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THE PENDULUM

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Pi Kappa Phi suspended

Second fraternity to be scrutinized for alleged hazing this school year

Leena Dahal
Assistant News Editor

Elon University's chapter of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity is currently under investigation for alleged hazing in its new member education process, according to a statement by Vice President for Student Life Smith Jackson.

All Pi Kappa Phi activities and operations — including any formal or informal new member meetings, activities such as brotherhood events, chapter meetings, intramurals or philanthropy on or off campus — have been suspended pending the outcome of the investigation.

"The university takes these allegations seriously," Jackson said. "[We] are working expeditiously to complete a thorough investigation and make appropriate responses. Student safety and well being is our top concern."

The university-owned fraternity house assigned to Pi Kappa Phi will remain open only for the members currently living in the facility. According to Jackson, university officials are working closely with the Pi Kappa Phi National office to thoroughly investigate the claims.

Greek Life staff has been working with the men in the chapter to ensure they are briefed on the details of the situation and will guide them in the process through the investigation process.

In an email to The Pendulum, Eric Burgess, the Chapter President, said, "The brother's of Pi Kappa Phi are aware of the allegations and are focused on fully cooperating with Elon University as well as our National Organization throughout the investigation."

The Epsilon Alpha chapter of Pi Kappa Phi was founded at Elon in 1979. According to the fraternity's website, their chapter focuses greatly on academic success — they have 13 members currently serving on student government, a large proportion of members are enrolled in one or more fellows programs as well as many of the honorary professional fraternities and six out of the last seven Student Government

See PI KAPPA PHI page 9

Frozen in February

Octavia break for some, work for others



PHOTO BY JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor
Left to right: Physical Plant workers Seaton Blackwood, Terry Rogers and Tanner Long clear an icy set of stairs outside Lakeside Dining Hall Tuesday morning. Physical Plant employees worked around the clock Monday night into Tuesday morning as a nasty wintry mix coated the Triad, prompting Gov. Pat McCrory to declare a state of emergency. Though there were a handful of car accidents reported around campus, no student injuries were reported as of publication. After some hesitation, the university closed on Tuesday as travel proved treacherous. See pages 2, 3.

In search of a ceiling

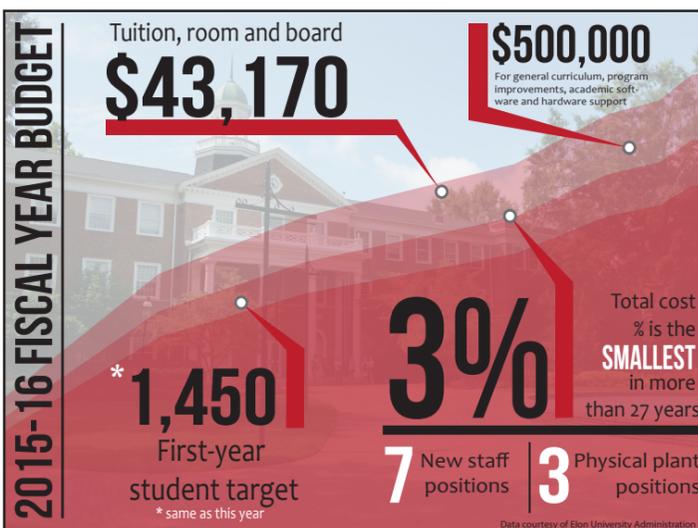
Historically-low Elon budget increase weighs cost, quality

Michael Bodley
Editor-in-Chief

In an era in which the cost of college climbs higher and higher each year, Elon University recently delivered a bold statement with the rollout of its 2015-2016 fiscal year budget. Slashing the tuition increase to a 27-year low of 3 percent — down from last year's 3.96 percent bump — the new spending plan was said by senior university officials to toe a hard line on the cost-quality conundrum.

Despite persistent student grumbles on the rising cost of higher education — at Elon and elsewhere — some constraints are concrete, according to Greg Zaiser, vice president of admissions and financial planning.

Rising inflation and increased operating costs associated with a growing campus make a net decrease now all but impossible for the university to offer to its wistful



students, he said.

"Operational costs increase regularly," Zaiser wrote in an email. "I have great respect and appreciation for our Board of Trustees, President Lambert and others for recognizing and addressing increasing costs of higher education. They have taken a significant stance by

keeping next year's total increase the lowest it has been in 27 years."

Roped into a national higher education landscape that has shown few signs of slowing its scope, Elon's hands are in some ways tied — it can be hard to cut costs while maintaining fa

See TUITION page 5

Elon elects

In 2015, SGA looks to boost involvement and voter turnout

Caroline Fernandez
News Editor

The 2015 Elon University SGA Elections listed only five candidates for the four 2015-2016 executive positions.

The position of executive president was the only contested spot, with juniors Avery Steadman and Sean Barry running against each other. The positions of executive vice president (Adam Knaszak '16), executive treasurer (Leo Morgan '16) and executive secretary (Grace McDavid '16) remained unopposed.

The lack of candidates left many questions about why more students were not running for executive positions.

SGA candidates and members attributed the lack of students running for office to the large time commitment SGA requires.

Many times, the time commitment interferes with students who want to study abroad. To have an executive position — executive president, executive vice president, executive treasurer, executive secretary — a student needs to be on campus for three semesters because the terms run from April to April.

"A lot of students who are sophomores now and would be excellent candidates on Exec are studying abroad," said current executive treasurer and executive presidential candidate Avery Steadman. "It's a huge thing we have to give up to have a position."

Current organizational development member and Love School of Business Academic Council candidate Alex Hunter said she thinks people get intimidated by the competition.

"I think SGA is a very prestigious position on campus and I think a lot of people get nervous," Hunter said. "I think the competition aspect scares people away. We need to address that there are seats open and it is open to everyone. I think that people think that so many people are running so their chances [of winning] are lower."

Another trend with SGA elections is low voter turnouts.

The number of students who took to the polls in 2014 de

See SGA page 6

Frozen in February: flurry

Prompting state of emergency, Winter Storm Octavia



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

By midday Tuesday, many of the diagonal sidewalks that zigzag through campus had been cleared, the product of hours of Physical Plant work that began in earnest Monday night.

Caroline Fernandez
News Editor

Elon University students enjoyed the first snow day of the school year Tuesday, but not without some flip-flopping on the behalf of the administration. Winter Storm Octavia blanketed the area with a troublesome mixture of snow, ice and sleet, which prompted administrators and students alike to voice safety concerns about getting to and from campus.

But the complaints weren't just about the weather. Students received three emails from Smith Jackson, vice president for student life between Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, each detailing a different schedule for Tuesday's classes.

After initially calling for a 10 a.m. start, then a noon start, the long-awaited cancellation email from Jackson hit inboxes across campus late Tuesday morning.

Students waited through Monday evening and Tuesday morning to hear if class would be further delayed or canceled.

They weren't happy about it. "I feel like they should have canceled as soon as possible, just for everyone's benefit in planning ahead," said senior Catherine Falvey. "Professors should be the priority. I feel like the call was made too late."

The safety of the roads was at the forefront of the minds of students who depend on cars to get to campus on a regular basis. Falvey isn't scared of the slippery roads, partly because of her Massachusetts roots and also thanks to her crossover SUV that can handle the ice — but other students aren't as confident.

Preparation for the snow began for dozens of Physical Plant employees and other emergency personnel Monday.

Associate Vice President for Facilities Management and Director of Physical Plant Robert Buchholz said that Tom Flood, associate director of Physical Plant, brought in crews Monday in anticipation for the snow's arrival Monday night.

Using more than 35 pieces of equipment including brushes, shovels and vehicles with power brooms, a crew of 25 Physical Plant

staff members worked from 5 p.m. Monday to 5 a.m. Tuesday to maintain safe and clear roads.

Physical Plant continued to work throughout Tuesday to bring some sense of order to roads laden with more precipitation than traffic.

Buchholz said the main focus of the work was the core areas of campus — residence halls, dining halls and the library.

"We first wanted to make sure students could get out of their dorms and to dining halls," Buchholz said. "We then worked out towards Colonnades, Danieley and the Ellington Health Center."

Though plows worked throughout the night in the Town of Elon to clear major roads, the patches of blacktop that shone through the ice in the morning were few and far between.

"I don't live too far off campus, but my driveway is a steep hill, and I don't see how it would have been safe to walk or drive to class," said junior Tyler Meacham. "If class hadn't been canceled, I would have had to go based on emails from my professors."

Elon Vice President for University Communications Dan Anderson said student and faculty safety is the most important consid-

eration when deciding whether the university should stay open.

"If they consider [the roads] dangerous, they won't be penalized," Anderson said. "Each person needs to make their own decision if the roads aren't safe."

For students more accustomed to the snow, the cancellation was questionable to begin with, though they acknowledged North Carolina operates by different rules than, say, New York.

"I'm from New York, so I'm biased," said freshman Emma Schorr. "This would really have been nothing back home. I'm all for not having class, but we probably could have had class without a delay at all."

Even though professors and students had the day off, Elon Dining still had a busy day.

Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Lakeside Dining Hall and Acorn opened at 9 a.m. and remained open until 8 p.m. Colonnades opened at 11 a.m. for brunch and closed at 8 p.m.

In anticipation of the snow, Elon Dining Resident District Manager Pulkit Vigg said Elon Dining and Elon administration discussed possible scenarios and plans of action Monday. Their goal was for every neighborhood to have one option for students to eat.

"I'm not happy with [the limited options], but I understand why they don't have all the options open," said sophomore Matthew Sheehan.

"Historically, Lakeside is always open first, so that's what we did this time, as well," Vigg said. "Colonnades and Acorn were then opened."

Vigg said only one-quarter of Elon Dining employees worked on campus Tuesday, mainly because road conditions prevented many staff from making it to work.

With the safety of Elon Dining employees being a main concern of Aramark, managers were put up in nearby hotels so they could be close to campus overnight.

"Our two main goals are making sure students have food to eat and employees are safe," Vigg said.

With the necessities of safety and food taken care of, students were free to take advantage of the free day. The snow day allowed students to hang out with friends and enjoy the weather.

Freshman Jordon McRae, originally from Philadelphia, didn't think there'd be enough snow for Elon to cancel classes.

But he's not complaining. "I was ecstatic," McRae said. "I really wanted a day without classes, a day to rest. And to have a snowball fight."

McRae has seen much more snow than this before, so he wasn't fazed Monday night when most of it fell. Instead, he stayed inside and worked on statistics homework.

"Some girls on my hall, when the first little flurries came — you couldn't even call them snowflakes — they were running around," McRae said.

And as for the snowball fight, McRae said he hopes it'll be the biggest one he's ever been a part of.

Sledding and snow ball fights were on the agenda for other students, as well. Students like freshman Ellie Whittington saw the snow day as a chance to make memories she otherwise wouldn't have.

"Snow days bring a whole new experience to connecting with your friends outside of the classroom," Whittington said.

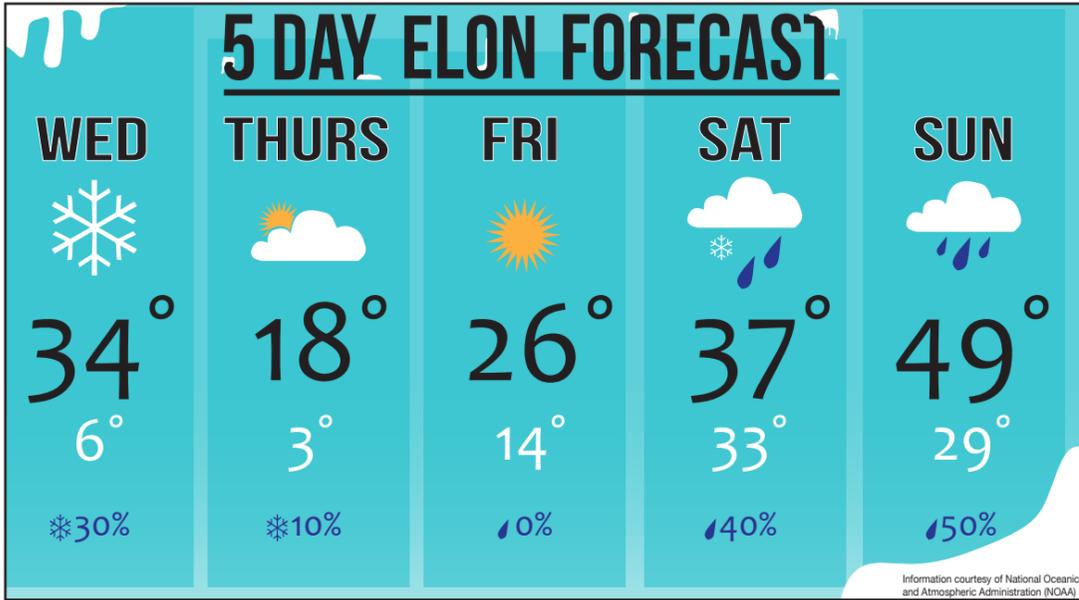


JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Seniors Emily Tomich and Allie Peed take a selfie while sledding down the Intramural Fields.

of emails stalls school

blankets Elon, sends students scurrying outdoors



The arts rebound from the recession

Diana Stancy
Senior Reporter

The recent economic recession has dramatically impacted several industries. While the economy is growing in the midst of recovery, the memory of financial difficulty has left its stain on individuals, families and businesses.

One area was hit particularly hard by the 2008 recession—the arts.

James S. Russell, adjunct professor at the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at the City College of New York, wrote in the *New York Times* last November that investment in the arts is on the rise again, particularly among college campuses.

“Elite campuses across the country have

emerged from the recession riding a multibillion-dollar wave of architecturally ambitious arts facilities, even as community arts programs struggle against public indifference,” Russell wrote.

Elon University is no exception. In the past several years, Elon’s campus has made significant strides in promoting the arts, especially when it comes to accommodating students by providing proper facility space.

Michael Fels, associate professor of art, explained one of the most effective changes for immersing students in art has been the construction of Gallery 406 in Arts West.

Gallery 406, which opened in September 2013, was previously an ordinary hallway in the Arts West building. Now, it is a

space used for community events.

When students walk in, they see the various works of art on the wall. Fels said this sparks intellectual conversation about art.

“Students are in here talking,” he said. “It’s been a great community. It’s changed the culture of what we do.”

The gallery was a gift from Barbara Rhoades, an adjunct assistant professor of fine arts, given in honor of her great-aunt, Katharine Nash Rhoades, and her father, John Harsen Rhoades. The conversion of the hallway to a gallery doubled the space.

This past Monday, the space was used to host printmaker Lisa Bulawsky, an associate professor of art in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts. Highlighted some of Bulawsky’s mixed media work, and she spoke to audiences about her growth, development and history as an artist.

