led to some completely different ways of making T-shirts. One of those was called Cotton in the Carolinas. TS Designs buys cotton from a farm in New London, brings it to their factory, dyes it and through an environmentally-friendly process, sinks the desired ink into the shirt. Instead of using industry-standard plastisol, which emits dioxins and can cause negative health effects, the company uses a specially-mixed, super low-impact water-based ink.

Henry and the rest of the TS Designs crew are focused on transparency. On the Cotton in the Carolinas shirts, clothing facts are included.

"When you get a Cotton in the Carolinas T-shirt, you can look at the

label, tell what year the harvest was, go to the website, look at the supply chain, connect via phone number, email, physical address — you get all the information," Henry said.

Henry said he is concerned first and foremost with the sustainability aspect of TS Designs, a facet that he said makes the company stand out from many others in the same industry.

"What we want to do at TS Designs, we don't want to just talk about sustainability, we want to demonstrate it," he said. "We've got wind, we've got solar, we make biodiesel, we've got a garden, we've got chickens, we've got our T-shirts, we've got our printing process."

In the backyard of the TS Designs factory and offices in Burlington, a community garden grows vegetables such as garlic, collard greens and cabbage. They even have a pen full of chickens roaming in a gated area.

"A lot of times, I tell people that we print T-shirts, and we have chickens in the back and we have a community garden," said Lydia Paylor, who is in charge of logistics and sales support. "It's good because it helps the employees in return go out and help out in the garden and help out with the chickens. I couldn't tell you the last time I bought eggs from the grocery store because the chickens produce so many eggs. With the garden, when we start reaping in and harvesting everything, you don't have to buy the vegetables at the store."

During the summer, employees will take vegetables and other foods grown in the garden and make a company-wide meal.

"Each employee will pick a vegetable or whatever and make something out of it," said Vice President of Sales Cristie Holland. "And then we share the recipes. It really has become something we look forward to and we share and enjoy it together."

The community aspect within TS Designs is something that is attractive to Paylor.



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer  
In the back of their building, there are a pile of rejected T-shirts that are sorted by size and put into bins where anyone can purchase them for \$5 on the honor code system. TS Designs in Burlington focuses on environmental accountability and higher standards of ethics.

"Everybody's very friendly, family-oriented," she said. "Everybody knows everybody's children and grandkids and moms and dads. Everybody's really good and relaxed."

The employees also recognize the importance of the sustainable methods the company uses.

"What we do is make a better product," Holland said. "Whatever your price point is, we can give you a better product, environmentally or socially."

According to Henry, sustainability has attracted customers. Among local businesses that wear TS Designs are Zack's Hot Dogs, Company Shops in Burlington and the Acorn Coffee Shop in Elon.

"People want it on their shirts because it demonstrates that, by having that on your shirt, that's the mark of having the most sustainable T-shirt the market can offer," Henry says. "Especially

companies like (those), they're trying to be a part of this sustainable movement. They want their customers to know that, and the quickest way to do it is to put it on their shirt."

That is where the Clothing Facts come in. Henry said TS Designs is looking into replacing it with a QR code, but emphasizes the necessity of letting people know the company's stance on being green.

"As we look at sustainability, it's a journey, not a destination," he said. "And we've been on that journey since the late '90s to be a more sustainable company because when you fast forward to today and you see what's happening in the economy, in the environment, we're just not going to fix the environment by growing the economy. I believe we're in the middle of a big shift and a shift to a more localized, more sustainable economy."

## Junior knocks it out of the park at MLB internship

Edith Veremu  
Senior Reporter

On some days, he grabs a Philly Cheesesteak with Philadelphia Phillies players Ryan Howard and Chase Utley and on other days, he's on the field with children aged 8 - 14, interacting with kids and professional players. And sometimes, he's in the office doing paperwork. This is just a peek into Ian Leeker's life as an Major League Baseball intern in Sydney.

"I have met, done work for and seen some of the biggest superstars to ever play the game," Leeker said. "These are the guys that I grew up admiring, so the fact that I deal with or see them on an everyday basis is pretty amazing."

Leeker, a junior marketing major with a communications minor, is currently interning at the MLB's international office, where his duties include promoting the sport and also working with the Australian Baseball League. But this isn't Leeker's first time interning with MLB. His first internship was last summer in the New York office.

"I first heard about the Sydney internship this summer when I was an intern at MLB in New York City," Leeker said. "I was approached by a couple of people in the international office to see if I would be interested. As they outlined the program, I realized it was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. This specific internship was a real opportunity to apply both (my major and minor) in a field that has always interested me."

In New York, Leeker worked in the international office where his main duties included helping to promote baseball in Europe and South America. The tasks were hands-on and he created different marketing plans and packages for the company, he said. But he said in Australia, these same tasks can sometimes be difficult because baseball is fairly new to the country.

"The Australia opportunity was a little different because baseball is really just surfacing in the area," Leeker said. "Plus, we are competing against another ball

and bat sport, cricket."

He's assisted with the Australian baseball venue future development project, whose goal is to have an MLB Opening Day Series in Australia and the MLB Ambassador Tour, where players visit different countries and promote the sport.

Paul Archey, senior vice president of the international division, originally coached Leeker in Little League. Archey said the Australia internship fit seamlessly for Leeker since the pair had worked together in New York prior to Leeker leaving for Australia.

"It's pretty competitive and Ian's the kind of person who adapts to the environment very well," Archey said. "He's very personable. Internships by nature don't last and you don't need someone who takes a month to adjust. He's really a good fit for us."

The internship allows Leeker to apply what he's learned in class to real-world experiences, but these experiences aren't always the same, Leeker said. A challenge he faces regularly is the learning curve of a new corporation.

"I needed to understand the business model before I could make a contribution," Leeker said.

But he also said he realizes internships like this don't come often and when the opportunity does arise, students should distinguish themselves by asking questions and doing whatever it takes to make a difference.

Jim Donathan, associate director of Academic Advising, met with Leeker before his departure and spoke of the Leeker's enthusiasm. Donathan said he wishes other students sought out international internships.

"He (Leeker) has a wide range of interests, although athletics and sports in general have been his main interest," Donathan said. "He wants and needs a business background and that's how he got the internship. I wish him well and that he's successful, so that other students will seek out these kinds of internships instead of the standard ones."



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BEN HORWITZ  
Junior Ian Leeker is spending the spring abroad. He is interning with the MLB office in Australia.

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## Italian Festival celebrates culture, bolsters program

David Turkel  
Reporter

Italian is more than a language — it's a way of living, according to Italian professor Marina Melita.

In looking for a way to promote its department on campus, the Italian Studies Advisory Board wanted to do something different. Out of this mindset came the creation of the first Italian Festival Week at Elon University.

Italian Festival Week featured a number of unique events. Among these were screenings of films related to Italian culture, a pasta eating contest and a lecture by UNC professor Dino Cervigni, one of the nation's leading Dante scholars, according to Victoria Tillson, Italian professor at Elon.

The inspiration for the event, she said, came from wanting to go beyond traditional means of promotion.

In charge of the general oversight of the Italian studies program at Elon, Tillson was a key figure in bringing Italian Festival Week to campus.

"We didn't want to just simply offer the typical pizza and a movie night, but provide students with a gamut of opportunities to explore the way Italian culture impacts not only the Elon community, but their everyday lives," she said.

According to Tillson, the process of creating Italian Festival Week got off to a slow start because of budgetary concerns.

That changed when funding was secured.

"It was like an explosion of activity," she said. "All of a sudden, I had 20 emails a day in my inbox regarding developments surrounding the organization of each event."

The schedule of events was determined after a long brainstorming session during an Italian Studies Advisory Board meeting. Tillson said she feels the events do a good job of accurately representing Italian culture.

"We are presenting so many different elements — history, film, food, cities, music and dance — that I believe there



Larry Vellani of Mebanesville Roots Rhythm and World plays guitar at the Italian Festival.

is something for everyone," she said.