But Gallery 406 is not the most recent update for the arts at Elon. Scott Studios, a building next to Arts West and intended for the performing arts program, opened in September 2014. Fred Rubeck, chair of the performing arts department, described the two sister buildings as an “arts corner” in a September 2014 interview with the *Pendulum*.

Scott Studios includes six practice spaces to accommodate piano and voice students, while also providing a rehearsal space with equivalent dimensions to McCrary Theatre.

“It gives them an appropriate set of spaces,” Rubeck told the *Pendulum* after Scott Studios first opened in September 2014. “It will allow us to do different kinds of shows than we would have in the

UPCOMING ART EVENTS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

19TH ANNUAL JAZZ FESTIVAL CONCERT
FESTIVAL HOST, JON METZGER
MCCRARY THEATER, 7:30 P.M.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

THE ANNIE MOSES BAND PERFORMS
RHAPSODY IN BLUEGRASS
MCCRARY THEATRE, 7:30 P.M.

FRI.-SAT., FEBRUARY 27 & 28

BETWEEN, AMONG, AND ACROSS:
TRANSHISTORIES OF THE VISUAL
LAROSE DIGITAL THEATER

MONDAY, MARCH 9

SAMANTHA DIROSA: ELEGIES
PERFORMANCE AND ARTIST TALK,
GALLERY 406, ARTS WEST, 5:30 P.M.

GRAPHIC BY TORI LABENBERG | Design Editor



FILE PHOTO BY JANE SEIDEL

Scott Studios opened fall 2014 in an effort to continue to invest in the arts at Elon.

smaller studio.”

While the economy did not impact the arts at Elon as drastically as other college campuses, it did limit which artists were brought to campus.

“It had a definite impact on our access to artists,” Fels said.

Because many artists were struggling financially, those from the West Coast and farther did not want to spend money traveling to Elon. However, Elon has recently scheduled artists from New York, California and Washington to visit campus.

“That geographic circle is widening,” Fels said.

Hillel’s new director steps into position

Diana Stancy
Senior Reporter

This semester, Elon’s Hillel chapter experienced a leadership transition when the director stepped down.

Ginny Vellani has been named the new director of Elon University’s Hillel chapter. Before accepting the position, Vellani had previously been involved with the Jewish community on Elon’s campus.

Rebecca Joseph, former Hillel director, assumed her position summer 2014 to replace Nancy Luberoff. Luberoff had been director of Hillel since 2008 and was influential in building Hillel’s presence on campus.

Junior Rachel Garrity, the current president of Hillel, said one of the primary reasons Luberoff resigned was because she felt her strength was in establishing organizations.

“Once Hillel was flourishing, she decided to hand the reins over to someone else,” Garrity said.

Joseph, an ordained rabbi, took over after Luberoff left. But, the position was not an ideal match.

“It was not a good fit either way — both for Becky and for students,” Garrity said. “She went on personal leave over Winter Term, and it was announced that she was stepping down at the end of Winter Term or beginning of spring semester.”

“She has worked very closely with the Jewish students and the Truitt Center and religious life,” Garrity said. “She has been very involved in Jewish life, and I think she was kind of the obvious choice when Becky stepped down.”

This transition of leadership extends beyond just those involved with Hillel. The Jewish community on Elon’s campus is very interconnected, and the few Jewish organizations often share many of the same members.

Sophomore Elena Goldman, one of Hillel’s engagement interns who helps integrate freshman Jewish students to Jewish life on campus, explained that Vellani will be working with the Jewish community as a whole, not just Hillel.

“The Jewish community on campus has always been extremely connected, and that will not change this semester,” Goldman said. “There are student leaders for each individ-



HUNTER STRAUCH | Staff Photographer

Ginny Vellani was recently named the new director of Hillel, replacing Rebecca Joseph, who left earlier this year.

ual organization, but we all work together as a whole and with Ginny to support each other.”

These organizations include leaders of the Jewish fraternity, Zeta Beta Tau, Call for Hunger and the Israel Dialogue and Education Advocacy. The transition has impacted each of these organizations in some capacity.

“There’s just the baseline that we’re all Jewish-based organizations,” Garrity said. “We do a lot of co-sponsorship and programming and events together. It has really affected all the Jewish entities on campus.”

Students leaders in the Jewish community are looking

forward to Vellani’s role in Hillel.

“I think Ginny will do an excellent job as the director of Hillel. She knows the majority of the students and is eager to get to know as many people as possible,” Goldman said. “She also had a lot of experience with our Hillel and really wants to do whatever she can to make her students happy.”

TUITION

from cover

ilities and faculty on par with peer institutions who have more money to spend. To some, that says more about an underlying fault in U.S. education than it does about Elon in particular. w

“I’m happy it’s not going above what it was last year, but the only

“WHEN YOU SAY WHAT ELON’S GREATEST NEED IS, WELL, WHAT’S IT GOING TO BE? IS IT GOING TO THE LIGHTBULBS? WELL, SOMEBODY’S GOT TO PAY FOR THE LIGHTBULBS.”

STEVEN HOUSE

UNIVERSITY PROVOST, VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

way to help reduce the student debt bubble, which is about to burst, is to lower tuition or keep it stable at the same rate even with inflation,” said Rebecca Sansale, a junior economics major.

The cost is far from lost on the people who set it.

“We understand this is a lot of money,” said Steven House, university provost and vice president for academic affairs. “It’s about balancing quality.”

Pointing to incremental raises in faculty salaries, while Elon has maintained in recent years a 12:1 student: teacher ratio, House went on to emphasize the need to spend to maintain educational quality — while being careful not to let spending get out of hand.

Carefully monitoring tuition dollars, which are a relatively sustainable source of funding, is necessary to maximize resources, he added.

“Tuition dollars can be spent that year,” he said. “We spend it to hire new faculty or to give more study abroad money. So, there’s this balance, and what we are finding is that more and more of the gifts to the university are targeted, rather than the university’s greatest need.”

The needs he mentioned are all relative ones, each unique in the eyes of the beholder.

“[Donors] really want to know what their money’s going toward,” House said. “When you say what Elon’s greatest need is, well, what’s it going to be? Is it going to the lightbulbs? Well, somebody’s got to pay for the lightbulbs.”

Increasing student loans

As default rates on student loans in the United States continue to hover at or near all-time highs, the Elon budget has stuck to its slow-but-steady policy of making more financial aid available for more students. Right now, about 40 million Americans are

collectively saddled with upwards of \$1.2 trillion in debt, and both figures are on the rise.

The average Elon student in 2013 (the most recent year with available data) took out \$28,327 in a combination of federal and private loans to earn a degree, according to the Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS). That’s just a shade higher than the national average of \$28,000 in loans taken out across the United States that year, though outliers who take on massive amounts of debt have been known to skew such statistics.

Limited by an \$191 million endowment still in its infancy, compared to peer institutions such as the University of Richmond and its own valued at more than \$2 billion, Elon as a tuition-dependent institution can only give so much, so often.

It can complicate things.

“There are certainly some challenges to being a tuition-dependent institution,” said Gerald Whittington, senior vice president for business, finance and technology, in a February 2014 interview with *The Pendulum*. Whittington deferred comment to House for this story. “If you’re growing slowly instead of really fast, you can get a double effect of covering the cost of education because you grew some and the tuition rate went up some.”

It’s tough to find a student or administrator or faculty member who supports the rising costs — people tend to paint the price tag shades of unpleasant, but necessary to the university’s present

reputation and future prestige.

Under President Barack Obama, the federal government has made the cost of college a point of emphasis, but the amount of money loaned by the government has increased roughly 40 percent since 2013 alone.

Loans can make a college education accessible to those for whom it would otherwise be far out of reach, but what’s left behind is often less than pretty — shot credit, less-than-optimal employment prospects and the equivalent of another car or mortgage payment each month from loans and their dreaded interest.

“As a student, I’m happy I’m not going to have to pay more,” said junior Hunter Purvis, a history major who has some student loans he will eventually have to repay. “As a citizen of the United States, I think tuition prices are obscene across the board, and that’s something we’re going to have to face. It keeps education in the domain of the rich, or keeps you eternally poor.”

Planning for the future

As Elon continues to admit more students each, in keeping with the slow growth model outlined in the Elon Commitment, the goal for the Class of 2019 has been set at 1,450 — the same as this year’s freshman class. The numbers ought to fill semester-long gaps left by students studying abroad. The next school year, plans are in the works for a freshman class of 1,500, a relatively insignificant increase.

“Elon’s history is to set a goal and maintain it for several years,” Zaiser said. “That’s what we mean by slow, sustained growth.”

Coupled with growth, the smaller budget has led to questions about what might be left out moving forward, but House said the new direction should be thought of as prioritizing, rather than cutting. And it all goes back to keeping costs down, while providing the best possible education at the same time.

News Editor Caroline Fernandez and Assistant News Editor Katherine Blunt contributed reporting.

Budget to funnel funding to Study Abroad programs

Leena Dahal

Assistant News Editor

Elon University’s budget for next year places particular emphasis on giving students with demonstrated financial need more opportunities to study abroad.

The university has an unprecedented commitment to 100 percent access to a global experience. The Isabella Cannon Global Education Center has continually been supporting this commitment by finding resources to overcome the barriers that limit students from having a global experience — one of those barriers being cost.

The three-year commitment contributes \$150,000 to a general access account and will now allow for \$450,000 in scholarships and financial

name has been changed to “Global Engagement Grants” with the expectation that those funds, however much they happen to be, help students offset the costs for study abroad.

“We’re really encouraging students to use it for global experience,” she said.

According to Zamzes, approximately 180 students received financial aid for a study abroad program this year. With the expansion of the number of awards given, Zamzes said the GEC would continue being “deliberate” about where resources are funneled.

“Our process of awarding a student with aid is very deliberate,” she said. “We certainly don’t have enough money to give anyone a full ride, but we do our best to overcome as many barriers as possible and

“WE CERTAINLY DON’T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO GIVE ANYONE A FULL RIDE, BUT WE DO OUR BEST TO OVERCOME AS MANY BARRIERS AS POSSIBLE AND MAKE A GLOBAL STUDY ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE.”

AMANDA ZAMZES

BUSINESS AND DATA MANAGER, GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER

aid packages for global study programs.

The money, which differs from endowed funds, will allow for greater flexibility in the size and number of financial aid awarded to students with verified financial needs. Because of the greater amount of resources and provisions in administrative policies, the office will also be providing aid for students applying to Study USA programs.

Scholarships paying out

According to Rhonda Waller, director of study abroad, awards that once ranged from a mere \$200 — \$1,000 will be increased to anywhere from \$500 — \$5,000.

“What’s exciting for us is that two years ago we would tell students that you might get an award, but it’s going to be relatively small,” she said. “Now, more students can get some sort of aid and it is likely to be a relatively more substantial amount.”

Another difference for the next year is the change in name of the grants given to incoming Fellows students. In the past, Fellows were awarded “Experiential Grants,” a sum of money that could be used for any of Elon’s five Experiential Learning Requirements: internships, leadership, service and civic engagement, study abroad and undergraduate research. According to Amanda Zamzes, the GEC’s business and data manager, the grant’s

make a global study accessible to everyone.”

How it all works out

The process of awarding financial aid occurs in cycles of term — students applying to study abroad for a specific term are essentially competing for resources with other students planning to study abroad in the same term. Students are lined up depending on their varying needs as described by their FAFSA and Estimated Financial Contribution forms.

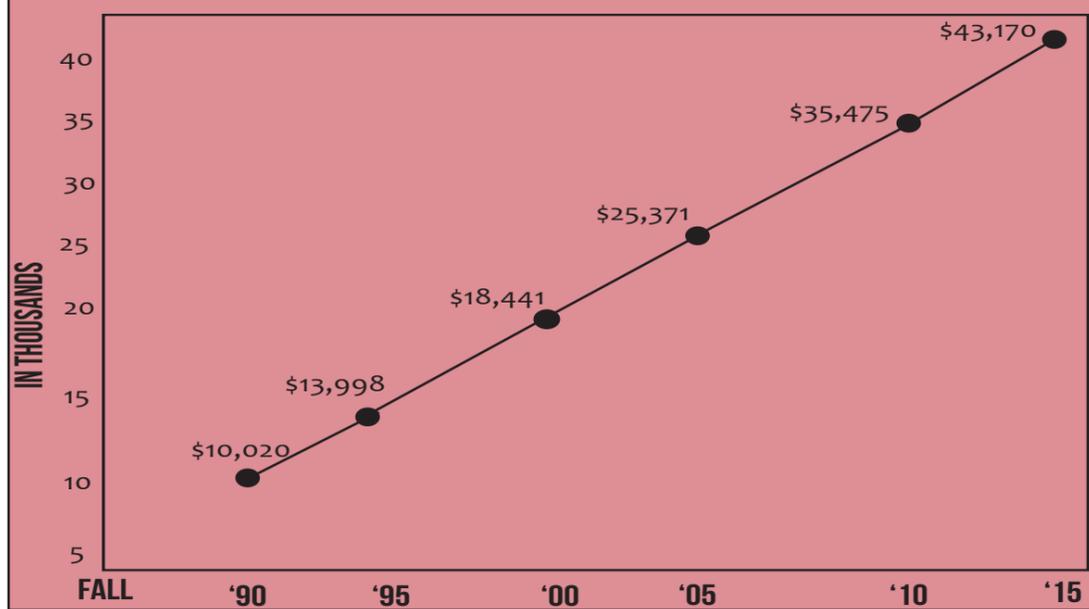
According to Waller, the emphasis on study abroad is rooted in Elon’s commitment for engaged learning.

“This is something Elon has kind of decided to find itself in and shape as part of its identity. The administration recognizes the exhaustive possibilities provided by global study programs,” she said. “Sure, there are other worthy pursuits at Elon, but my perspective is that Elon is at the forefront of experiential education and is striving to ensure equal access to that.”

Waller said she feels Elon supports other experiences such as undergraduate research and service learning opportunities just as much as it does study abroad.

“Elon is consistently named ‘best run,’” Waller said. “And I understand that as it knows how to direct its resources to worthy pursuits.”

TOTAL EXPENSES



GRAPHIC BY MIRANDA SIWAK | Design Editor

Q & A with SGA Presidential Candidates



Sean Barry



Avery Steadman

SGA
from cover

creased from 2013, with 2014 and 2206 voters, respectively.

2,014 students – just about 36 percent of Elon’s undergraduate population – voted in Spring 2014, a decrease from the 2206 students who voted in Spring 2013.

Executive President Joe Incorvia attributed the abnormally high number of voters in 2013 to the Chick-fil-A events that surrounded that year.

“It is our goal as SGA to make students aware of what we do and the impact we are able to have on Elon’s campus,” said Incorvia. “Unfortunately, that does not always result in students paying attention to what we do unless something big happens, like Chick-fil-a which preceded the elevated 2013 numbers.”

The Class of 2018, though, showed promising numbers in the fall 2014 elections. Current freshman class vice president and sophomore class vice president candidate Austin Martin said that typically 300-400 freshmen vote in SGA elections but more than 700 freshmen voted in fall 2014.

Hunter said that more candidates will increase voter turnout.

“If people are running unopposed they won’t campaign as much, so there won’t be as much awareness regarding the elections,” she said. “We do need to start with more people running, not necessarily getting more people to vote.”

With more than 50 students involved in SGA, students who are a part of it see it as a forum to make a positive change for Elon.

“SGA is a very popular voice of the students,” Martin said. “The administration respects us a lot and how we represent the student body with passion. It’s been a big part of my first semester and has helped me take pride in the school a lot more.”

For many involved students in SGA, the organization has not just been an extracurricular activity, but a way of life.

“SGA has been the single most transformative experience that I have had while at Elon,” said Incorvia. “I think when I look back over my time at Elon and realize that I never have had a Thursday without SGA I just have to laugh, because it is incredible how much I have changed since the first meeting I was at the first week of my first year at Elon.”

Q1: Why are you running?	
I got involved with SGA within the past year. I learned about everything SGA does and how much of an impact they have. Leading up to this year I saw that I could be at the forefront of the impact and make the changes students need.	[I’m running] because I’ve been serving as SGA as a freshman. I have grown to love it and found that SGA has an ability to reach all students and change Elon for the better. One of the amazing things SGA has done is change downstairs Moseley to a student center. It was going to be staff offices, but SGA worked to make it what it is today.
Q2: Previous SGA experience?	
I’ve just been involved this past year as the junior class president and also serve as chief of staff to [current president] Joe [Incorvia].	I was a freshman class treasurer, and also the sophomore class treasurer. Currently, I serve as the executive treasure and oversee around a \$650,000 budget.
Q3: What would you change about SGA?	
SGA internally is very efficient. When Wellsford [Scott Bishopric] was president he revamped org counsel. We need to revamp the at-large counsel. We also need to work on retention rate and internal environment with SGA so next year they will want to run.	The involvement. It’s a very tight-knit circle but we also lose people. We need a bigger variety of senators so we can reach more students. The openness and transparency of SGA needs to be improved, as well.
Q4: What impact have you personally made on SGA?	
This year was more of a transition year for me. I helped Joe out with his appointments and decisions. As junior class president I helped with planning of Luminaries.	One thing I’ve done this year is I refunded the budget hearing process. I went through the entire treasurer’s manual and revamped that. It’s a lot more clear now. I think there will be a lot more transparency between student government and the students. I also made the process for reimbursements a lot easier, which is now one sheet.
Q5: What initiatives do you plan to propose if elected as executive president?	
One of the main things I want to continue to focus on is to be available to students. I want to be a servant leader to every student on this campus. I want to improve SGA internally, [and] that starts with at-large counsel. I really want to push students to start student initiatives to stop sexual assault. I’ve been a part of the task force for sexual assault. We need to be aware of that and push student initiatives.	One of the things I’ve been thinking a lot about are more interactions between NPHC, PHC and IFC. If we work on that, we could see a lot more inclusion and diversity. [I also want to] work with getting all organizations on the same page. We have great spaces, but I don’t think we’ve been using them as much to facilitate discussions.
Q6: How has your background prepared you for the position?	
I am a Leadership Fellow on campus. Leadership is something I have been very passionate about at Elon. I have really formed into a great leader. I am growing every single day. Between other leadership positions I’ve already held it has already prepared me for the role of president. The type of leadership this position needs is to be a servant leader so everyone’s need and voices are heard.	After being on SGA for three and a half years, I’ve learned it hasn’t just been about being on senate, but being on Exec. It’s an incredible experience. It teaches you to be more responsible. It’s a full-time job. Having been on Exec already will make the transition time a lot smoother. If elected, I’ll be 100 percent ready to go as soon as my term begins.
Q7: What do you think the university’s top priorities should be over the next 5 years?	
Diversity is the number one goal in Elon’s 10-year plan. I am a diversity ambassador. It is hard to say what the university should work on for the next five years because ending sexual assault on this campus is something that is important.	Diversity and inclusion. The intellectual climate I could see growing so much more. This is a longer-term thing but our alumni involvement is weak. We need to find a way to make our students who are here currently feel like they are connected now.
Q9: What is your favorite Smitty’s ice cream flavor?	
I’m not the biggest ice cream fan in the world, but I do love the brown sugar flavor.	Armaretta cherry chip.
Q10: If you were to have dinner with 3 other people, dead or alive, who would they be?	
Ben Franklin, Elon Musk and Abe Lincoln.	Rubert Gint, Albert Einstein and Rosa Parks.
Q11: What quote motivates and inspires you?	
It’s from a Jack Johnson song, Upside Down—“Who’s to say I can’t do everything, but I can try.”	“Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light.” Albus Dumbledore

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Award winning poet takes Elon's stage

Diana Stancy
Senior Reporter

Phil Kaye, the only two-time recipient of the National College Poetry Slam award, opened his performance in Whitley Auditorium Thursday evening by explaining how he began to write his poem, "Surplus."

The Liberal Arts Forum at Elon University brought the award-winning poet to campus for a spoken word performance as the first event of the spring semester.

"I am not a strong boy, but I am trying to learn what it means to build," Kaye said.

He then introduced himself to the audience.

"I'm going to tell you some stories — some bad jokes. All I want you to do is sit back and relax," Kaye said.

Kaye did not hold back on the expletives. He often assumed a specific character throughout the performance, whether that was himself or the Geico gecko. But not all his poetry was light and humorous — he addressed serious issues, too. In one poem, "Repetition," he addressed some of the challenges he encountered during his parents' divorce.

He spoke about how his mother taught him to repeat something enough times and, eventually, the words or phrase would lose their meaning. He said the same is true in life.

"They whispered to each other 'I love

you' so many times over that they forgot what it meant," Kaye said.

Kaye also took questions from the audience.

"Those poems are really deep, and I was like, 'What?'" said one student in the midst of asking a question.

Kaye laughed and said he wished he could put the quote on his website.

He also addressed his relationship with poetry and explained why he found it to be a rewarding career.

"It's a humbling art form," Kaye said. "There's always more work to be done. There's always farther to push yourself."

Jessica Bilecki, education and outreach coordinator at the Office of Sustainability, said she loved the performance. She noted that many small aspects of Kaye's poems resonated with her.

"I think there were a lot of little parts," Bilecki said. "That's sort of how my brain works. It won't remember specific words, but I remember feelings."

Freshman Jackie Pascale said the performance was relevant for college students.

"I thought he was really relatable," Pascale said. "I thought he got on our level."

Earlier in the performance, Kaye mentioned that he often performs for younger elementary students. But, freshman Olivia Hays noted the content of this performance was more appropriate for older audiences.

"It seemed like he had been waiting

to perform these poems for college students," Hays said. "I think this was kind of a chance for him to take advantage of it."

Hays also acknowledged Kaye's animated performance and his ability to draw on personal experiences, while also adapting

to the various moods of the poems.

"I think his facial expressions — the way he talked about his grandpa — [were] different than the way he spoke about his daily writing," Hays said. "It was nice that he shared that with us."



HALI TALUXE-STEWART | Staff Photographer

Phil Kaye performed a mixture of light-hearted and serious poetry Feb. 12 in Whitley Auditorium. He brought a mixture of light-hearted and serious

Vaccine roulette: Breaking the myths to the controversy

Bryan Anderson
Assistant News Editor

Victoria Moore, an assistant professor of chemistry at Elon University, stood before her class prepared to educate her students. As she thought about how to explain how the media portrays scientific topics, one issue immediately popped into her head: vaccines.

From a 1982 WRC-TV, the local NBC affiliate in Washington, D.C., special, "Vaccine Roulette", to false publications from Andrew Wakefield to non-credible anecdotes from Jenny McCarthy, Moore has observed heightened fears of vaccines each year.

"I've gotten the flu vaccine for many years, and the one year I didn't get it, I got the flu,"

Moore said. "The benefits [of getting vaccinated] greatly outweigh the negatives."

To have or to have not

Deciding whether to get vaccinated is more than a personal preference. Not getting vaccinated affects more individuals than the person choosing not to receive the vaccine, as has been well-documented by a slew of experts in recent weeks.

In California, a measles outbreak spread throughout the state in January after an unvaccinated woman transmitted the virus through Disneyland and then to the airport nearby.

Herd immunity protects individuals who

have not yet developed immunity if a significant portion of the population (around 90 to 95 percent) has been vaccinated.

"To have the majority of people or as many people as possible be vaccinated [will help] keep the whole population safe," Moore said.

In *The Washington Post*, author Sarah Kliff, a former health policy reporter, noted in 2013 that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that flu vaccination rates decreased 11.1 percent from March 2012 to November 2012.

Mark Cryan, an assistant professor in sport and event management, is a major supporter of receiving certain vaccines such as the measles vaccine. But he doesn't see much purpose in getting a flu shot.

"I don't believe in the flu vaccine for me personally because it is not that effective," Cryan said. "To me, the risk-reward is a whole different balance and the down side to getting the flu is not that great."

Breaking vaccination myths

The beliefs that vaccines cause autism, are useless and should be 100 percent effective are some of the most common reasons why people don't get vaccinated, according to Moore.

No vaccine is 100 percent effective.

"There's variability in people in general, so everybody's immune system is going to be different," Moore said. "Given the difference in people, you're just going to have difference in response to vaccines."

Vaccines are useful

According to a January email released to students by Jana Lynn Patterson, dean of student health and wellness, the current flu vaccine is at best 50 to 60 percent effective.

Scientists try to predict which strain of the flu virus will get the most people sick each year.

"The problem is a Type A H3N2 strain

which showed significant antigenic drift from the one in the vaccine this year," Patterson wrote in the email.

Although the vaccine is not completely effective, it's far from completely useless. Patterson encouraged students to receive the vaccine.

"[The vaccine] is still going to protect against the flu 50 percent of the time and if you have had the vaccine and catch the flu, the illness is milder and less likely to lead to complications," Patterson wrote.

The autism controversy

Andrew Wakefield, a scientist who lost his license to practice within the profession, reported a link between the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine and autism.

In the wake of Wakefield's claims, scientists tried to repeat his study — they couldn't.

Wakefield's data wasn't replicable because he conducted a simple case series. This allowed him to take a biased sample dependent on the parents he selected.

With the proliferation of the Internet at the turn of the century, parents with autistic children sought out information on the cause of their child's disorder. Wakefield played on families' emotions in order to reap personal benefits. In the book "The Panic Virus," Seth Mnookin explains that Wakefield served as more of an advocate for parents than as a scientist.

According to Mnookin, Wakefield earned 435,643 euros for his involvement in publicly funded lawsuits filed by parents against drug companies.

Research has shown no link between vaccines and autism. In the CDC's MMR vaccine information sheet, rare but severe problems with receiving the vaccine include "serious allergic reactions, deafness, long-term seizures, comas and permanent brain damage."

Since the odds of encountering these problems are quite slim, it is difficult to de-



FILE PHOTO BY JANE SEIDEL

Medical Director of Student Health and University Physician Ginette Archinal prepares for flu season. by offering vaccines.

The Vagina Monologues advocates self-love

Elizabeth Elder
Senior Reporter

Valentine's Day this year brought a variety of celebrations to Elon University—one of them being a performance of "The Vagina Monologues." Written by playwright Eve Ensler and first performed in 1996, the play was created through Ensler's interviews episodic play with more than 200 different women.

The women ranged from 6 to 72 and were interviewed about their views on relationships, sex and violence against women. Raising awareness for violence against women was one of the main focuses of the play for Ensler.

The play has carried that focus into 2015. The proceeds of Elon's performance went to Crossroads Sexual Assault Response and Resource Center. According to its website, Crossroads serves "child and adult victims of sexual abuse through confidential counseling, advocacy, child medical treatment, education, and community awareness."

While the play features some serious monologues highlighting sexual violence—including those about rape and child molestation—the humorous bits stole the show, especially the performance titled "The Angry Vagina."

The monologue, highlighting the many ways people find to change and "torture" women's vaginas, inspired shouts and applause from the audience in agreement.

"When something is hidden, it goes along with being guilty," said Sharon Eisner, professor of gender studies and communications. "When something is spoken of, we're able to take a sense of empowerment, and women should not feel that they have to hide who they are, a very basic part of who they are. We shouldn't feel like [a vagina] can't be spoken of, like it's a dirty word."

Acknowledgement is a huge part of "The Vagina Monologues." While introducing the monologues, the narrators, senior Brianna Duff, freshman Zaria Zinn and sophomore Sarah Wright, explained that when the orig-

inal interviews were conducted, women were reluctant at first to discuss the questions. But as the interview proceeded, they found it hard to stop talking.

The interviewees were reluctant because they had never been asked about it before. As Eisner said, "The Vagina Monologues" hopes to increase the conversation and acceptance of discussion about vaginas and women themselves.

"We need to acknowledge our bodies," said the narrators at the end of the play. "Our vaginas."

The monologues included quite a few perspectives, including a 6-year-old, a Bosnian rape survivor, a vagina workshop participant, a 72-year-old who had never seen her own vagina and a woman who was just happy to have found a guy who "liked to look at it."

Male involvement in "The Vagina Monologues" is important. The first monologue in the show, titled "Hair," is about how women feel the need to change their own bodies to fit the expectations of men.

"We live in a culture where women routinely perform surgery to be more attractive," Eisner said. "Many people prioritize the experience of being looked at over experience in their own bodies. It's hard for men to get these issues unless they hear true stories. One or two will really make a difference in their world view."

"The Vagina Monologues" strives to push these issues to the front of people's minds. Audience members walk away with a different view of the female body—a view that emphasizes loving your body for what it is.

"I think it's a great way to spend your Valentine's Day," said sophomore acting major Emily Collins, who performed in the play last year. "The show contains material that is funny, sentimental and powerful."

Collins also believes that "The Vagina Monologues" addresses issues that are especially prevalent on college campuses.

"The pressures and issues of assigned gender roles and insecurities about physical appearance are present at most, if not all, col-



HUNTER STRAUCH | Staff Photographer

From left to right: Sarah Wright '17, Zaria Zinn '18, and Courtney MacMasters '17 performed in The Vagina Monologues Feb. 14.

lege campuses," she said. "So, on the day to celebrate love, ["The Vagina Monologues"] reminds us to love each other for who we are. The show encourages women to embrace all that makes them unique and beautiful."