In addition to the events previously mentioned, a study abroad photo contest and dance performances were on the schedule.

Tillson said she had high hopes for the program.

"I would like for people to take away the enjoyment that comes with exploring Italian culture," she said.

Tillson said the goal of Italian Festival Week is to entertain and educate. However, according to her, another goal was to showcase what a dynamic Italian Studies program the university offers.

Melita said she hopes Italian Festival Week can successfully promote the Italian Studies department.

"I would like people all over campus and in the surrounding community to know that we have a thriving Italian department here on campus," Melita

said. "Though we are a small discipline at the moment, we are strong and we are determined to make ourselves known. By letting people know that we are here, we are hoping to encourage new people to enroll in our classes."

But like Tillson, Melita's ultimate goals for the week was to go far beyond promoting the Italian studies department at Elon. Acknowledging that "this is probably my bigger concern for the Italian Festival Week," Melita wants the emphasis to be on Italy's culture or, as she puts it, "I want our students to see that Italian is so much more than the grammar that we teach in class."

According to Melita, the week has kept tradition alive.

"(It's) based on centuries-old traditions that are still going strong today and that is what we are trying to highlight this week," Melita said.

## Dining outside comfort zones: Welcoming the new Elon food critic

The "Elon bubble" is not on Wikipedia or any online dictionary. For those who don't



Andrew Tilden  
Guest Columnist

know what it is, I would define it as "the academic utopia of private school students whose comfort zone is bound by the brick fortress of Elon."

For lunch, we go to our beloved Octagon Cafe or to the ever-reliable Acorn Coffee Shop. As for dinner, you can't go wrong with The Root Trackside or Varsity Sports Grill, or, of course, the dining halls. We come so close to those train tracks — our gated moat.

But rarely do we ever feel the desire or need to pass them and go outside of the bubble. Maybe the brave will venture out to purchase groceries. Maybe the posh will make the trek to Alamance Crossing. And maybe the inebriated will go and get their late-night Cook-Out. But rarely do we venture into the "wild food yonder" of Burlington, Gibsonville or beyond.

My mission as a food reviewer is to persuade the average Elon student to go out into the surrounding community and eat. A simple request, right? After all, there's great food out there and a whole lot cheaper than a Boar's Head sandwich or Topio's pizza.

The empire of ARAMARK has a near monopoly on this campus and leverages its convenient locations to jack up prices. I admit I enjoy the occasional Acorn bagel before morning class. But we're paying \$11 for a meal at the dining hall. I know it's all-you-can-eat, and they make an effort to mix it up and stay healthy. But at that price, I'd rather go to Golden Corral. At least they offer a chocolate waterfall.

And you can forget about chain restaurants — you won't be seeing any Chili's review here. And, of course, I'll be avoiding the fast-food-city along Huffman Mill Road.

For the rest of the semester, I'll be going to my favorite local restaurants — these are food joints where they care about the food placed on the table. I will introduce new establishments, show respect for old standbys, lend some date ideas and show you where to eat the next morning.

There's an intimate relationship between eater and cook, which is first introduced in life by one's own mother. OK, I'll cut the Freudian banter, but why should you eat at a place where you are simply the next in line? I want you, the reader and the eater, to go where food is made for you.

On the cars across campus, you'll see tags of Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Mine has a Georgia tag. But from September to May, we're in North Carolina, a place with good people with good stories and good food. I encourage Elon students to step outside of their comfort zones, to go across those train tracks and to experience the great community around us. Who knows, you may find a new favorite place to eat.

Don't forget to loosen your belt as we expand our food horizons. For next time, I'll take you to a restaurant where four presidents have dined.



Junior Kileigh Browning is putting her love of nature to work, studying the tree-killing disease beech bark through undergraduate research.

## Outdoor lifestyle sprouts undergraduate research

Audrey Horwitz  
Senior Reporter

For junior Kileigh Browning, undergraduate research is more than a school project: It's a lifestyle.

"As an environmental and ecological science major, I tend to spend a lot of time outside," Browning said. "Nature is where I feel the most relaxed. If I have a stressful day, I like to go explore the parks near Elon."

Browning's environmental research complements her outdoor lifestyle. She conducted her research in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where she collected data for a week in August. Browning examined the effects of two invasive species in the high-elevation forests of the park.

The first is the consequence of the introduction of boars to the ecosystem, and the second is the effect of a tree-killing disease called beech bark.

Browning's research stems from a problem that started about 100 years

ago. According to Browning, boars were brought over from Europe so people could hunt them for sport in a contained area. When the economy declined, the boars were abandoned and set free into the wild.

In the early 1990s, beech bark disease was found at Clingman's Dome, a popular tourist spot in the park. The disease is believed to have been brought over by a hiker. Brown studied what types of vegetation were growing and determined what percent of the plots were covered by bushes, herbs and rooting. According to Browning, rooting is evidence of boar activity.

As an Elon College Fellow, Browning knew that research was going to be a required aspect of her curriculum. But, she said she sees research as an experience that can span beyond the classroom lab setting.

"I think a lot of people think of research as sitting in a lab with test tubes," Browning said. "But I knew I wanted to be outside. And I liked the

idea of getting all my data collected in one summer."

Browning has worked to understand the effects of these issues. She has come up with explanations and will be presenting her findings at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research in Utah later this month. She is also compiling her work to submit to a scientific journal.

"One of the things I first noticed about her when she was in my (population biology) class several years ago is that she seems to always be smiling," said David Vandermaast, associate professor of biology and Kileigh's research mentor. "As a research student, Kileigh is always enthusiastic and her work is always excellent. She is a pleasure to work with."

While some students may feel limited to sterile classrooms to fulfill their undergraduate research, Browning has found a way to match her outdoor tendencies with the academic feat that is undergraduate research.

# Black and White Ball foxtrots 'for the kids'

## Ballroom Club, Elonthon join forces for night of dancing, fundraising

Lindsay Kimble  
Senior Reporter

No experience was necessary for attendees at the Black and White Ball, cohosted by the Ballroom Club and Elonthon March 3 in McKinnon Hall.

The ball was a semi-formal event, so attending students were dressed to the nines in black and white attire for a classy evening.

Originating in 2007, the ball is a co-sponsored event between the Ballroom Club and another organization asked by the Ballroom Club to volunteer each year. This year, the Black and White Ball was co-sponsored by Elonthon, with donations going to the Duke Children's Hospital and Health Center.

Junior Kaitlin Lumpkins is the special events coordinator for Ballroom Club, and she planned most of Saturday's event.

"We encourage donations at the door, and all donations go to a charity of the co-sponsor's choosing," Lumpkins said.

The annual tradition is typically an enjoyable event, even for those with no dancing experience, Lumpkins said.

"For those who don't know how to ballroom dance, we taught mini lessons, so it was a great chance for people who have never come to Ballroom before to try it out for one night."

Lumpkins said she was responsible for most of the planning, but the other Ballroom Club officers contributed ideas

and helped set up. Elonthon contributed by creating a presentation about the organization, which was showcased during the ball.

"Members of Elonthon executive board went to the ball as well as members of Club Dance and other students interested in learning how to ballroom dance," said Alexandria Weller, executive president of Elonthon.

Margaret Rowland, director of operations for Elonthon, was also in attendance at Saturday's ball.

"Every 30 minutes or so, Club Dance would teach everyone how to do basic ballroom dance steps in the styles of East Coast swing and the foxtrot," Rowland said. "They also had guests participate in a couple (of) games that involved dancing and gave away prizes like free movie passes to the winners."

Attendance at the ball was even better than anticipated,

according to Weller.

"It was a night full of dancing and food," Weller said. "Donations were suggested, and we ended up raising \$136 for the kids."

Ballroom Club meets twice weekly. Tuesday meetings are more advanced rehearsals for club members, while Friday meetings are "come one, come all." The club also has a competitive team, Flight of

the Phoenix, which attends ballroom competitions.