Eisner also believes it is important for men to see women and vaginas in a different way than they see them in pornography.

"I really, really feel strongly that a lot of our culture experiences vagina as a part of porn rather than as a life experience," she said. "I am of the opinion that it would be good if men would watch [the show]."

In a society where porn is readily available at all times on the internet, the need for plays like "The Vagina Monologues" has become more significant. Gender professionals think both men and women need to have a more respectful and realistic view of the female body.

When the play was first performed almost two decades ago, people were skeptical because of the discussion of controversial subjects. As society rapidly continues to change, some critics accuse "The Vagina Monologues" of not being inclusive enough.

Though the play seeks to achieve such basic goals, it has received acclamation for its exclusivity and honest approach to such

harsh topics.

The play was canceled this year at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts for excluding the experiences of transgender women who don't actually have vaginas.

Elsewhere, it was well received at Elon. Audience members laughed throughout the performance at appropriate moments and fell silent at moments when tough issues were addressed.

Senior and narrator Brianna Duff attributes her decision to the uniqueness of the opportunity and how it addressed issues that affect her personally.

"I wanted to challenge myself to be a part of something that pushed me outside my comfort zone and in how I spoke about women's issues," Duff said.

The acknowledgement of these issues is something Duff thinks "The Vagina Monologues" approaches in a unique way.

"The Vagina Monologues" is an unapologetic examination of a number of things burdening women all over the world," she said. "I think 'The Vagina Monologues' is an amazing way to bring awareness to these issues without feeling too technical or too removed from those who are affected."

SMART boards bring changes in learning, opportunity



LAUREN DUNCAN | Multimedia Reporter

Two SMART boards were placed in the School of Education building in Mooney 206.

Ashley Lowe
Senior Reporter

The start of a new semester comes with an exciting new addition in the School of Education: A SMART Board lab has officially been added to Mooney 206.

This lab will enhance the learning experience for Elon students studying to be educators. According to the SMART website, "teachers, students and business people say that SMART has helped them discover new ideas, new way of learning, and a new way of collaborating."

The lab, built during Winter Term, is in full use as of Feb. 3, and it is the only one of its kind at Elon. SMART Boards have been used on campus for the last eight years, but this is the first lab to make an appearance. Classes will take place in this lab for the rest of the semester, and it will continue to be used for future academic years. There are three 87" 800 Series SMART Boards in the new lab. The goal is to promote interactive learning.

"The lab was developed to put three SMART Boards in one location in order for them to collaborate," said Joseph Rich,

the AV systems integrator at Elon. "This means that different groups can make edits to one document on separate SMART Boards and it will appear on all three screens. These groups can also edit the document independently, and then share the information with the other boards later."

Two students can write on the SMART Boards at the same time without their data crossing paths. Six students can all make additions to a single document at the same time.

Rich is meeting with the students who take classes in the lab next week in order to teach them all the capabilities of the SMART Boards. The interactive and collaborative learning the SMART Boards provide is the biggest benefit that the students will reap from this new lab.

Freshman Griffin Blumb is excited about the new lab on Elon's campus.

"I loved the use of SMART Boards in high school," Blumb said. "They provided a different element to the learning experience that I found beneficial. They have the ability to reach every type of learner because of the interactive element."

Each of the 800 Series SMART Boards costs \$4,999, so the lab total is \$14,997. With installation, the cost of the SMART Board lab is \$17,547.

Because Mooney 206 is a small classroom, it presents a problem.

"The space is an issue with the boards and lots of students and desks in the room

as well," Rich said.

Students will have to adapt to the close proximity during class. Distractions from the "new toy" also present an issue for students who are trying to concentrate on class material in the lab.

Some students are questioning whether this new lab is worth the cost.

Elon is at a crossroads with the SMART Board lab now that it is up and running.

"The School of Education wants to be the sole owners of this lab, but other departments at the university are hoping to get involved," Rich said.

Elon is interested to find out the impact that the addition of this lab will have on current and future students regardless if they belong to the School of Education or not.

"We can only go up from here," Rich said.

Elon is not the only upper-level institution to install SMART Boards in their classrooms. Clemson University also has SMART Boards on campus to facilitate teaching and learning on campus. The Clemson Computing and Information Technology department makes sure the SMART Boards are running properly and enhancing Clemson's students learning on campus. Elon University's SMART lab differs from Clemson, and it is unique because of the fact that multiple SMART Boards occupy one room.

Students mourn lives of Chapel Hill victims



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Senior Sophia Spach lights a candle Thursday, Feb. 12 in remembrance of the triple murder that occurred in Chapel Hill.

Leena Dahal
Assistant News Editor

In the wake of the Chapel Hill triple murder, Elon University students, faculty and community members united in mourning for the events that occurred merely 42 miles away.

More than 100 students gathered in Numen Lumen's sacred space to mourn the loss of three students who were murdered in Chapel Hill on Wednesday. The victims of the crime were Deah Barakat, 23, his wife, Yusor Abu-Sallah, 21 and her sister, Razan Abu-Sallah, 19. They were killed in their home in Chapel Hill by neighbor Craig Stephen Hicks, 46. Hicks' family claims the incident occurred over a parking dispute. Barakat's father called it a "hate crime," which has stirred conversation on the discrimination faced by American Muslims despite no official recognition of it as such.

Hicks, who turned himself in to authorities, has been charged with three counts of first-degree murder. A neighbor called 911 reporting five to 10 shots and the sound of people screaming.

Jan Fuller, university chaplain, opened the evening by speaking on peace and humility and the spread of love.

"We have become a world that is full of racial and religious misunderstanding, disrespect and even hatred," Fuller said. "This is not the way of God."

Elon President Leo Lambert followed

Fuller's remarks with a discussion on the presence of hate in society.

"Our lives have become a toxic mix of violence fueled by mental illness, religious-based violence and race-based violence," he said.

He also pointed to the role social media plays in perpetuating hate and disillusionment.

"And then we are subjected to what follows: the posturing, cruelty, closed-mindedness, pettiness, snarkiness and 'piling on' of our so-called 'social media,' which more often feel like anti-social media," Lambert said. "It is all numbing and spirit crushing."

Brian Pennington, the director of the Center for the Study of Religion, Culture and Society, urged the community not to overlook the fact that the victims were Muslim and pointed to the alarming rise of Islamophobia in U.S. society.

"This Islamophobia, a lethal threat that Muslims face everyday, does not discriminate between so-called 'good Muslims' and 'bad Muslims,'" he said. "It only sees headscarves and beards."

As students lit candles in remembrance of the lives of the victims, many embraced in a sign of support.

"It's so hard when acts like this happen," senior Sophia Spach said. "We should live in a world where there is religious diversity and acceptance, and this tragedy reminds us that there are still people out there who are capable of committing such horrible acts of violence."

When Fuller called upon the community to share their pain and thoughts, the crowd sat silently in their seats. Shahad Haswa, a junior and the president of Elon's Muslim Student Association, said it was difficult to articulate the sentiments she was feeling because of unanswered questions in the tragedy.

"I have been waking up everyday to what seems to be never-ending and traumatizing news, but something about the Chapel Hill incident really shook me," Haswa said. "Realizing that this happened only 45 minutes away to people who believe in the same beliefs I have just seemed unreal."

Haswa pointed to the failure of media in its role of perpetuating an inaccurate view of Islam. She said instead of labelling Hicks a "terrorist," like the media would do had he been Muslim, he was simply labelled a "trouble-maker."

"Spreading extremely biased and ignorant news and views on Islam has become some sort of a trend around the world," she said. "Islamophobia is unbelievably wide spread and entirely based on inaccurate views of what 'Islam' really stands for and what it really is."

She urged students to realize terrorism has no religion.

Haswa closed the vigil with a recitation of Surat Al-Fatihah, the opening verse of the Holy Quran, which calls for the spread of love and peace in humanity.

News Briefs

Elon freshman to compete on "The Voice"

Elon University freshman Lowell Oakley will advance to the blind auditions of "The Voice," NBC's primetime singing show.

Oakley was featured in the show's season 8 preview. Since he was seen on the main stage, he made it past the preliminary auditions. The two-hour season will air on NBC at 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23.

According to "The Voice" website, Pharrell Williams, Blake Shelton, Adam Levine and Christina Aguilera will be the four members on the judges panel critiquing Oakley's performance.

Burlington resident accidentally sets own house on fire

Fifteen members of the Burlington Police Department rushed to 922 Bellvue St. after homeowner David Isley accidentally burned his house down Sunday.

According to the Burlington Times-News, Isley was illegally burning leaves in his backyard when severe winds spread the fire to his house. These high winds forced the firefighters to spend about an hour getting the situation under control. After the blaze died down, firefighters tended to the hot spots.

Isley was not injured, and firefighters rescued two dogs from inside the burning house. But the fire did cause significant structural damage. Battalion Fire Chief Brad Bailey called the house a "total loss."

Journalism student receives top honors from White House News Photographers Association

The White House News Photographers Association named Al Drago, a senior journalism major at Elon University, Student Photographer of the Year as part of its "Eyes of History" student still photography contest.

Drago has worked with several on-campus student media organizations in order to hone his skills. He is a former photo editor for The Pendulum and is the current chief photographer for Elon Local News.

Drago is invited to attend the WHNPA's annual "Eyes of History" gala in Washington, D.C. in May.

Elon ranked No.3 on list of Fulbright producing master's

Elon University produced a record number of Fulbright students for the 2014-15 year.

Six graduates from the Class of 2014 received Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grants.

Elon ranked behind Villanova University and Rollins College for the number of students awarded Fulbright awards.

The Fulbright competition at Elon is administered through the Office of National and International Fellowships.

Chapel Hill triple-murderer indicted by Durham County grand jury

Craig Stephen Hicks was charged with three counts of first-degree in his indictment by a Durham County grand jury Monday.

Hicks was charged with the murder of Deah Shaddy Barakat, Yusor Mohommad Abu-Salha and Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha.

Assistant Capital Defender Stephen Freedman was appointed to Hicks' case.

GREEK LIFE STANDARDS

— Hazing Prevention Policy —

Hazing

Subtle hazing: behaviors that emphasize a power imbalance between new members and other members of the group or the team

Harassment hazing: behaviors that cause emotional anguish or physical discomfort in order to feel like a part of the group.

Violent hazing: behaviors that have the potential to cause physical and/or emotional or psychological harm

Hazing Sanctions

Individuals: normally, not less than preliminary suspension with possible permanent separation; educational program or project, and campus restitution hours

Organizations: normally, not less than loss of campus housing and suspension of official university recognition for one academic year with possible permanent removal of official university recognition

PI KAPPA PHI

from cover

Association Executive Presidents were brothers of Pi Kappa Phi.

This is the second case of alleged hazing in Greek Life in the past six months. In November 2014 Sigma Pi was issued a three-year suspension for hazing.

Representatives of Sigma Pi attended a hearing with Elon's Honor Board in October 2014.

The hearing confirmed the alleged hazing report and then issued a three-year suspension, which banned the organization from recruiting new members or holding philanthropy events.

Should any student have information that may aid in the investigation, please report it to the Office of Student Conduct (in person or anonymously through the hotline at 336-278-4293).

Editorial

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

Mind the gap

Expectations of Federal Work-Study leaves holes in financial aid packages

Elon University faces a supply and demand issue when it comes to providing on-campus jobs for students who qualify for the Federal Work-Study Program.

Put simply, the number of qualifying students outweighs the number of jobs available. But the issue is not the number of jobs. It's that some students and their parents rely on that income, and there's no guarantee for them it exists.

If a student who qualifies for work-study does not get hired, he or she is expected to make up the difference.

For example, if they qualify for \$3,000 in financial aid via work-study and are not employed on campus, the remainder must be filled through private loans or another source. Some students are forced to pay out of pocket.

Still, the amount students are expected to earn through work-study is calculated into the total financial aid package before freshmen step on campus.

The website for the Office of Financial Planning acknowledges no guarantee of finding work on campus, even for students qualified for work-study. Roughly 1,388 Elon students — 24 percent of the student body — qualify for the program.

Ideally, Elon would be able to offer

jobs to every student who needs one, but that's not a realistic goal, especially considering the size of Elon's campus.

The number of jobs available on campus varies slightly each semester, but there are around 1,100 student employ-

ment positions at Elon — enough for 20 percent of the student body.

Even if on-campus employers exclusively hired students with work-study, there still wouldn't be jobs available for 289 of them. Though some employers

hire only students with work-study, not all campus employers hire solely from that pool.

The resulting competition for on-campus jobs leaves some students or their parents cutting a check they thought financial aid would cover.

To qualify for work-study, students must receive financial aid that does not pay for their tuition in full.

Work-study isn't the only chance for students to earn financial aid money. The Providing Aid through Campus Employment (PACE) program guarantees on-campus employment to students who require a lesser degree of financial assistance than those qualified for work-study. The PACE Program accepts a completely different pool of applicants, and provides student loans, but no other financial aid.

Students in the program are ensured a job on campus, while students with work-study — whose need was determined greater by the Office of Financial Planning — compete with the rest of the student body for employment.

Given the reality of how the work-study program works at Elon, the Office of Financial Aid needs to be more forthcoming about the percentage of students who qualify but can't find a job.



LANE DEACON | Staff Photographer

Senior Holly Smith completes her work-study at the Office of Phoenix Card Services.

Stories are told by people, not assigned by them

At the end of my first day at Elon University as a freshman a year ago, I had a stark realization:



Leena Dahal
Columnist

there's something seriously wrong with my English.

After all, most of my professors that day had a question about it. Why is your accent so great if you're from Nepal?

Where did you learn English?

While I came to understand these queries came from a good place, I was suddenly hit by a wave of questions about my identity that I had never thought to ask myself.

International students face a dilemma of having to maneuver through genuine curiosity and genuine ignorance. The difference between the two is clear. To employ a "Mean Girls" reference, the latter makes me Cady Heron and you Karen Smith, except that Gretchen Wieners isn't there to

say, "Oh my God, Karen. You can't just ask people why they're white."

No, I don't speak "Indian." Nobody in the world does, for that matter. What kind of music do I listen to? Well, Drake. Yes, I've heard of him. Oh, you moved three chairs down to see if I could pronounce this foreign word? Sorry, Nepalese people speak "Nepali," not Arabic. What am I? I don't know, because I'm not an object.

Other internationals have shared their frustration around certain "types" of questions too: Yes, you can be considered international if your parents are from the States. I grew up overseas, so that's still part of my identity, right? I appreciate your concern for me not wearing a "headscarf," but not all Muslims wear a hijab. Before you paint a picture about how "relieved I must feel to be in the United States," please note I love my country.

Why ask questions if you've already summed a person up? If preconceived notions guide your

questions in the first place, the odds of really getting to know me are little to none.

We love answering questions and educating when we can, but not when questions are constructed in a way that makes us feel like we're supposed to be super-cultural aliens who have quirky traditions for your entertainment.

We love genuine curiosity, especially when it's funneled through comfortable space, admittance of ignorance and careful thought. And trust me, we can tell if your questions come from there.

For a while, I started telling students I was from "the D.C. area." I felt like whipping out the "international card" would deter people from really getting to know me because they would either be afraid of offending me or they would place me in a box where the only thing they'd ever talk to me about was where I was from.

Ask questions, but think about them first. When you're done, get to know the people you're talking

to rather than only focusing on the country they represent, because their story consists of more than that.

There's an unwritten expectation from the university for internationals to adopt ambassador roles and serve as one of the living, breathing forms of Elon's "commitment to diversity and global engagement."

It has changed me. Somewhere in my journey to educate and inform those with genuine curiosity about where I am from, I lost myself. Being Nepali is one part of me, but when you only put one of your identity hats on, you start to forget about the stockpile of other vibrant headgear that play equally important roles in defining you.

It's not only about being international, but also about being part of the "other" on this campus — whatever that "other" is.

When you're an outlier, the superimposed identity conferred on you tends to be in battle with the other identities you hold. It becomes more apparent that you

are not American, foreign, white, brown, black, rich, straight, affiliated or whatever it is you don't identify as.

Our attention to otherness is clear in the way we form groups on this campus. Most of us choose to stick with people who share that otherness because we are so obsessed with the notion of it.

But because I was solely latching on to what made me different, I found it impossible to relate to anybody.

I'm Leena, and I'm from Nepal. But that's not all. I also collect currencies and love to read autobiographies. My Instagram is on fire. Nicki Minaj is my home-girl, and I have a weird obsession with owls. Oh, and I practice occasional sassiness.

So let people tell their story, but don't assign one to them. And to the "others," don't let being different identify you. Identity is fluid, multifaceted and ever-changing. Take time to celebrate who you are rather than only focusing on what sets you apart.

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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Managing Editor
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Editor-in-Chief of The Edge
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Gauging the need for a convocation center

Athletic recruitment begins with facilities

A prized basketball recruit makes his visit to Elon University, and as the coaching staff tries to schmooze him and his parents as best



Tommy Hamzik
Columnist

they can, the group arrives at Alumni Gym.

They walk into the arena where the recruit would be playing his home games for the next four years should he decide to attend Elon. And he's not impressed.

"It's so much smaller," the recruit thinks, "compared to the gyms at William & Mary and James Madison."

That's precisely the challenge Elon faces right now with its move to the Colonial Athletic Association. The schools Elon is competing with play in arenas far larger than Alumni Gym, which in turn are more attractive to prospective incoming freshmen.

By building a multi-use convocation center where the Phoenix could play its basketball games, Elon would instantly become a sexier place to play Division I basketball.

Alumni Gym has been a serviceable home court for Elon basketball teams for more than 50 years while the Phoenix competed through the NAIA, Division II and ultimately Division I ranks as a member of the Big South Conference and the Southern Conference.

The arena's capacity is 1,607 — by far the smallest in the CAA. The next closest is Drexel University's Daskalakis Athletic Center, which seats 2,532.

The largest is Kaplan Arena at William & Mary, which holds about 8,600 for basketball games.

Sure, CAA teams don't sell out their gyms for most home basketball games. James Madison, which plays at the 6,426-seat Convocation Center, has sold out just one of its 16 home games this year, and that was the season opener against No. 9 University of Virginia.

But attendance shouldn't be an issue. Elon hovers between 1,200 and 1,500 fans for most of its home games.

Instead, look at the "If you build it, they will come," approach. If Phoenix basketball boasts a big arena, recruits will be more attracted to the program.

Elon is currently in ninth place out of 10 teams in the CAA in men's basketball. Elon isn't necessarily struggling because of its small home gym, but it's clear its opponents have better facilities in place to assemble high-level talent.

To attract the caliber of player required to compete in the CAA, Elon needs a better selling point than Alumni Gym. It pales in comparison to gyms at other conference schools, giving recruits less of an incentive to play here when other CAA schools have an offer on board.

The uses of a convocation center extend beyond athletics. Right now, the rain plan for Commencement moves the ceremony to Alumni Gym, and limits each graduate to two tickets for guests.

If Elon had a larger convocation center, the rain plan would be more comfortable. More guests of graduates would be able to attend.

The convocation center could also host concerts. Elon could avoid noise complaints and wouldn't be forced to use a parking lot on campus, since the arena would hold upwards of 7,000 people with additional floor seating for concerts.

Elon has made it known it wants to compete at a higher level athletically. No longer is the Phoenix competing with the likes of Wofford College or Furman University.

Basketball is one of the more popular spectator sports on campus. For Elon to be competitive once again in those games, building a larger arena is just one step in the right direction.

Invest in the future, not the facilities

Bigger and better does not the best campus make — despite what Elon University would have you think.



Michael Bodley
Columnist

The latest in a series of dramatic transformations, plans for a new "Convocation Center," a 5,000-seat stadium and gathering place has been backed already by an \$8 million donation.

Heralded by Elon as a much-needed space for campus-wide conversations, the multi-use facility aims also to push the school's struggling athletics to a place of prominence in its transition to the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA).

There is a much better use for that much money, but the sell is a much harder one. It requires focusing not on the present, not on the near future, but rather on what's quite a ways down the road.

That \$8 million should be invested in Elon's endowment.

Part of the largest single donation in the university's history — \$12 million total — the targeted gift this school year by Elon parents Dwight and Martha Schar was heralded as a "historic investment in Elon's future."

The lack of sustainable financial support for that future is troubling.

To start, Elon is a tuition-dependent institution, meaning it relies almost exclusively on new students each year to pay the university's day-to-day bills. That source looks to be reliable — so far, the school has executed its "slow growth" model quite well.

Endowments are targeted gifts, yes, but they become a reflection of the university's priorities. The Schar's didn't dream up the Center. Elon did. They generously supported.

This reliance on tuition comes at the expense of financial aid. Take a trio of Elon's self-identified peer institutions: Davidson College, the University of Richmond and Wake

Forest University. Now, take recent valuations of their respective endowments: \$649 million, \$2.02 billion and \$1.06 billion.

Take Elon's endowment: \$191 million. To be fair, it has more than tripled since its 2005 valuation of \$61,275 million. That's not pocket change. That means something.

But shoring up the university's financial security has long taken a backseat to cushioning its amenities. The "country-club effect" is an over-simplification, but not much of one. Sorry, High Point University, but we're you in a book-smart sheep's clothing.

Despite the buzz around Elon's academic rise from a party school to a force to be reckoned with, the numbers don't quite match up. Over the last decade, applications have swelled, but so has the acceptance rate.

At a time when most acceptance rates are the lowest ever — the result of aggressive marketing tactics from college admissions offices — Elon's has gone in the opposite direction. It's up a staggering 13 percentage points from 2005's rate, to 54 percent this year.

We're attracting more students. We're not attracting better ones. And we're attracting a lot of carbon copies of each other.

It all circles back to funding. The white-washed campus — 82 percent so — is comfortable for students who know no different. It captivates prospective students for the wrong reasons. I know it — I was one.

Despite what I tell almost everyone, I didn't choose Elon for its academic rigor or renowned communications program. I chose Elon because the grass was flawless and the people were beautiful, because it seemed to me the kind of place where nothing could go wrong.

Shallow? Yes. Shortsighted? Absolutely. But at least now I can admit it. And I *know* I'm not the only one.

For now, all the talk of improving intellectual climate and increasing the caliber of academics is just that — talk. There is no question that Elon has grown by academic leaps and bounds since President Leo Lambert took over and led the school into the national spotlight. He has provided the kind of vision and leadership that has taken Elon from a small regional college to a university with a national name to match.

But on what are we staking such progress? Is it architecture alone?

To be sure, the Convocation Center will work wonders for recruiting, a shimmering shrine to the basketball and volleyball teams. To be sure, the athletes — even the struggling men's basketball team — deserve a better place to play than the half-century-old Alumni Gym. (That said, I'm not sold on doubling the capacity for a team that sells out only a handful of games each season.)

But, there's more at stake here, and that's a focus on the flashy. Elon has staked its reputation more on well-watered lawns than on those who walk them. From the hotel-like Global Neighborhood to the new admissions center of palatial proportions, the university has placed a premium on eye candy.

A Convocation Center would be nice, but it's not what should matter most to this university at this time. If endowed with a standard 4.5 percent return, that \$8 million would generate \$360,000 in interest each year. That's real money to make Elon more affordable, real money that says something.

As long as Elon remains a tuition-dependent university, what we say will never be what we mean. Unless we can see beyond buildings, we'll lag always a step behind.

The true worth of a college education lies in the maturation of the diploma. Making sustainable funding the university's top priority will, in time, deliver the best return on the investment of its students.

DOCTORS' ORDERS

HOW TO SPEND YOUR GAP SEMESTER AND LEARN JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY IN ONE FELL SWOOP



Lauryl Fischer & Frankie Campisano
Columnists

We all wanna' ball as hard as Jay-Z. Ball is life, so life is hard. Sometimes, we question major decisions we've made or need to make, like what our major is going to be or whether to graduate early. Other times, we fail to adhere to ethical journalistic standards in our work, and our careers and credibility are called into question.

Sometimes it's just an accident — you embellish a war story one time on national television, and suddenly you've got to stick to that version of events and pray nobody fact checks you. It's not lying if you don't get caught, right?

Wrong.

When these kinds of things happen, life calls for us to take a break — maybe a six-month break at the insistence of your corporate overlords. Students call this a gap semester.

If any of the above rings a bell, or you happen to be a famous millionaire on Elon Univer-

sity's School of Communications Advisory Board, then this column is for you.

You've got a lot of free time on your hands now, and sure, you've got enough money to disappear forever and live better than 99 percent of the planet, but maybe you love the limelight and want to restore your honor like a real-life Prince Zuko. We can respect that.

First, take a deep breath. Listen to the wisest voices of the pop culture bible. It is written in the Book of Miley Cyrus that nobody's perfect. Believe her. Just never make that mistake again.

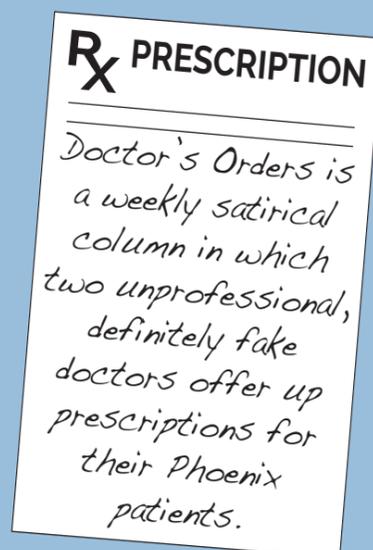
And it might help if you disclose every time something like this has happened while the ball is in your court. You don't want to keep telling the story about bodies floating past your hotel if the story is tantamount to fanfiction. You've got to be 100 percent honest from now on.

If you so much as tweet about what you had for breakfast, there better be a matching Instagram post with proof. Maybe even timestamp the picture so we can be sure it wasn't a meal someone else had an hour before you even sat down to eat.

If you've got a halfway decent voice, you might want to take the Usher approach and confess your sins over some smooth R&B. If you can parlay this media attention into a Saturday Night Live hosting gig, might we suggest a play on Richard Nixon's "I Am Not

a Crook" for your opening monologue? Lorne Michaels probably won't let you anywhere near the Weekend Update desk though — that's for the best.

If you did repeat your mistakes — say, by releasing a statement apologizing for your lie and then omitting key details of the truth in that same statement — well, you could have handled that better. If honesty's just not your thing, Fox News is still putting literally anyone on the air, and it's not like they've ever cared much about journalistic integrity anyway.



The road from Elon to iTunes

Sophomore Brooke Greenberg releases her first single

Courtney Campbell
Style Editor

Brooke Greenberg started to sing as soon as she could talk.

At 7, Greenberg, now a sophomore, went to an open-casting call, found an agent and a voice teacher and started performing in musical theater. While watching Taylor Swift's "Love Song" music video at 13, she became inspired to learn guitar and write her own songs. She has been writing her own music ever since.

"You Already Knew" is known

Under the stage name Brooke Alexx, Greenberg has released her first single, "You Already Knew," on iTunes. The song dropped Feb. 14. In the first 24 hours it sold about 200 copies, and more than 600 people watched the music video.

"I'd say [the single has been doing] pretty well," Greenberg said. "Everyone has been Snapchatting and texting me that they love it, and my friends and family have been sharing it on Facebook."

Lyrics such as "All this time you were just using me," "All your lies, I foolishly believed" and a repetitive chorus of "You already knew" come from her life experiences.

"The song is about a boy I was with who already knew he was going to end it the whole time," Greenberg said. "I've been told the song is more pop with a hint of country. I'd describe it as an edgy, I'm-better-off-without-you anthem."

Greenberg wrote the single fall 2013 and said it is her favorite both lyrically and melodically. She performed it in "Electric Ensemble," both a course and a band in which students perform their original works as a group, and it was received well by the audience.

The reception was so positive that she decided to record it.

"Having a song on iTunes has always been a goal of mine, something on my bucket list," Greenberg said. "Just to have my own original music out there, it's so exciting. I'm just excited for my friends and family to hear it and see what they think,



Brooke Greenberg recorded her first single, "You Already Knew," with the help of Elon students and an alumnus using Elon facilities and technology. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BROOKE GREENBERG

but you never know who could see it. If you don't put yourself out there, nothing can happen."

A little help from my friends

Her friend Spencer Clarke, a senior and member of Elon's all-male a cappella group, Rip_Chord, recorded and mixed for her. He started working with Greenberg through Limelight Records, an on-campus record label, during her first year at Elon.

"At the time, Brooke's songwriting wasn't really up to par, so there weren't enough good songs for a full album," Clarke said. "After a year of classes and some management changes on her end, we agreed to just work on a single of her best song, 'You Already Knew.'"

Like Greenberg, Clarke agrees that this was the best choice for her first single.

"It checks all the right boxes for being popular music, and it could certainly make

ple," he said.

The recording process began in January with the creation of scratch tracks, or throwaway recordings, of Greenberg on guitar and voice.

Clark then added members from the Electric Ensemble to the track, with senior Jack Garno on guitar and bass, senior Jake Valente on drums, junior Addison Hornor on synthesizer and senior Jess Riloff on backup vocals.