Elonthon, co-sponsor of the ball, is a student-run philanthropy organization that is committed to raising money and awareness for the children at Duke Children's Hospital and Health Center through an annual 24-hour dance marathon. This year's event will be held on campus April 13.



Freshman Justin Pierce (left) and sophomore Nicole Payne partake in ballroom dance lessons offered at the Black and White Ball March 3. Lessons were offered at 30-minute intervals throughout the evening, which was co-sponsored by the Ballroom Club and Elonthon.

GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer

### MORE ONLINE

Watch the dancers show off their talents at the ball.

<http://pend.lu/ballroom>

SHERYL DAVIS | Multimedia Editor

## Rising rap star graces Tap House stage

Ryshon Jones (right), an up-and-coming performer in the rap and hip-hop world, brought his talents to College Street Tap House March 2. Jones, a rapper from the Philadelphia area, has received coverage from hip-hop websites throughout the last several months, enabling him to gain a substantial following. Cooly Wright (below), a hip-hop artist originally from New Orleans, opened for Jones.

Limelight Records, Elon University's student record label, booked both artists earlier in the semester, an important accomplishment for the label, according to Neima Abdulahi, co-founder of Limelight Records.

"This event will help stamp Limelight Records as an organization that can put together an event," said Abdulahi in a previous interview. "Having them come here widens their fan base and gets their music out to a different audience."



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer



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# Honors Fellow builds strength through final thesis

Stephanie Butzer  
Senior Reporter

Senior Arroya Karian hopes to express how she gained inner strength through her struggles and overcame the obstacles in her life. With the help of her senior thesis, she is able to do just that.

"In reality, we all face hardships, and we all have to learn to overcome them," Karian said. "It's just part of life. That's really what I wanted to get across to them."

Karian always knew she would pursue dancing and studied to be a music theater major at Elon University. As an Honors Fellow, she had to do a senior thesis encompassing her major. She chose to produce and choreograph an expressive dance concert.

Karian fell in love with dancing at an early age. In high school, she participated in musicals and choreographed modern dances. She continued her study of dance throughout her four years at Elon. She has taken several dance classes both on and off campus to expand her knowledge as much as possible.

According to Karian, she hoped to merge the inspiration she felt after watching seniors before her perform with the emotions of her past to create an "Arroya-style" in her concert.

"But when I went to write my proposal, I didn't want a show that was like (the past seniors'), I wanted something unique," Karian said. "So I ended up creating a dance show."

Linda Sabo, associate professor of performing arts and Karian's mentor since sophomore year, helped Karian brainstorm initial ideas.

Karian's first proposal to the honors program was

rejected, but she said she is happy she had the chance to think it over.

"I knew I wanted to be artistic but I didn't have a very clear view of what it was going to be," Karian said.

The honors program wanted specifics, and Karian didn't have them nailed down quite yet.

When her second proposal was accepted, Karian dove into the project. She said it became a very personal experience because she had been working with the same major for four years by the time she proposed the project.

As a music theater major, Karian could make a musical, a dance, a play or something else entirely.

The honors program also provides resources and support for its seniors as they work through their theses. Karian began serious research during her junior year after taking a literary journalism class. Her professor instructed the class to write a paper on any topic that interested them. Karian chose to study the effects medical leave can have on students who must take a hiatus from school.

Karian's topic choice was based on past experience. A deep depression paired with lifelong panic disorder forced Karian to leave Elon in the spring of her sophomore year. After therapy and a long, hard recovery, she returned to campus in the fall with more knowledge about herself and the afflictions she had been battling for several years.

After further research on panic disorder and depression, Karian started choreography of the dance. The end product was split into seven pieces. Karian said these portions represented specific moments or memories in her life that she

wanted to use to inspire others.

Freshman Cody Schmidt served as stage manager for the show. He said working with Karian was an enlightening process. He said he enjoyed working with somebody so upbeat and passionate.

"Arroya's choreography has an amazing effect on people," Schmidt said. "Even having seen the dances dozens of times, I see something different each time, with the performers, but also with myself."

Monologues and projections were also included in the concert. Karian was artistically inspired through the foreign arts and conceptually inspired by her classes and teachers.

"(Music theater majors) have a way of making art from lots of different artistic venues, so I really wanted to incorporate as many artistic elements as possible into this show," Karian said. "There's only so many things you can do and stay sane."

All of the music, dancing and projected images were related to Karian in some way, even if it was not a direct comparison.

"Yes, I used my own personal experiences to inspire these dances, but I wanted to create them in a

general form that would be applicable to as many people as possible," Karian said.

Sophomore music theater major Patrick Clanton came to the show Thursday night, the first of three performances from March 1-3. He said he

loved the show and thought it was wonderfully done.

"She's great. She's such a nice person to be around and such a great friend," Clanton said. "I'm really proud of the work she's done. I thought it was absolutely amazing."



SARA HUDAK | Staff Photographer

Seniors Kenny Francoeur (left) and Arroya Karian perform a piece from Karian's honors thesis. The program, which was produced and choreographed entirely by Karian, was split into seven sections, each one representing a different moment or memory in her life.

## Dance program prepares for debut on international stage

Casey Brown  
Reporter

Students in the Elon Dance Company will get a taste of professional experience later this month, performing at the Semaine de la Danse Festival in Aurillac, France. Nine dancers, accompanied by professors Lauren Kearns and Karl Green, will perform their piece, "End Games," as well as take classes with French choreographers and other dancers.

The festival will be an important opportunity for both the students and their professors, as they are representatives from the only United States university to be invited to attend the festival, according to Green.

Green's idea to broaden the experiences of the dance program derived from a trip to France last summer, when he connected with a French choreographer and discussed a possible project. Eight months later, the dancers now only have a few weeks left until they depart.

"End Games" originated as a piece choreographed by Kearns, an associate professor of dance, in last year's spring concert, "On That Note." The piece is contemporary, with many of the dancers wearing motorcycle helmets at the suggestion of Green, who designed the costumes.

The group has been practicing since November, after holding auditions to recast the piece when five seniors

graduated in May. Junior Mat D'Amico, one of the dancers, called the rehearsals "intense in the best possible way."

Most practices start with a warm-up followed by repetitive rehearsal of the dance itself. But the group has recently discussed things to pack like outlet converters, as well as the money exchange and getting international cell phone plans, D'Amico said.

For a majority of the students, this will be their first experience performing abroad. The opportunity for experience and education has both students and staff riveted and ready.

"I will have the opportunity to take a class from international teachers and see pieces choreographed by artists from

other countries," said junior Kathleen Yahner. "The trip will enhance my understanding of the world of dance on a global scale."

More than that, the trip to France will bring international exposure to Elon's ever-expanding dance curriculum.

"The dance program is growing," Green said. "It is a time to be represented. It's a time for an international experience."

Junior Helen Phelan said she thinks only good things will come of Elon's invitation to the festival.

"It will make us stand out," Phelan said. "We are a newer program. A piece in an international festival is good for promotion. Everything that brings us up a notch makes us better."