Having so many members to record made scheduling difficult. The musicians had to find times when everyone was free and when the recording studio was open.

"Some days, the recording studio would be already booked weeks in advance," Clarke said. "So we took my equipment down to the audio suites in the School of Communications and recorded down there."

A Winter Term of work

Clarke spent his Winter Term 2015 weekends mixing the song and sending it to friends and alumni of the music department for feedback. It went through five rounds of reviews before it was ready.

To help get the word out, Greenberg contacted Elon alumnus Matt Carter '13 to design the album cover art and Facebook cover photo. Then, during the summer, seniors Julia Boyd and Cappy Leonard contacted Greenberg to ask if she wanted to do a music video that they could add to their portfolio. It worked out perfectly for both parties.

"They were very accommodating and professional," Greenberg said. "I loved working with them."

The "You Already Knew" music video features familiar spots around campus. It begins in The Oak House, where Greenberg is scribbling lyrics. The rest flashes between Greenberg performing with the band and scenes of a relationship between Greenberg and a young man, played by senior Jordan Roman, falling apart.

The music video can be found on Greenberg's YouTube channel "Brooke-Alexx" along with various covers she has recorded, including "Take Me Home" by

Cash Cash and "Stay With Me" by Sam Smith.

Planning out the release of the single was the hardest part, but also the most rewarding.

"It was difficult because I had to put everything together," Greenberg said. "But that was also my favorite part. I love being hands-on and doing things myself, so I'm glad I had basically all the power in determining everything from the plot of the music video to the date everything would be released."

Greenberg has written many other songs during her career. Her first, written when she was a sophomore in high school, is called "Your Song," which was inspired by her father.

She hopes to record another this semester, assuming she can get the whole team together again.

Keeping with the beat

Since this is Greenberg's first recorded song, she still has plenty to learn as an artist, but Clarke said she has potential.

"I think Brooke still has a lot to learn in terms of songwriting, but if everything in her future gets better than this, I think she has the potential to have a lot of success in popular music," he said. "Her voice is unreal."

On campus, Greenberg is involved with different forms of music. She sings with the a cappella group Sweet Signatures, which allows her to practice singing while surrounded by a group that supports her.

"It's my favorite thing I'm involved with on campus," Greenberg said. "Our friendships are very real, and I love that it's such a tight-knit group of girls, and we all get to do what we love together. It's a special thing, and I am lucky to be a part of it."

Greenberg has also signed with Limelight Music Group, Elon's promotional group for up-and-coming musicians. She may be doing shows throughout the spring as well.

For now, she will continue to write and create what she can.

"I love that lyrics and melody can convey what words can't," Greenberg said. "It's



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BROOKE GREENBERG

it to the radio if she knew the right peo-

Waiting on the world to change: **TEDx** conference

Danielle Deavens
Senior Reporter

When Elon University junior Johanna Rosen agreed to handle public relations for last year's TEDx event, "Innovation Into Practice," she had no idea that she would be organizing another conference just a year later.

Nonetheless, Rosen, with the help of co-director Meredith Berk, a junior, has tied it all together.

A collection of speakers who are "Waiting on the World to Change" will show just how that is possible at Elon University's second TEDx conference on a variety of social and judicial issues.

The co-directors' varied interests led to the theme's development.

"[Berk] is really interested in the education and the anthropology side of things, and I was interested in the justice system," Rosen said.

Once Rosen and Berk's license application was accepted by the TEDx program, they began to build a planning committee.

Soon after they announced their need for volunteers, the committee worked with Elon's "I Am That Girl," a global organization dedicated to improving self-esteem, self-image and self-awareness in girls and women, to bring the co-founder of the organization, Emily Greener, to speak at the event. Greener



GRAPHIC BY STEPHANIE HAYS | Design Editor

agreed to fly from Los Angeles to speak at the conference.

This was both exciting and unexpected for sophomore Alli Lindenberg, president of I Am That Girl.

"I am very fortunate to know Emily," Lindenberg said. "I've met her several times, and she is a wonderful woman. Of course, I wanted the rest of my chapter to have the opportunity to meet her, but this was more an opportunity for Emily to spread her voice and message."

Lindenberg is excited to see one of her role models on stage.

"Her experiences through

fighting for a better world for girls give her a powerful platform," Lindenberg said. "She is perfect for this TEDx event because Emily works for a positive change in our world every day, and we are waiting on the world to embrace and use that change for the better."

Five others will join Greener to discuss global change in the fields of criminal justice, education, leadership and economics.

Theresa Newman, co-founder of the Wrongful Convictions Clinic, where Duke University students study the cases of wrongful convictions, will speak

on the process of exoneration in her talk "Waiting is a Beast." She works with the Innocence Network, an affiliation of organizations that provides free services to incarcerated individuals trying to prove their innocence.

Former Elon student Jennifer Thompson, who was raped in 1984 at age 22, will present "And Then the World Changed Me," a talk about judicial reform and the healing power of forgiveness. In 2010, she co-wrote the book "Picking Cotton" with Ronald Cotton, the man she mistakenly identified as her rapist.

Chairman David A. Levy of

The Jerome Levy Forecasting Center is an economist, investor and hedge fund manager. The Forecasting Center uses a profit-centered approach to economic forecasting and consulting. Levy will present a talk called "Where Profits Come From: The Critical Question Never Asked."

Harry Cohen, an executive coach, believes universal and undeniable principles can guide behaviors in positive ways. His talk on "Heliotropic Leadership" will address how the intentional practice of virtues such as gratitude, compassion and forgiveness can inspire anyone who comes into contact with such a leader.

Ian Brady, an application designer from Chicago will present "The Evolving College Industry," which addresses a new college system for the 21st century. After he was misdiagnosed with ADHD, his struggle with traditional learning became even more difficult. But it led him to discover design as both a passion and an outlet for his creativity.

Rosen, Berk and their team are excited to present this lineup to Elon students. Rosen reflected on the dynamic group of speakers.

"I wanted to find a different speaker that would be able to connect with a different person in the audience because that's what I feel TED does," Rosen said.

"Waiting on the World to Change" will start on Feb. 21 at 12 p.m. at Yeager Recital Hall. Note that this is the correct start

Lend an ear to the elderly of Burlington

Lauren Phillips
Assistant Style Editor

Most seniors spend the spring enjoying what is left of college before the real world hits. For Jake Sokoloff, his last year at Elon University has consisted of months of hard work, hours of interviews and hundreds of pages of transcribed notes.

All of this has culminated into a pan-generational performance that puts the spotlight on a marginalized part of society — senior citizens. Sokoloff, an Elon College Fellow, wanted his undergraduate research to look at how music can be more than just entertainment.

"I wanted to look at the human elements of entertainment and how we can reach people on a deeper level," Sokoloff said.

To do this, he spent hours listening to senior citizens talk. He combined these stories into a performance that allows the seniors to share their lives while being accompanied by the songs they grew up with.

"It's a collection of stories woven with music from their era," said Jane Wellford, professor of performing arts and Sokoloff's research mentor.

The show, titled "They Can't Take That Away From Me: Stories From an Unforgettable Generation," is performed entirely by 18 residents of The Village at Brookwood located in Burlington. This senior living retirement community has several different stages of care on site, meaning its residents vary in health and physical ability.

"The group is telling the collective story

of their generation," Sokoloff said. "They have this elevated responsibility to tell their stories to the people in the audience."

Sokoloff began interviewing the Brookwood residents in spring 2014. In the time since, he has interviewed 12 residents, including his own grandmother, Claire Kaminsky, who inspired the project.

She lived with Sokoloff's family while he was growing up, and the two have a very close relationship. Sokoloff said their relationship remained strong after he left for Elon.

"She said she missed me so much because no one listened to her, sat and talked with her," Sokoloff said. "Everyone should feel like they have an ear when they need it."

This led Sokoloff to team up with Brookwood, where not all of the residents had someone to lend an ear. For the interviews, he compiled a list of music from the 30s, 40s and 50s that could remind the residents of memories connected to these songs.

"I wanted to use [music] as a tool to access memories that had been forgotten," Sokoloff said. "Music is truly unlike everything else. It affects us in a way nothing else can."

Wellford said it took more than music to persuade the residents to open up.

"[Sokoloff] had a gift for listening and being at home with these residents during their interviews," she said. "Jake made them very comfortable with sharing their stories."

After the interviews, Sokoloff selected



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAKE SOKOLOFF

(Left to right) Senior Patrick Dinnsen, junior Renee LaSchiazza, senior Jake Sokoloff and Elon University accompanist Haidee Dollak perform with residents at The Village at Brookwood.

what stood out and split them into major life themes, such as childhood and building a family. He selected up to four stories per theme and incorporated the music of the era into section. The songs include "Unforgettable" by Nat King Cole and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" by Judy Garland.

"Anyone with a grandparent, living or deceased, will want to see this," Wellford said.

Sokoloff agreed but said this performance is about more than that.

"It's about taking time to slow down and remember how important it is to connect with people on a real, physical level," he said.

The two performances of "They Can't

Take That Away from Me: Stories from an Unforgettable Generation" will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 19-20 at The Village at Brookwood, Village Square, 1860 Brookwood Ave., Burlington.

Correction

On page 12 of the Feb. 11 edition of The Pendulum, the article "A tight-knit sorority looking for more" incorrectly states that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was originally founded at Harvard University. Delta Sigma Theta was actually founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C., in 1913. The Pendulum regrets the error.

Ciara' Dixon: genuine on and off the stage

Brett Gubitosi
Senior Reporter

A woman with gray hair and an unsteady gait clings to the railing as she made her way down her front steps. From the seats, the muumuu-clad abuela seems genuine, but junior Ciara' Dixon's passion shone through the makeup and hair coloring.

Sunday concluded Elon University's production of "In the Heights," a musical about a Latino community in Washington Heights set in contemporary New York City.

Abuela Claudia, the community matriarch, is a crucial character in the show. She mentors the residents of Washington Heights and serves as a role model for the characters Usnavi, Nina and Sonny, among others.

Dixon embodied the confident, world-weary and wise Abuela Claudia with a skill that astonished the audience. Her portrayal, combined with strong performances from the rest of the cast, earned standing ovations at every showing.

"[In the Heights' is] a very contemporary show that's so individual," Dixon said. "It's very young, fun and energetic. It still has a good message about home community and what it means to you."

A star from the start

Dixon, who is double-majoring in music theatre and strategic communications, has been in many of Elon's shows since her arrival at Elon. She is one of 17 students in the music theatre Class of 2016.

Her greatest Elon memory was performing in "Ragtime" in fall 2013. Dixon was a member of the Harlem ensemble, and the show helped her connect to herself as an African-American woman. The musical was particularly poignant at the time because Elon was dealing with an incident that generated a fragile racial environment.

In Sept. 2013, an offensive message consisting of a drawing of a swastika, the letters "KKK" and a drawing of male genitalia was found on a white board outside the room of a Jewish student and a black student. This incident, along with others that had occurred over the last few years, led to several campus discussions of racial, gender and religious tolerance.

"Musical theater teaches you to connect with yourself and your inner feelings," Dixon said.

Dixon can channel her feelings to the audience through music theater. Because of this wide range of emotions present in each moment of music theater, Dixon views it as one of the most complex forms of performance art.

"You're able to express yourself through another person's story," Dixon said. "It's therapeutic. It's incredible to have people watching you for two and a half hours and make them feel emotions."

Junior Ryan Monroe, Dixon's friend and a music theatre and arts administration double major, said Dixon inspires him. The two connected immediately because they share an especially ambitious attitude.

"Ciara' inspires me in ways that I don't even understand," Monroe said. "She brings a warmth and respect to her work which makes her more approachable than a lot of people I've had to work with in the past and, I'm sure, the future."

Dixon usually falls in love with the show she is working on at any particular time. But if she could play any role, she'd want to be Usnavi in "In the Heights" or Elle Woods in "Legally Blonde," though she said she couldn't play these roles because she is a black woman.

Creative on and off the stage

While Dixon enjoys her work in the music theatre department, the time she spends working in strategic communications is equally rewarding. She is grateful for the opportunity to take advantage of the creative challenges offered in both majors.

"I'm really lucky to have two majors I'm passionate about," Dixon said. "I feel fulfilled."

Her interests in strategic communications are rooted in her fascination with the almost infinite ways in which individuals interpret messages. They allow her to expand artistic outlet and find unique ways to communicate with people.

"Strategic communications allows me to be creative in a new way," Dixon said. "I find it so interesting and really intriguing."

Dixon's work with in the field challenges her to both be creative and to produce ideas in an environment that is more realistic and conventional than that of music theater.

"Using my creative niche in a different avenue is really fun," she said.

Navigating between two departments, Dixon meets a wide variety of students



FILE PHOTO BY JANE SEIDEL

Ciara' Dixon performs in Grand Night 2014, an annual collection of student performances.

with a multitude of passions.

"I have the opportunity to be exposed to different sides of Elon people don't see if they stay in one place," Dixon said.

Balancing it all behind the scenes

In addition to the classwork required by her two majors and the considerable time commitment that goes along with it, Dixon is an RA and typically takes 20 credits a semester.

Learning to balance classwork from her two majors was difficult at first, but Dix-

on has developed a system that works for her. Early in her time at Elon, she tried to work on multiple projects at once, but she quickly realized that multitasking was not the best solution for her.

"Whatever is in front of me gets my full attention," Dixon said. "You can't give your attention to all things at once, so putting stuff on the back burner was something I really learned to do."

Junior Jillian Hannah, Dixon's roommate, commended her positive attitude.

"Being a double major, Ciara' always has a ton of work to do," Hannah said. "What has always stood out to me is her ability to always stay positive, no matter what."

Now that "In the Heights" — and its long hours of rehearsals — is over, Dixon wants to take some time for herself. She is currently watching AMC's "The Killing" and The CW's "The 100" and, if she schedule allows it, she might binge-watch "Scandal" once the season is over.

Dixon said that disconnecting from Elon is a way for her to de-stress.

Planning a future

After graduation, Dixon wants to eventually earn a master's degree at New York University for business administration. She hopes this will help prepare her for the professional world and give her experience she can apply to future jobs.

She has other plans as well, such as traveling and demonstrating her musical talents on cruise ships. During her lifetime, she hopes to both see the world and entertain as many people as possible.

"Ciara' is someone who I am incredibly proud to call my friend," Monroe said. "I cannot wait to see the tour de force she makes of her life."

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Offense highlights series against Penn State *Team scores 34 runs in victories vs. Nittany Lions, start 3-0*

Miles Garrett
Sports Editor

The Elon University baseball team opened up the 2015 season with an impressive debut from its offense in a three-game series against the Penn State University Nittany Lions.