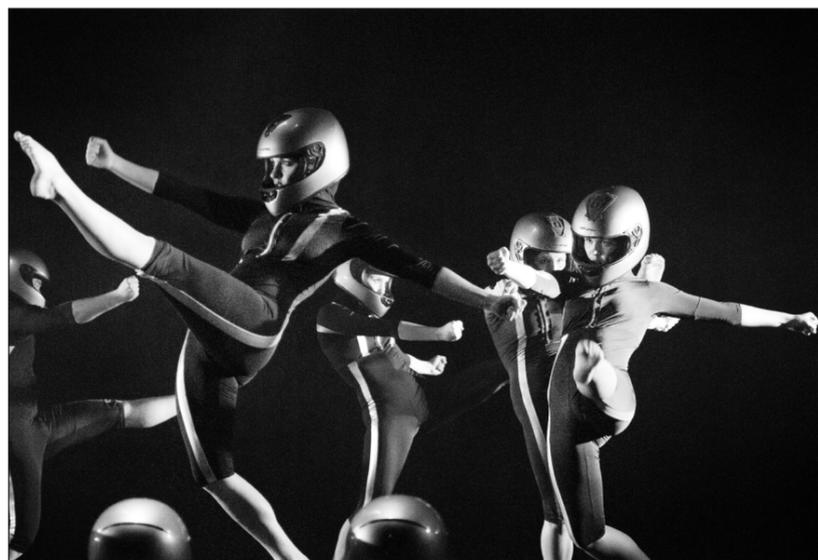


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KARL GREEN

Students in the Elon Dance Company perform "End Games" during "On That Note," last spring's dance concert. The piece, which was choreographed by professor Lauren Kearns, will be performed again in Aurillac, France during the Semaine de la Danse Festival.

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# Belarusian theater performers divulge tragic history

**Brittany Lloyd-Jones**  
Reporter

Natalia Koliada fights for her people's freedom through protests, marches, lectures of awareness and — the art of theater? Friends refer to Koliada, cofounder and artistic director of the theater, as the “unstoppable force” or “the little dynamo.” Being involved with the Belarus Free Theatre, previously based in Minsk, means staying quick on her feet, even after she and three others were exiled from the country.

Koliada worked to express her passion during a lecture Feb. 27 in Yeager Recital Hall, when the exiled members of Belarus Free Theatre spoke for their suffering countrymen.

“It all began on March 30, 2005, when we announced the opening of our contemporary drama,” said Nikolai Khalezin, Koliada's husband and cofounder of the theater. “Because Belarus' dictatorship prohibited our truthful work, we were forced to go underground in order to write the plays we wanted to write.”

In Belarus, 1,000 to 1,200 people disappear annually. Nine hundred people commit suicide on average in a given year. And Belarus is the fifth country in line to go extinct because so many people want to get out. These facts and many others are taught through the Belarus Free Theatre's performances.

“We want to be able to say everything to anyone everywhere, which is the reason I use theater to speak out,” said actor and interpreter Yuri Koliada. “People cannot stop us, because otherwise, what's the point if they take that away? That would be it. That would be throwing away democracy.”

In deciding what to perform, the group spent time analyzing the difficulties and hardships in Belarus. They came to address the questions of what they wanted to say and how they could relay that information.

“My concern that I wanted to address in our performances was to understand and try to reflect why nobody cares about Belarus and why European politicians pretend that there is no such country,” Natalia said.

Their first play, “4.84 Psychosis” by English playwright Sarah Kane, portrayed the effects of depression, homosexuality



(Left to right) Yuri Koliada, Vladimir Shcherban, Natalia Koliada and Nikolai Khalezin discuss their experience in the Belarus Free Theatre Feb. 27 in Yeager Recital Hall. They discussed the reasons for the theater, as well as the lengths they must go to as performers to keep their company hidden from the government. Despite its attempts to remain underground, the company was arrested in December 2010, along with 700 others.

and suicide — all taboo topics in Belarus.

Other performances portrayed various social issues and modern life outside Belarus that the government denies. Actors and actresses mime movements and dances to portray struggles of freedom of sexuality, abortion and the enforced death penalty, Khalezin said.

“When in Belarus, we used to perform secretly in barns, the woods or in private apartments so authorities wouldn't know, but we had to change our location frequently,” Natalia said. “Authorities even started going to cafes and homes ahead of us telling owners that their businesses would fail if they hosted our shows.”

In the underground business, the support of patrons and friends for security is essential and has gotten Belarus Free Theatre through a lot of near misses.

“Risks of persecution are always high in Belarus,” said Vladimir Shcherban, director at the Belarus Free Theatre.

Having the support and signatures of Steven Spielberg, Sir Tom Stoppard and Mick Jagger certainly helped in many cases, but authorities arrested the entire theater company and 700 others in December 2010.

“They cracked down,” Natalia said. “I was arrested and got bailed out. Protesters and politicians got up to 15-year sentences. They sat in jail for simply expressing their views on the situation in Belarus and protecting free and fair elections in our country. Many of us arrived in America shortly after by redirecting through other countries and changing our names because it wasn't possible by way of our own country.”

Not only had their plays been outlawed and canceled by the authorities, but now they too were exiled from their home country. But the last thing the performers want is pity.

“We would hate for somebody to consider us victims, because we're not victims,” Natalia said. “We chose to live

our lives this way. It's cool to be artists and activists. We're used to the repressions.”

But their children, relatives and spectators also face the consequences.

“In my case, my father was a professor and he lost his job because of me,” Natalia said.

It's a price the performers are willing to pay. Natalia, Yuri, Khalezin and Shcherban now travel all around the world spreading awareness and fighting for Belarus through theater. From London to Los Angeles to Sydney, they are giving lectures and hosting workshops.

More than 5,000 people have seen the performances in Belarus and thousands more internationally and online, but Belarus still has plenty of progress to make. The Free Theatre won't stop until it sees success.

“It's not scary,” Yuri said. “Artists have to do in the same way that journalists have to do, even if it's dangerous. We just did it and still do it. I mean, if not us, then who else?”

# Little-known metal band rocks campus, gains following

**Michael Papich**  
Reporter

Senior Jack Ruley, vocalist for Elon's only metal band, Wake Leviathan, is working with his band members to bring the group into the spotlight.

The band, which played its first show in a local garage last week — dubbed “The Crowbar” — said it recognizes the novelty of performing on campus.

“This is all very new territory,” Ruley said.

The band only prepared for three weeks before hitting the stage Friday.

Wake Leviathan's music spans different genres, from fast-paced black metal to ominous doom metal. Instrumentally, the band consists of one drummer, guitarist and vocalist. Combined with the band only having two amps, they have taken alternative routes to creating a loud metal sound.

“I spent a lot of time getting it to where the guitar sounds bigger than it is,” said junior Alain Monyette, guitarist for the band. “I play music with a low-end drone in order to have the melodies pop, so I can have a bass and a guitar at the same time.”

Monyette writes a majority of the band's music, while the band members improvise most of the lyrics. Both Monyette and Ruley said they feel Elon is the perfect place for metal music.

“There's so many misfits and outcasts,” Ruley said. “It should be a firestorm of people that want something out of the ordinary at Elon.”

Wake Leviathan played an hour-long set, with The Crowbar lit by small fluorescent bulbs to accent the band's aquatic theme. The walls were

covered in graffiti and pages torn from H.P. Lovecraft novels.

The atmosphere was defined by Monyette's droning guitar with quick notes cutting through and Ruley's screaming vocals and stage presence, which he created by exploring the space and yelling his vocals in people's faces.

Elon alumnus Ryan Swanzy opened for Wake Leviathan, playing acoustic arrangements of Bad Brains and Radiohead songs. Swanzy also played original songs, one solo and one by his band The Pikeys, where Pikeys vocalist Lynn Bullis joined him.

“I'm not trying to play something that I know is a safe choice,” Swanzy said. “I want to challenge the audience, and if they're not on board with it, they're not on board with it.”

Though the band admitted Elon's heavy metal following still has room to grow, Friday's show attracted about 40 people. Ruley said the turnout gives him hope for the future of the metal fanbase.

“Elon should be an awesome place for metal and experimental stuff,” Ruley said. “It should be awesome, because there's a very small group of people who are actually ‘Elon’ and then 70 percent of people don't fall into that.”

With the absence of a metal



Junior Alain Monyette, electric guitarist for Wake Leviathan, showcases his skills during the band's first live show.

audience on campus, Ruley and Monyette still pushed for the show, advertising through Facebook and fliers.

“I want it to be over-the-top, because Elon is such a sheltered community,” Monyette said. “There's people looking down on other people for being different.”

Ultimately, the decision to perform came down to the band's passions.

“Alain and I have known each other for a while and have always talked about music, and I've been dying to do something with people,” Ruley said. “It's really just, ‘I love metal, he loves metal, let's do something. Let's create

something.”

People who attended the show said they were excited Elon now has a metal band on campus.

“I think it's probably a long time coming,” said sophomore Jesse Scarborough.

Monyette and Ruley spent time after the concert playing together with Monyette's older brother on drums. Ruley said he was pleased with the way Wake Leviathan's first show went, but had no plans for the future.

“Do we have anything planned? No,” Ruley said. “Would we like to have things planned? Yes.”

## SPORTS BRIEFS

## Women's tennis improves to 9-3

The Elon women's tennis team defeated UNC-Asheville Bulldogs 7-0 March 4, but lost to No. 63 UNC-Wilmington Seahawks 5-2 Feb. 28, moving their record to 9-3 for the 2012 season.

The Phoenix had strong play from sophomore Jordan Johnston against the Bulldogs. She won her No. 1 singles match over UNCA sophomore Zoe Hamel 6-1, 6-0. Sophomore Frida Jansaker joined Johnston to win No. 1 doubles, improving the duo's season record to 10-1 this season. Freshman Barbora Lazarova, sophomore Viviana Stavreva, junior Briana Berne and freshman Maria Camara Ruiz all earned singles victories, while Lazarova/Stavreva and Berne/Camara Ruiz each won doubles matches against the Bulldogs.

Against the Seahawks, the Phoenix lost all but one of the six singles matches. Jansaker picked up the lone singles victory, while Jansaker/Johnston and Camara Ruiz/Berne won doubles matches to earn Elon the doubles point in the match, but the Bulldogs ended the Phoenix's six-match winning streak.

## Men's tennis wins first SoCon match of 2012, shutout conference foe Bulldogs

The Elon men's tennis team shut out The Citadel Bulldogs March 4, getting a 7-0 victory to start the 2012 Southern Conference schedule.

"It was good to get this first SoCon victory," said Elon men's tennis head coach Michael Leonard. "I really think this team and these young guys are getting better with each match."

The Phoenix swept the doubles matches, getting an 8-1 win from the No. 2 doubles pair of freshmen Stefan Fortmann and Jordan Kaufman. The pairs of freshmen Christopher Geaslen/sophomore Andrew Prince and sophomore Cameron Silverman/senior Eric Turner also won matches over the Bulldogs.

Freshmen Juan Madrid, Fortmann, Silverman, Prince, Turner and Kaufman won singles matches to give the Phoenix a 4-6 overall record for the 2012 season.

The team will take on the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga at home March 10 at noon.

## Women's golf ties for third at Kiawah Island Intercollegiate

In a field featuring seven of the top 100 Division I women's golf teams, the Elon Phoenix finished tied for third at the Kiawah Island Intercollegiate.

No. 80 Augusta State University won the tournament with a final score of 877, while No. 78 UNC-Greensboro finished second with 899. No. 54 Campbell University tied the Phoenix with a final score of 903.

Junior Martyna Mierzwa led Elon with a 223 to tie for tenth in a field of 179 players. Junior Diana Davis finished tied for 14th with a final score of 225, while senior Virginia Mayer shot a 226 and tied for 17th.

The Phoenix's next match is the JMU/Eagle Landing Invitational March 9 in Jacksonville, Fla.

## Former sports anchor and Elon adjunct professor Rich Brenner dies at 65

Former Fox8 sports anchor and Phoenix Club Advisory Board member Rich Brenner passed away Feb. 27. He was 65.

Brenner was very active in Elon athletics during his lifetime. He was the emcee of The Night of the Phoenix in 2011. He occasionally filled in as the public address announcer for the Phoenix and taught Elon's sports broadcasting class in fall 2007.

Brenner is survived by his wife Judy, a daughter, son and two grandsons.

## Fry named assistant volleyball coach

Elon volleyball head coach Mary Tendler announced Feb. 28 that Jennifer Fry was hired as an assistant volleyball coach.

"Jen is a great addition to our volleyball program at Elon University," Tendler said. "She has only been here a week and has already made a positive impact in the gym and on the recruiting trail."

Fry has been a volunteer assistant for national runner-up University of Illinois, the assistant coach and chief recruiter at Washington State University and the head coach at Norfolk State University from 2007 to 2010.

# New Elon linebackers coach has three distinct priorities: faith, family, football

Zachary Horner  
Sports Editor

When asked about Freddie Aughtry-Lindsay, Elon Phoenix head football coach Jason Swepson couldn't say enough about his "family man" mentality.

"Obviously, our wives know each other, did a lot of birthday parties over the last couple of years together," he said. "But any time you can hire a family man, it just brings a little more stability to the staff."

Aughtry-Lindsay was hired as the Phoenix's new linebackers coach Feb. 27, replacing Al Washington, who left to be the assistant special teams and defensive line coach at Boston College. In the short time since his hiring, he has already developed a game plan.

"The biggest thing that I harp on before I get to Xs and Os and schematics and things like that. I'm a fundamentals guy," he said. "I played the position. I feel like you have to be very fundamentally sound at linebacker to be able to help the defense out. And to me, being a linebacker, I feel like that's what makes the defense go."

Aughtry-Lindsay started as a linebacker for two seasons at North Carolina State University and was part of the NCAA's No. 1 defense in 2004. He was a defensive graduate assistant from 2008-2010, three years in which Swepson was the running backs coach for the Wolfpack.

"I felt obligated to give him an opportunity to interview just because he played the position at a high level," Swepson said. "And that's something that we wanted to have with those three candidates, a person that played the position and coached the position."

Aughtry-Lindsay also sees the benefits of playing the linebacker position in college. It allows him to relate to his players in a special way, he said.

"I think it helps a whole lot being able to tell a guy some things that I've actually done before, whether it's taking on a fullback, making a tackle or defeating a block," he said. "Being able to stand in the trenches and play and now being able to be teaching and coaching, it's something that I've always wanted to do, but I think it gives me a little bit of an edge, to be able to come in and build a relationship with the guys."

Aughtry-Lindsay also spent two years playing arena football, a year each with the Arkansas Twisters and Laredo Lobos of the Arena Football League 2. He played both linebacker and fullback.

Despite the differences, Aughtry-Lindsay said he learned from playing inside.

"It's definitely a faster sport," he said. "It actually taught me a couple of things as far as pass rushing because I had to play linebacker, D-line. I had to play everything in the front four. It's really a game for skilled players, though. A guy like myself, I really became a defensive end guy in arena football. It was fun, it was a fast game and the atmosphere was exciting. It was a great experience."

He spent last year as the linebackers coach at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania, helping the team to the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference title game. But when the opportunity rose to come home, Aughtry-Lindsay, from nearby High Point, could not resist.

"It was a no-brainer for my family and my career," he said. "Coach Swepson called me and I had to come and interview and offered me the job. I talked to my wife about it, and we wanted to be able to come back home and it was a step up for my career. It



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS  
New Elon linebackers coach Freddie Aughtry-Lindsay brings Atlantic Coast Conference football and arena football experience to the young linebacking corps under head coach Jason Swepson.

was a win-win situation for me as a football coach and for my wife and my kids as a family."

Aughtry-Lindsay describes himself as a man of faith and family. He lives with his wife, Amber, and has two sons, Colton and Colin.

"My faith in God comes first before everything," he said. "Me and my wife, we were around the church growing up, we have our kids in the church and then my family is first before anything football. Faith, family and football is how it goes. I understand that football takes care of my family, takes care of everything and feeds my kids. I've got two boys and I love 'em to death, and my wife is great."

He will be thrown into the fire right off the bat. The Phoenix's first game this season is Sept. 1 against the University of North Carolina, one of his alma mater's biggest rivals.