After scoring 34 runs, the Phoenix sits undefeated at 3-0.

Elon swept Penn State with an offensive effort that yielded 16, 11 and seven runs in three games, respectively.

"We were very good offensively," said head coach Mike Kennedy following Elon's first victory over the Nittany Lions. "We put the ball in play a lot. We really ran the bases very well."

The Phoenix received production from its entire starting lineup Friday — everyone who saw action registered at least one hit.

Senior catcher Chris King had a strong debut with eight runs batted in and a home run in the last game of the series.

"We're just locked in right now," King said. "We really got clicking the last couple of weeks coming into this spring and we just carried over."

Preseason All-American senior first baseman Casey Jones

batted .600 with five runs, six hits and four RBI to begin his final campaign with the Phoenix.

In his first at-bat of the season, Jones hit an RBI single to score senior outfielder Quinn Bower. Once on base, Jones stole second and third to register the first steals of the season for Elon.

Jones believes the experience the roster brings adds a punch to the already solid offense.

"We have a lot of experience," Jones said. "[We have guys] back in the lineup who can hit, and I think that's what we're going to have to do this year for us to be where we want to be."

Baserunning was proved a hallmark of Elon's series against the Nittany Lions. The team swiped seven bases, including four from leadoff batter Quinn Bower, a senior.

Bower was placed in the lead-off position for all three games. He used his speed to help the Phoenix put runners in scoring position. Bower accounted for six runs in the series, second on the team only to senior infielder Andy Moore, who had seven.

"We've practiced that all fall," Bower said when asked about the team's baserunning. "We always want to be aggressive on the base

paths and push the issue. That can lead to runs and put pressure on the other team and make them make mistakes. We always practice that, and it worked out the past couple of days."

Another strategy the team used over the weekend was what Kennedy called "rebound runs."

It accounted for momentum shifts throughout the weekend to stop Penn State rallies. In almost every inning the Nittany Lions scored a run, Elon immediately answered.

This made potential comebacks far from coming.

"Baseball is a momentum sport," Kennedy said. "You get a lot of energy in your dugout when you score runs, and we were able to come back in and put two on the board or score a lot of rebound runs. It starts to become demoralizing."

Currently, Elon is averaging 11 runs a game. If the trend continues, the Phoenix may find itself sitting pretty by the time the CAA tournament begins May 20.

"You're just as good as your next start," Kennedy said. "Confidence breeds success. Right now we have a lot of guys feeling pretty good about themselves."

TEAM LEADERS

DH CHRIS KING

8 RBI
1 home run
3 doubles

OF QUINN BOWER

8 hits
6 runs
4 stolen bases

1B CASEY JONES

Batting .600
4 RBI
6 hits
5 runs

GRAPHIC BY MEGAN GRAVLEY | Design Editor

Softball revisits historic upset

Phoenix fails to repeat upset over the No. 9/10 Bulldogs from 2013

Robbie Nanna
Senior Reporter

After opening the season with three straight wins, the Elon University softball team traveled to Athens, Georgia, Feb. 13 to compete in the Georgia Softball Classic.

In 2013, Elon made its way to Athens to compete in the same tournament on the same field. Georgia, then ranked No. 8, opened its season against the Phoenix. At the time, the University of Georgia was 23-2 in the tournament, and Elon had never beaten the Bulldogs in lifetime matchups. But the Phoenix defeated

Georgia for its highest ranked victory in school history. Junior infielder Emily Cameron, then a freshman, described what it was like to be at the game two years ago.

"It was great, the atmosphere of that game," Cameron said. "The fans were the loudest I've ever heard them and we had confidence in each other. It almost seemed like a dream."

Senior pitcher Chelsea White, then a sophomore, pitched seven innings and allowed only two runs. Elon put up five runs in the sixth and seventh innings after being held previously scoreless. It beat Georgia 5-2.

By beating the Bulldogs, Elon broke a

school record. Up until that point, no Elon team had beaten an opponent ranked so highly.

"We had nothing to lose going into the game," White said. "We just went out and won. It was an awesome feeling."

Since the Phoenix beat the Bulldogs in the 2013 season opener, the team was anxious for the chance to travel down to Athens one more time.

"They know we can beat them," said head coach Kathy Bocock.

The Phoenix went winless in the tournament, with sluggish offense in all four games.

Errors also contributed to the losses. A

team so defensively sound in its opening series committed 13 errors in four games, which led to seven runs for its opponents.

In the tournament, Elon had a couple of chances against the ninth-ranked Georgia Bulldogs. The first game on Friday, Feb. 13, seemed promising as Elon jumped to a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning, but it quickly let the Bulldogs back in the game. NCAA regulations ended the game after the fifth inning per the run rule. This occurs when one team leads by 10 after five innings. Georgia beat the Phoenix 14-4.

The following day, Feb. 14, Elon had a chance to notch its first win of the weekend in its final game of the Classic against Georgia. Georgia's starting pitcher, junior Chelsea Wilkinson, was a familiar face to the Phoenix. In the team's 2013 win, Wilkinson started in the circle for the Bulldogs and took the loss for the game.

Elon was set down in order in three of the five innings and squeaked out only a single hit from the bat of senior infielder Aly Quintana. Wilkinson shut down the Phoenix and, the run rule again ended the game after five innings. Georgia won 10-0.

Following its homecoming from the Classic, the Phoenix will return to Hunt Park to take on Campbell University Feb. 18 at 4 p.m.

Although the team lost four straight games, Coach Bocock took pride in the type of girls she has on her team.

"They want to go out and show they can play with the best of the best," Bocock said. "They don't know to be scared of anyone. They're excited about playing."



ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Sophomore catcher Carey Million fights off a pitch against USC Upstate Feb. 7. The Phoenix fell to under .500 after consecutive losses to Troy, SIU-Edwardsville and Georgia this past weekend. Elon now sits at 3-4 on the season, and the team's upcoming tournament for this weekend was canceled because of weather.

Losses dampen CAA chances

Poor shooting results in losses against UNCW and Hofstra despite upswing



Senior guard/forward Sam Coffer shoots against Anderson Nov. 14. ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Miles Garrett and Tommy Hamzik
Sports Editor and Managing Editor

Five seconds remained in the Elon University women's basketball game against Hofstra University on Sunday, Feb. 15. Just before the buzzer went off, Pride forward Anjie White scored a go-ahead layup to seal the win.

The loss marked the second straight for the Phoenix in which it lost during the final minute. Elon has lost its past two games by a combined six points.

The losses drop Elon two spots to fifth place in the CAA with a mark of 7-6.

So without a doubt, Elon has some work to do with just five games left in the regular season leading up to the CAA Tournament. Beating Hofstra and the University of North Carolina Wilmington at home this past week would've been a big boost, but it didn't come to fruition.

Two issues, in particular, are highlighting Elon's struggles as the team hasn't been hot from 3-point range and the rebounding performance has been bleak at the least. In fact, Elon

turned in conflicting offensive performances in both games. The Phoenix scored 82 points against UNCW, the second-most it's scored all year, but managed just 53 against Hofstra.

But the defensive performance irked Elon coach Charlotte Smith, too.

"Defense is the biggest thing," Smith said. "Our goal is to hold teams to 60 points or less."

Against UNCW Feb. 12, the Phoenix shot just 25 percent from the 3-point line. In the Hofstra loss, Elon made only 29 percent of its 3-pointers.

Defensively, Elon has struggled to rebound and make stops in crucial situations.

The Phoenix was outrebounded 39-27 against UNCW and 45-34 against Hofstra.

Sophomore forward Jenifer Rhodes, who averages 8.1 points and 4.3 rebounds per game, wore a walking boot on her left foot, missed the game against the Seahawks.

Smith said Rhodes was day-to-day, and she returned against Hofstra. Elon will need her healthy to be competitive in the CAA Tournament.

"I feel like with Jen out, we have top look to go to other people more," said freshman forward Malaya Johnson, who felt the weight of filling in for Rhodes in the post. "Obviously, she's a big factor. She does a lot for us."

In the last month of the season, Elon takes on three of the four teams ahead of it in the standings, including the University of Delaware, Hofstra and Drexel University. The Phoenix travels for three of its last five games of the season, starting against Northeastern University Feb. 19.

James Madison University has run away at the top of the standings with a 13-0 mark. Drexel follows with a 9-4 record, and Hofstra and Delaware are behind at 9-5 and 8-6, respectively.

Needless to say, these last few matchups will be vital in determining seeding for the CAA Tournament in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

"Defense and rebounding—those are the two things we have to focus on," Smith said. "We have to find a way to get stops."

Senior reporter Kyle Lubinsky contributed reporting.

Matheny peers into crystal ball

As the losses pile up, Elon University men's basketball coach Matt Matheny decided to look to the future.



Tommy Hamzik
Columnist

Last Saturday, the Phoenix lost for the 10th time in its last 11 games, an 86-75 shortcoming to hot-shooting James Madison University. So Matheny delivered the following message:

"There are bright days ahead with no promises of when

they're coming," he said. "I can't tell you when the days are coming. But I can tell you that if we stick together, and that we try to get better every chance we can, they'll get here sooner rather than later."

Matheny likes to ignore the negatives and focus on positives, which is fine. It's what a lot of coaches do.

But by saying this, he's at least acknowledging that times are now trying.

In the midst of this losing stretch that has hit Elon during its inaugural venture into the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), the Phoenix has been tripped up by injuries to senior forward Ryan Winters (back), senior guard Kevin Blake (knee) and sophomore guard Luke Eddy, who tore his ACL in December and will miss the rest of the season.

The team is depleted, and there aren't many options when Matheny looks to the bench. But he knows that's no excuse.

Prior to the James Madison game, senior guard and captain Austin Hamilton emphasized to the team that this isn't something to get used to.

"I know everyone that came into this program is a winner," Hamilton said in the locker room. "Keep that in mind. Obviously, we're going through a tough stretch right now. None of us on this team is a loser. I just try to pound that in their heads to keep their spirits up."

The James Madison loss was particularly frustrating considering Elon showed a great deal of improvement from when the Phoenix lost to the Dukes in mid-January. Elon attacked the zone much better than it did then, shooting 42.9 percent and committing just six turnovers while tallying six 19 assists — the best assists-to-turnover ratio the Phoenix has turned in all year.

But the Dukes caught fire, shooting an incomprehensible 60.9 percent from the field, including a scorching hot 77.9 percent (14-for-18) in the second half.

There will be losses like that as well as others more painful — such as 19-point road defeats to Northeastern University and the College of William & Mary. Through them all, Matheny has stayed upbeat. It's necessary with a young team as it continues to develop.

So as he looks to the future, there's no reason not to believe the young players will mature, improvements will come to fruition and, at some point, those losses will turn into victories.



Freshman guard Elijah Bryant goes for a layup in a loss to James Madison Feb. 14. Elon has now lost six straight games. ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Wednesday, February 18

Baseball vs. High Point, 4 p.m.

Softball vs. Campbell, 4 p.m.

Men's basketball at College of Charleston, 7 p.m.

Thursday, February 19

Women's basketball at Northeastern

Friday, February 20

Baseball vs. South Dakota State, 12 p.m.

Women's track at Virginia Tech Challenge

Men's tennis vs. Winthrop, 2 p.m.

Women's tennis vs. South Carolina Upstate, 2:30 p.m.

Women's lacrosse at Jacksonville, 7 p.m.

Saturday, February 21

Women's track at Virginia Tech Challenge

Baseball vs. Ball State, 11 a.m.

Men's basketball at Delaware, 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 22

Women's basketball vs. William and Mary, 2 p.m.

Baseball vs. Indiana State, 3 p.m.

Women's lacrosse at Stetson, 1 p.m.

Men's tennis vs. UNC Wilmington, 1 p.m.

Monday, February 23

Mens golf at Wexford Plantation Intercollegiate

Tuesday, February 24

Baseball at High Point, 4 p.m.

Mens golf at Wexford Plantation Intercollegiate



Senior Brian Kowalski came out victorious in his singles and doubles matches over the weekend for Elon. FILE PHOTO BY CAROLINE OLNEY

Men's tennis wins three at home

Jordan Spritzer
Assistant Sports Editor

It was never going to be easy to duplicate last year's success.

In 2014, the Elon University men's tennis team won 19 matches, both the Southern Conference regular and post-season championships and swept both player and coach of the year honors.

With six losses to open the season, it appeared the Phoenix was headed for a period of regression. But after three straight wins, Elon looks like its keeping the 2015 season on track.

Head coach Michael Leonard said a lot has to do with getting players off the trainer's table and on the court.

"We're getting healthy, that's number one," Leonard said. "I think [Saturday was] the first time we've played with a completely healthy lineup."

Freshman Josh Luck was one of the Elon players stung by the injury bug, but he looks to be settling into the collegiate game. The Cape Town, South Africa, native earned his first two collegiate wins Saturday, Feb. 14, against North Carolina A&T State University and Presbyterian College.

"Personally, I had been struggling for a while with being injured," Luck said. "I think today helped a lot with me getting back on track."

Luck led the way from the

No. 1 singles spot against North Carolina A&T with a straight sets win and went on to win clinching match for the Phoenix against Presbyterian at No. 4 singles.

The Phoenix opened up its season with five ranked opponents out of its first six matches. The team would go winless over that stretch, but spirits weren't shattered.

"Obviously, when you lose a bunch of matches, it can start leading toward negative thinking," Luck said. "The fact [that] they were all really good teams, and never really getting blown out by them, kept us staying in a good frame of mind."

Elon lost against the University of South Carolina of the Southeastern Conference Jan. 17, and two days later lost a rematch with the University of Tennessee, who knocked Elon out of the NCAA Tournament last year.

The Phoenix then traveled to Athens, Georgia, where the team lost both its matches in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Kickoff to the University of Utah and Michigan State University. The losing streak came to an end after two losses on the road to Old Dominion University and Virginia Commonwealth University.

Luck said the team will draw on difficult matchups from early in the season as it progresses.

"The first couple of teams we

played were really, really good, and we just hoped we could carry everything over from those first few weeks," he said. "They always put you in a good mindset, and if we carry it into the next few games we should do quite well."

Leonard said the early matches will remove the fear the team will have going into the rest of the season's opponents.

"We've played some really tough teams, and the rest of the schedule we feel like we can compete with everyone," he said. "We feel like we're ready to go. We have some top teams coming up, but were going to get better."

Elon also has the fortune of playing its next nine matches at home in the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center. Leonard hopes the home court advantage is as good as it was this past weekend.

Plus Leonard believes playing outdoors in the elements provides the best conditions for the Phoenix.