"Being a Wolfpack guy, and playing against them, and then as a graduate assistant at N.C. State and playing them, Carolina is a different game," he said. "It's always going to be like that to me. If I'm just watching it on TV, N.C. State versus Carolina, I just want to beat those guys. Their powdery blue just doesn't do it for me, and that's just me speaking as a Wolfpack alum."

However, he has no particular

motivational speeches planned for that game.

"Whatever I feel like needs to be addressed at that time," he said. "I'm not a big rah-rah guy, but I try to tell it how it is. My guys know the bottom-line is going out there, running to the ball, making plays, simple as that. We'll try to keep it simple for them."

They are a fairly young group of linebackers. The Phoenix are losing starters Joshua Jones and Zach Henderson at graduation, but returning are redshirt freshman Jonathan Spain, freshman Odell Benton and redshirt sophomore Quinton Lightfoot, who saw action in two games. Spain played all 11 games last season and was sixth on the Phoenix with 37 total tackles. Benton played in six games and had 14 total tackles. Along with linebacker recruits Jeremy Gloston, John Lopez, Corey Mitchell and John Silas, former safety and junior Blake Thompson will jump to the linebacker position.

"They're some good-looking kids," Aughtry-Lindsay said. "I'm excited to be able to coach these guys. I think this group can be really successful on the field. They have the ability. Just from watching film, I've got three guys returning that I think will be really good players for us. I'm excited. I think they're excited about spring ball and next season."

With a new face roaming the sidelines.

## Freddie Aughtry-Lindsay Fast Facts

- Played linebacker at North Carolina State University (2001-2004)
- Spent two years in Arena Football League 2 (2006-2007)
- Defensive graduate assistant at N.C. State (2008-2010)
- Coached linebackers at Slippery Rock University in Pa. (2011)

# Women's club lacrosse intrigued by potential for program

Adam Lawson  
Assistant Sports Editor

Whitney Powel proudly wears a love for her sport.

After a Thursday night practice, the freshman co-captain and midfielder of the club lacrosse team can't stop the red imprint of tightly worn goggles from making its mark on her face. Of course, it's a much more comfortable look than a knee brace.

"I tore both my ACLs in high school," Powel said. "So I feel like I got gypped from the high school experience of sports in general. I feel like I'm not done yet. I'm playing this for as long as I can."

While Powel plays at the club level now, another option could be on the horizon before she graduates. Elon University athletic director Dave Blank said Feb. 7 the school is considering adding a ninth varsity women's sport, and that lacrosse would be one of the options.

"I don't know (if I would try out for varsity)," Powel said, laughing, before thinking things over. "Maybe? Yeah."

Blank said the new sport would be lacrosse, sand volleyball or swimming.

"We love watching the game, we love playing the game," said club president and attacker Becca Luz, a junior. "I think any more lacrosse, the better."

The club shares a region in Division II of the Mid-Atlantic Women's Lacrosse League with Appalachian State University, the University of North Carolina and Radford University, while also playing against other Division II foes in the area. Last year, the club team went undefeated in the regular season on its way to an appearance in the regionals.

Luz said the club team has been around for a while, but it only came to its present level recently.

"The program just really got as serious as it is in the last probably six years," Luz said. "We had a president who graduated last year who did total renovations of it and made it a lot more serious of a team. It used to be more of a joke."

While the upperclassmen on the team take care of the administrative and financial responsibilities, the leadership on the field belongs to the freshmen who instruct their teammates both during games and



Freshman Whitney Powel, one of the captains for the Elon Women's Club Lacrosse team, protects her stick from the opposing team.

MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer

the nearly six hours of time they spend each week practicing next to the intramural fields.

"(The freshmen) are usually our best players," Luz said. "Because they just came out of high school with the conditioning of a high school level lacrosse team and we're, you know, three years in. Your high school league just conditions you more in general."

Last year's team went undefeated in the regular season before losing in the regionals. This year's version has new girls, new opponents and new road trips. But one common theme resonates year after year — these students don't want their athletic careers to go by the wayside just yet.

"Lacrosse is my main sport," said freshman co-captain and midfielder Maggie Schmidt, who played three varsity sports in high school. "I definitely want to do it even if it's on a small level, or just playing pickup outside of college."



Sophomore Ailish Dennigan looks to pass the ball up field to an awaiting teammate.

MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photographer

## Phoenix's strong showing in Buzz Classic boosts softball

Adam Lawson  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Elon University softball team left for Woodstock, Ga. hoping to keep up the momentum that comes with an 8-2 start.

It was the homecoming senior pitcher and designated player Erin O'Shea dreamed of.

The Kennesaw, Ga. native hit a walk-off extra-inning home run to beat Southeastern Louisiana University one night, and threw a complete game gem the next to lead the Phoenix to an upset victory over No. 25 Georgia Tech and a 3-1 road trip in the Georgia Tech Buzz Classic March 2-4.

"It was awesome to be able to perform and get the job done and have people that I care about there watching," O'Shea said about playing

in front of friends and family.

The win over the Yellow Jackets was a 180-degree change of direction from earlier in the morning. Less than one hour after the Georgia Tech game began, Elon (11-3) was thumped 10-2 by Rhode Island, which entered play 1-6.

"We came together and I said 'Look guys, we gotta go play another game,'" said interim head coach Kathy Bocock. "We can't worry about that game right now that we just played because we couldn't change anything. So we needed to get our heads up. I didn't want to see anybody sulking about it. I wanted to move forward."

Elon followed a 5-0 shutout victory over Kennesaw State Friday afternoon with the win against Southeastern Louisiana. After entering the eighth inning all tied up, each team started the inning with a runner placed on second base and no outs. After the Lions scored in the top half of the frame, O'Shea stepped up to the plate with one out and two women on and sent a middle-in screwball over the center field fence.

"It was a no-doubter," Bocock said. "She had a couple of good aggressive cuts prior to that. We knew if she made

contact, it was going, and it did."

Elon's focus now turns to conference play, which begins March 10 at home against the Furman University Paladins.

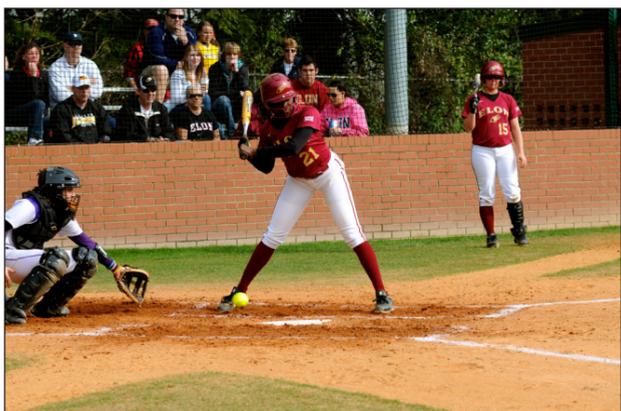
"The SoCon's a very strong conference," Bocock said. "That's why we played and did the stuff we did to get ready for them. We're not taking anything lightly. We're going to be 0-0 going into conference is the way we're going to kinda look at it."

The Paladins took two of three from the Phoenix a year ago, but Furman has stumbled along to a 7-9

start, including a pair of losses to Georgia Tech.

Elon also has eight newcomers Furman has yet to see, including freshman second baseman Cyra Cottrell, who leads the team with three home runs — among them a dinger that provided the Phoenix a key insurance run in the game against the Yellow Jackets.

"These tournaments really helped us pick out what we need to work on," Cottrell said. "Because these games do count, but the conference games are even more important."



Elon junior outfielder/pitcher Tomeka Watson (21) is second on the team with a .381 batting average and is tied for first with 12 RBI for the Phoenix.

FILE PHOTO BY GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer

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# Starting the SoCon right important for Elon baseball

Zachary Horner  
Sports Editor

Not a bad recovery effort.

After losing three of three to the two-time defending national champion University of South Carolina, the Elon Phoenix baseball team is in first place in the Southern Conference after taking two of three from No. 30-ranked and SoCon foe College of Charleston.