"We like playing outside," he said. "We're definitely not an indoor team. We don't have big guys with huge serves. We grind, fight and scrap. So we're definitely an outdoor team."

Elon will look to stretch its winning streak to four when it hosts Winthrop University on Friday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center. Last year, the Phoenix traveled to Rock Hill, South Carolina, and knocked off Winthrop University 4-3.

Phoenix fights for

Elon student-athletes challenged with

Kate Murphy
Reporter

When Miles Williams joined the Elon University football team right out of high school, he was told players should not study abroad until their eligibility is up. But he chose to take advantage of Elon's Winter Term his junior year to do so in Ghana, which challenged his position on the team when a new coaching staff came in.

"As a program, if you're going to talk about student-athletes being students first, they should be able to get the whole student experience," said Williams, now a senior captain. "The coach that I asked to go on the trip was fine with me going because he knew the type of leader I was on the team and things I do in the classroom."

The new coaching staff disagreed. "They thought that going abroad for that amount of time was going to be a hindrance to developing cohesion on the team and I guess felt that I wasn't a good teammate by choosing to go abroad," Williams said.

As result, Williams had to fight to regain respect from his coaches and teammates by completing additional early morning workouts for several weeks. For him, though, it was worth it.

Elon has committed to global engagement, touting the No. 1 undergraduate study abroad program in the nation. This commitment applies to all students, but many student-athletes

feel they have less of a chance than others to take advantage of it.

For some athletes, it's a smooth process. For others, difficult is an understatement. There are no sports where a study abroad experience is absolutely unattainable. There is also no path that guarantees an athlete the opportunity, but it's possible with some sacrifices and flexibility.

In the 2013 graduating class, 75 percent of non-athletes studied abroad at least once during their time in college, compared to 35 percent of student-athletes.

In the past five years, 97 student-athletes representing 12 different sports teams studied abroad. They have traveled to more than 30 countries throughout the summer, fall semester and Winter Term.

The only women's team that hasn't had at least one player study abroad is basketball. On the men's side by contrast, the baseball, basketball and tennis teams haven't had a player study abroad in the last five years.

"Study abroad is an experience that any student-athlete should have the opportunity to do," said Clay Hassard, senior associate director of athletics. "And we want to encourage athletes to try to pursue that in any way possible with the realization that there are certain responsibilities student-athletes have."

A deeper look at the numbers

When looking at the number of student-athletes who have studied abroad compared to non-athletes, the contrast is clear: More than twice as many non-athletes study abroad than student-athletes.

According to Dean of Global Studies Woody Pelton, the general demographics for Elon's study abroad students are in line with

the national numbers. Women study abroad more than men, white students study abroad more than non-white students and those with financial need are less likely to do so at all.

Pelton admitted there is room for improvement and said the university is taking steps.

Elon athletics has a large minority popu-

"AS A PROGRAM, IF YOU'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT STUDENT-ATHLETES BEING STUDENTS FIRST, THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET THE WHOLE STUDENT EXPERIENCE."

MILES WILLIAMS
ELON SENIOR

lation, including some students from a lower socioeconomic class than the average student. Of the 382 student-athletes at Elon, 205 are female and 127 are minority athletes. A large number of student-athletes also receive scholarships based on financial need.

"A lot of people will say student-athletes are studying abroad at a lower rate than other students," said Cayce Crenshaw, director for academic support services and assistant athletics director. "But if you look at those other populations, student-athletes cross into them a lot."

The average cost of a Winter Term study abroad runs the gamut from \$3,950 to \$8,100 per course.

"Cost is a big issue," Crenshaw said, "because the NCAA doesn't allow for us to pay for that study abroad fee. Even for a full scholarship athlete, much less a partial scholarship."

The Elon Commitment strategic plan is striving to achieve complete access to a global engagement experience by 2020, and in order to reach that goal, the university is expanding financial aid to students who can't afford the cost.

"The university has made a substantial commitment of resources to support global access—however, any assistance provided to student-athletes must be in compliance with NCAA regulations," Pelton said. "This sometimes restricts our ability to provide additional funding to student athletes."

In addition to restricting financial access to study abroad for student-athletes, the NCAA also constructs the calendars for each sport, which tightens schedules early.

"When you're going to play your games, how many games you're going to play, when your preseason is going to be, how many preseason practices you can have, when you can lift more, run more — that's all dictated by the NCAA, and a coach is having to follow those guidelines," Crenshaw said. "It's more dictated by calendars and practices, and that's something not many people realize."

Almost 90 percent of student-athletes who have studied abroad in the last five years did so during Winter Term, which offers a three-and-a-half week course.

Then there the are programs that present hurdles, where planning in advance is essential.

"We're telling a student-athlete who is in one of those sports you need to start early," Crenshaw said. "You need to map out what your plan is, and you need to make sure you're communicating your plan with your coach a year in advance."

Fall sports coincide

Of the 97 athletes who studied abroad in the last five years, 67 of them were fall sport athletes. The volleyball team had the most athletes study abroad with 19 players, 18 of whom did so during Winter Term.

"I chose to come to Elon because of the offering that you can study abroad as an athlete," said Megan Gravley, an Elon volleyball player who is now a design editor for The Pendulum. Gravley, who was not a member of The Pendulum when the interview was conducted, studied abroad in Greece during Winter Term 2013. "It was a good opportunity and a good time to go, and my coach gave me the option to go so I took it."

Head volleyball coach Mary Tendler agrees that student-athletes should have the chance to travel and fully encourages her players to go abroad.

"It's such a big thing here at Elon, and a large percentage of students study abroad, so why shouldn't our athletes study abroad as well?" Tendler said. "I think it's up to coaches to make a way for that to happen for each player, if they do indeed want to study abroad."

"Lucky for us, we have that Winter Term so a lot of our players will study abroad during that period," Tendler said.

For volleyball players and other fall sport athletes, including soccer players and cross country runners, the experience is attainable. For others, like football players, there are obstacles, but the option remains. According to Williams, a former teammate studied abroad while he was still playing and managed to perform on the field, so he thought he could, too. Williams ran it by his coach at the time, explained why he was interested and asked if it was something the coach would be OK with.

He said yes. But the new football coaching staff, which was hired the month before Williams was scheduled to study abroad, questioned his commitment. Williams, who prides himself on being a good teammate and leader, thought his character had been called into question. Although he was hurt, he knew he would have to prove himself.

"My No. 1 goal while I was abroad was making sure that I came back in better shape than they expected me to be," said Williams, who was going through rehab after coming off hip surgery. "I knew that that's one of the first things they would be able to put on me if I was unable to perform."

He faced consequences upon his return, along with another teammate who studied abroad in South Africa that same Winter Term. The two football players had 6 a.m. workouts from the time they got back until spring practice started.

"At first, we were like, 'There's no way we're

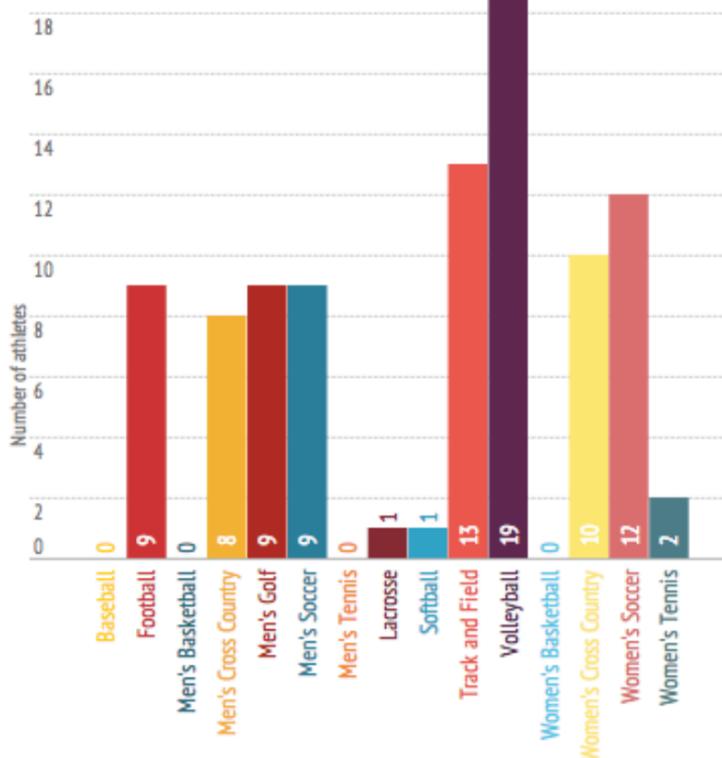


Miles Williams



Megan Gravley

Athletes who study abroad by sport



Source: Academic Support for Athletics, Elon University

COURTESY OF KATE MURPHY VIA INFOGRAM

global perspective

uneven opportunities for study abroad



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MILES WILLIAMS

While 75 percent of non-athletes at Elon University study abroad, only 35 percent of student-athletes take advantage of that opportunity. Here, senior football captain Miles Williams competes for a ball during a Phoenix football game against Western Carolina in 2013.

going to be able to do this.' But after two or three workouts, it was just a part of our regular routine," Williams said. "Just waking up in the morning, you were reminded of the decision that you had to go abroad."

Gravley knew she would be missing the entire Winter Term training season when she applied. She said the main consequence of going abroad is feeling behind when you get back.

"You know the rest of your teammates are going to be there working and getting ready for the spring season," said Gravley.

Tendler sees the cultural experience as an educational one. Tendler's attitude marks a positive change in perspective for student-athletes, many of whom are on scholarship.

"They come back a different person," Tendler said. "All of a sudden they appreciate some of the things they have back here at Elon, and they get that education, and a lot times it's in the field that they want to go."

Spring sports collide

Student-athletes whose regular seasons are in the spring don't pursue the study abroad experience too often. Only 15 spring sport athletes have studied abroad in the last five years, and 13 of them were from the women's track and field team. No baseball or men's tennis players studied abroad, and only one softball player did.

"I've had one player study abroad in 18 years, and we just had a second one who is no longer with us," said Elon baseball coach Mike Kennedy. "It is very rare."

Although he supports Elon's goal to provide every student a chance to travel abroad, Kennedy also believes it doesn't necessarily apply to student-athletes.

"There are some challenges with baseball, but overall I think it's within the structure of the university," Kennedy said. "There are two times that fit in with what we try to do. You have Winter Term, which is presea-



Blaine Bower

son right before you get started, and then you have what would be more beneficial, which would be summer."

One of the main differences between fall and spring sports is the climate of the off-season, which impacts students' chances to study abroad. Kennedy believes student-athletes shouldn't be able to miss the heart of their practice season because it puts a challenge on the coaching staff, as well as the rest of the team.

"When he gets back, how is he going to be ready to go?" Kennedy said. "You have to make a tough decision sometimes as a player about what's more important to you."

Blaine Bower was the first baseball player to try to study abroad for a semester, and went to Spain last fall.

Now, he's a former baseball player. "It was required for my major," said Bower, a double-major in Spanish and international business. "I figured with Elon's reputation being such a good school for sending kids abroad, it was an opportunity to take advantage of."

He started applying in the fall of his junior year, informed Kennedy during the application process and was then accepted in the winter. He made arrangements to practice and play with a semi-pro team in Seville to prepare for the season, but Kennedy said it wouldn't be fair to spend an entire fall away and then play over someone who stayed on campus. For Bower, studying abroad was a once in a lifetime opportunity, but he lost the chance to play baseball without really knowing it ahead of time.

"Nobody really told me if you're going to pick this major, you have to study abroad and it could jeopardize your sports career," Bower said. "We don't have a season where we can study abroad, and we want to have that opportunity that other students have."

Marissa Stefanelli, a former softball player, also made the choice between her sport



Marissa Stefanelli

and studying abroad when she applied to the Greece program for Winter Term 2015.

"I just found it unfair that I did not get the opportunity to do both," Stefanelli said. "It was my choice to pick one or the other, but it really wasn't a choice or an option because study abroad is something that I've always wanted to do."

According to Stefanelli, she emailed head softball coach Kathy Bocock when she applied and asked if it was something they could work through, even though it would mean missing the preseason. Despite phone calls from both ends, the two were never able to touch base over the summer, but they met once Stefanelli was back on campus.

"She basically told me to pick between Greece and softball," Stefanelli said. "It was kind of blind-siding because I didn't see it coming that I would have to make a decision since I asked her for her opinion. She wasn't giving me her thoughts. It wasn't more of a discussion. It was basically, 'You have a choice.'"

With the refund deadline approaching and pressure from the coach to make a decision before she put the money down, Stefanelli had to make a decision.

"I don't regret my decision," Stefanelli said. "I do miss it, obviously, and would love the chance to compete again. It just didn't work out for me."

Teams travel internationally

With only 35 percent of athletes studying abroad at Elon more of a burden falls on the athletic department to get its players overseas.

The NCAA allows the school to take a team abroad and compete every four years. Elon wants to take advantage of that and enhance the competitive experience by adding an academic piece.

The Global Education Center (GEC) at Elon collaborates with the athletic department in supporting team-based programs. Of the 16 athletic teams at Elon, seven have traveled to compete and gain an international cultural experience.

The volleyball team, for instance, traveled to Italy and Switzerland to play during summer 2013.

"You don't really know the benefits until you go through it," Tendler said. "Our team chemistry was better immediately after the trip. And I don't think it would've been like that without us going overseas."

In addition to playing volleyball, the team wrote a blog and fulfilled the Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR) for academic credit.

"We could be dipped into that culture together, and we came back even closer than we were when we left," Gravley said. "You get a different look at a team if they are together in a new environment, in a culturally diverse environment."

The next two teams on the travel budget are men's and women's soccer, which are planned for Spring Break 2015.

"Being able to do that — not just in a study abroad experience, but in a team experience — that gives you a different experience that you wouldn't get any other place," Crenshaw said.

A complicated commitment

Sometimes, it comes down to a choice: study abroad or stick with the team. Many schools don't even extend the option.

"This is the third school I've worked at, and it's never been an option for any student athlete at the other two schools I've worked at," Crenshaw said. "When you have a student-athlete who isn't there, it changes everything for everybody else. It changes the dynamics of what you're trying to do. It changes your ability to try to build as a team rather than individual players."

"It's a huge challenge," Kennedy said, "because we are competing at a high level — at the Division 1 level — and we're expected to win. But at the same time, you do want to try to fit in what we're doing with our academic goals with our institution."

There's still a ways to go, for some. "It's a scary thought for a coach whose livelihood depends on winning and losing games," Crenshaw said. "But when coaches have student-athletes who studied abroad well and it doesn't have that impact, then they are going to be more willing to let students do it. As we are doing it more and more, it's going to take away the fear of the unknown."

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