Granted, the Phoenix and the Cougars are the only two teams to play SoCon games.

"It's early, it's very early," said senior outfielder Jake Luce. "We don't want to put the cart before the horse. It certainly was a good start. It's tough going down to somebody else's place, especially a good club like Charleston and pull out two out of three wins. So that was really big for us."

The Phoenix (7-4 overall, 2-1 SoCon) hope to carry that momentum into five games, all in the friendly confines of Latham Park. They play the University of North Carolina today, defending SoCon Tournament champions Georgia Southern University three times March 9-11 and North Carolina State University March 13.

"It's a tough schedule," Luce said. "High Point (University), South Carolina, UNC, College of Charleston, Georgia Southern, you name it, we're playing quality teams. And that's good, that bodes well for us. We get to see some of the best competition there is to offer."

Elon defeated High Point 6-3 in extra innings Feb. 29. The Phoenix got three runs in the top of the 11th after the Panthers tied the score in the bottom of the ninth with a two-out rally. Freshman outfielder Quinn Bower and sophomore second baseman Sebastian Gomez scored on a fielding error on junior outfielder Niko Fraser's bunt. Fraser then scored on a sacrifice fly from junior catcher Alex Swim.

College of Charleston got out to a

6-0 lead at the end of the third inning in game one of the series March 2. It was eerily similar to games in the South Carolina series in which the Gamecocks stormed out of the gate.

"You always want to come out strong in game one, but they played really well," Luce said. "They're ranked 30th for a reason — because they're a good team. They had early momentum, they had home-field advantage, but it's a three-game series for a reason. Our goal is to go down there and win the weekend, doesn't matter how we do it, just as long as we win the weekend."

Luce helped contribute to that goal. Because of a rainout of the March 3 game, Elon and College of Charleston played a double-header March 4. A big play in each game helped the Phoenix to victory in both matchups.

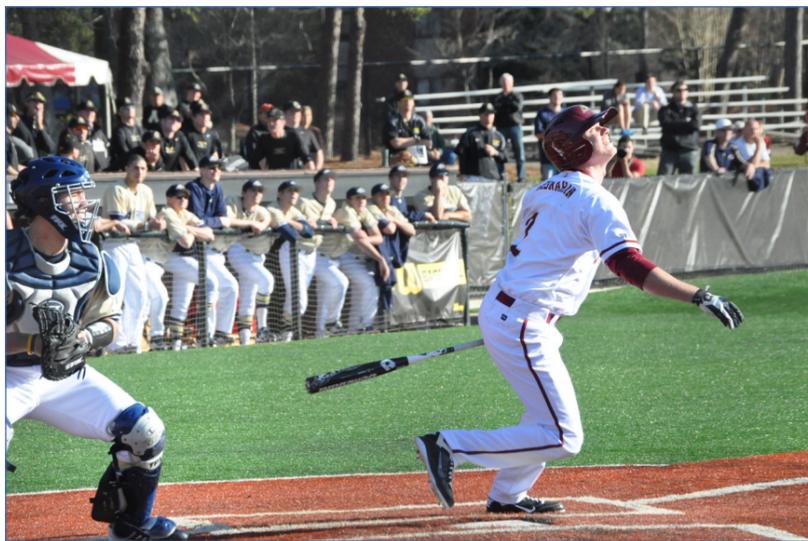
In game one, Fraser robbed Cougars junior outfielder Dre Watts of a grand slam with a leaping catch at the fence in the bottom of the eighth. Sophomore outfielder Eric Serra went 2-4 with two runs and an RBI, and junior pitcher Dylan Clark had six strikeouts in six and two-thirds innings to lead Elon to a 4-2 win.

"Niko's play was a game-saver," Luce said. "I've got to give a lot of credit to our pitching staff, because the teams that we've played, including South Carolina, the pitching staff has done a great job of keeping us in ball games."

In game two, another game with extra innings, Luce hit a solo home run in the top of the 10th inning, two innings after tying the game on a single that scored Serra. Junior pitcher Nate Young had two strikeouts in the bottom of the 10th to close out a 3-2 victory.

"You want to do anything you can to help your team win," said Luce, who is second on the Phoenix in batting average (.289) and tied for second in hits with 11. "I just had to stay focused, do what I could and put a good swing on the ball."

The Eagles from Georgia Southern



FILE PHOTO BY MERISSA BLITZ  
Junior infielder Chris Bresnahan and the Phoenix are currently 7-4 this season, 2-1 in SoCon play.

present another tough challenge for Elon, but that is how Luce and the Phoenix want it.

"The tough teams at the beginning are always good," he said. "We're getting into the meat of that schedule now, so we're just looking forward to it. UNC's a great team, Georgia Southern's a great team and NC State's gonna be solid as well. We have to play good baseball if we want to be successful."

Georgia Southern will be without preseason All-American infielder Victor Roache, who is out with a broken hand. Despite the major loss, the Eagles are no team to "sleep on," Luce said.

"They went to the NCAA Regionals last year after winning the tournament, and they're going to return a lot of good guys," he said. "You can talk a lot about UNC and all those other teams, but it really comes down to us. It comes down to Elon playing the style of baseball that we play. We play fast, we put pressure on guys and we go out and we expect to win every night."



FILE PHOTO BY MERISSA BLITZ  
Senior outfielder Jake Luce hit a game-winning homerun in the tenth inning of a 3-2 win over the College of Charleston Cougars March 4.

## Multiple Elon basketball players named to All-Southern Conference teams

Zachary Horner  
Sports Editor

Elon freshman guard Austin Hamilton took the honor bestowed on him with his usual humility.

"It's a great honor," he said about being named to the Southern Conference All-Freshman Team by both the league's coaches and media. "There's a lot of very talented freshmen this year in the conference and I'm very honored to have been chosen."

Hamilton was one of five SoCon freshmen named to both teams Feb. 29, joining College of Charleston forward Adjehi Baru, Samford University guard Raijon Kelly and forward Tyler Hood and Wofford College guard Karl Cochran, who was selected as the Freshman of the Year by both coaches and the media.

"Austin was a big factor in our early season success for sure before he got sick," Elon head coach Matt Matheny said.

Hamilton missed six games from Feb. 2-15 with mononucleosis.

Teammates noticed Hamilton's effect on the court as well.

"He's been great all year for us, definitely deserving of the all-freshman honor that he got," sophomore guard Jack Isenbarger said. "Even more impressive is that he was able to stay focused and come back after missing a good chunk of conference games and conference play and come back and attack and play well for us."

Isenbarger was also recognized for his athletic achievement. The SoCon coaches put him on their All-Conference Team, while the media named him to the All-Conference Second Team.

"It feels good, but it's a result of hard work," he said. "It goes to show that the coaches have really helped improve my game individually and the other players."

Isenbarger came in as one of the

de facto leaders of the team. With just one senior (guard Drew Spradlin), the coaches looked on him to be a role model on the court.

"Just stepping up and being more of a verbal leader on the court has helped elevate my game and be a leader on the court," he said. "I think in the past I led more by example."

Hamilton had high praise for his teammate and sometimes running mate at the guard positions.

"He's a great player to have on and off the court," he said. "He's taught me a lot about running the point, just (by me) watching the game. I've learned a lot of things watching his game. He's a knock-down shooter, but he's not selfish. He's a great basketball player and teammate."

His coach added to the words of praise.

"Jack deserves it," Matheny said. "He had a very, very good year. His year was typified when Austin went out. The three-game homestand (against College of Charleston, the Citadel and Appalachian State University Feb. 2-6) solidified his All-Conference nomination for sure. And then he continued to play well after that. He's just finished the year very, very strong."

The men were not alone. The Elon women were well represented.

Junior guard Ali Ford was named to the All-Conference Team by the coaches for the third-straight season and was selected to the All-Conference First Team by the media for the second time in her career. Freshman guard-forward Sam Coffey was named to the All-Freshman Team by both SoCon coaches and media, and junior forward Kelsey Evans was named to the media's second team for the second time in her career for the Phoenix.

Positive news for Elon fans: All of the Phoenix's All-Conference selections, both men and women, will return next season, which is something to look forward to.



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO  
Sophomore guard Jack Isenbarger was named to the coaches' All-SoCon team for the first time.

# Women's basketball falls in SoCon quarterfinals, ends first season with new coach



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer  
Senior guard Aiesha Harper finished her career in the maroon and gold by finishing third on the team in points (282) and points per game (9.7). The 5'5" guard played 117 games for the Phoenix.

**Adam Lawson**  
Assistant Sports Editor

After preparing all season for the Southern Conference Tournament, the Elon University women's basketball team let an opportunity slip through its grasp in a major way.

The Phoenix never led in its haunting 67-36 quarterfinals loss to Samford University March 3.

"We didn't have the defensive focus we needed to stop Samford tonight," head coach Charlotte Smith said. "We tried, man. We tried matchup (zone), we tried pressing. I pulled all the tricks out of the bag. Unfortunately, in this environment, it's one and done."

The Bulldogs scored the first seven points during a half where Elon couldn't find the basket. The Phoenix scored a season-low of 14 points in the first 20 minutes and went into the locker room down 35-14. Those 35 Samford points would almost be enough to win the game without adding any more to the total in the game's final frame.

"I just kept thinking, 'Maybe there's some 20-point surge that's going to happen,'" Smith said. "I just felt like we would eventually turn the corner, but we didn't tonight."

The 31-point loss was the biggest for Elon (16-14) in SoCon play since a 100-67 defeat at Appalachian

State University Nov. 29, 2010. It was the second consecutive season the Phoenix has been eliminated by at least 24 points in the conference tournament.

"They put us in an early hole that we never managed to get out of," said junior guard Ali Ford, who led the Phoenix with 11 points. "We were forced to play from behind for most of the game and never really settled down and got into the flow of the game."

Compounding the Phoenix's problems was a season-worst performance from the field. Elon finished with more turnovers (16) than field goals (11-54, 20.4 percent). The Phoenix gave up 11 baskets from beyond the three-point arc alone to the Bulldogs, who took advantage of 20 mostly wide-open attempts.

The Bulldogs scored the second half's first six points to stretch the lead to 41-14. After dropping a 69-44 blowout to the Phoenix on Dec. 5, Samford completed its second double-digit win over Elon in a span of 36 days.

Smith will now enter her first full offseason as head coach after being hired as the school's sixth head coach June 28.

"Just being together since July of last year, I think we accomplished a lot of great things," Smith said. "The future looks bright for this program."



LEAH CHANNAS | Graphics Editor



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FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer  
The Elon Phoenix women's basketball team finished the 2011-2012 season with a 16-14 record.

# Sports

## Season ends in tournament semifinals for men's basketball

Zachary Horner  
Sports Editor

The Elon Phoenix men's basketball season ended with a loss Saturday night in the semifinals of the Southern Conference Tournament to Davidson College. The Phoenix's 2012 season came to a close at 15-16, a high in victories under third-year head coach Matt Matheny.

"We are getting better," Matheny said. "This program is growing and we are learning. We had a great contingency here in Asheville and they cheered us on until the final buzzer."

Davidson won the championship Monday night by defeating Western Carolina University 93-91 in double-overtime.

### Davidson College 83, Elon 67

Davidson used a 25-6 run in the second half to defeat the Elon Phoenix 83-67 in the semifinals of the 2012 SoCon Tournament.

The Wildcats held Elon without a field goal for 11:02 and pulled away. Davidson junior forward Jake Cohen had 24 points and five rebounds, while junior forward De'Mon Brooks added 20 points and six rebounds. Sophomore guard Chris Czerapowicz contributed ten points.

With the victory, Davidson advanced to face Western Carolina University in the tournament finals Monday night.

Elon sophomore guard Jack Isenbarger scored a team-high 22 points. Sophomore forward Lucas Troutman added 18 points and four rebounds.

Davidson went into halftime with a 39-33 lead, but the Phoenix stormed out of the gate, making the score 39-38 then 41-40. The Wildcats then went on their run, with Brooks sitting out most of it with three fouls.

"We fought, cut it to one and then they knocked us on our heels a bit and the game got away from us," Matheny said.

It was the final career game for

senior guard Drew Spradlin, who did not score and played just 16 minutes.

### Elon 65, Georgia Southern University 58

Elon University sophomore guard Jack Isenbarger had 18 points, including a perfect 9-9 on free throws, and the Phoenix defeated Georgia Southern University 65-58 Saturday night in the quarterfinals of the 2012 SoCon Tournament.

With the victory, the Phoenix advanced to face Davidson College Sunday in the semifinals.

"This was the prettiest, ugliest victory I've seen in a long time," Matheny said. "The finality of the conference tournament changes everything. This was a hard-fought team victory."

The Phoenix got nine points and six rebounds from sophomore forward Lucas Troutman. Sophomore forward Ryley Beaumont had nine points and three rebounds and senior guard Drew Spradlin added eight points. Junior forward Brett Ervin contributed seven points and six rebounds off the bench for Elon.

Georgia Southern sophomore guard/forward Eric Ferguson had a game-high 21 points and nine rebounds, shooting 7-10 from the field and 7-11 from the free-throw line to lead the Eagles. Senior guard Willie Powers III added 10 points and six assists.

The game was close for most of the night. The Phoenix led 31-27 at halftime, but Georgia Southern tied the score at 48 when Eagles' senior guard Ben Drayton III knocked down a three-pointer with 8:57 left in the second half. But eight straight Phoenix points gave Elon a 54-48 lead with 6:21 remaining, a lead they never relinquished.

With freshman guard Austin Hamilton and Isenbarger in foul trouble throughout the game, junior guard Josh Bonney played a season-high 20 minutes and scored six key points, adding a team-high four assists.

"Josh Bonney gave us 20 fantastic minutes," Matheny said. "You saw



Elon head coach Matt Matheny helped the Phoenix to a 15-16 record overall, 9-10 in the SoCon. The 15 wins were the best for the program since Matheny took over as head coach in March 2009.

tonight the toughness he has exhibited. He allowed us to get the all in bounds and break their full pressure which was a huge difference in the game."

Elon faced Davidson once this

season, losing a 66-45 decision to the Wildcats in the penultimate game of the season Feb. 23. Davidson defeated Furman University 73-54 earlier in the day.

## 2012 Men's Basketball Championship

Friday, March 2 Saturday, March 3 Sunday, March 4 Sunday, March 5

(4S) College of Charleston → (5N) Appalachian State  
(5N) Appalachian State → (1N) UNCG

→ (1N) UNCG  
(3N) Western Carolina

(3N) Western Carolina → (3N) Western Carolina  
(6S) The Citadel → (2S) Wofford

→ (1S) Davidson  
(3N) Western Carolina

(4N) Samford → (5S) Furman  
(5S) Furman → (1S) Davidson

→ (1S) Davidson  
(2N) Elon

(3S) Georgia Southern → (3S) Georgia Southern  
(6N) Chattanooga → (2N) Elon



AL DRAGO | Staff Photographer

For the first time, The Pendulum is handing out end-of-season awards to Elon basketball teams. And we want you to be involved.

Using The Pendulum sports section's Twitter (@pendulumsports), we will be accepting votes for both the men and the women's basketball teams for the following categories: Most Valuable Player, Best Freshman, Most Improved Player and Most Exciting Game. All you have to do is follow @pendulumsports and tweet your votes to that handle with the team, category and player or game.

The results will be run in the March 14 edition of The Pendulum in a special two-page basketball season-in-review spread.

Want your comments to be featured in The Pendulum? Send your reasoning for your selections in a separate tweet to the @pendulumsports handle and we may run them with your Twitter name in the spread.

